Final Report: SEAIP-2024

Dec 31, 2024

Report prepared by

Chair: Dr. Rachel Sing-Kiat Ting

Co-Chair: Dr. Rozel Balmores-Paulino

Secretary: Ms. Fionne Ker-Rou Chung

Title of Conference:

The Fourth Southeast Asian Indigenous Psychology Conference 2024 (SEAIP-2024)

Conference Theme: Constructing Identity of Indigenous Psychologies in Southeast Asia

Conference Date*: 6th-7th December 2024

Conference Mode: Hybrid - University of the Philippines Baguio (UPB) and Zoom Meeting

Website*: https://www.upb.edu.ph/seaip-2024/

Email: seaip2024@gmail.com

Funded by Asian Association Social Psychology

*For a detailed conference schedule, kindly visit https://www.upb.edu.ph/seaip-2024/

**For the conference handbook of open and closed sessions, please click on the link here:

https://seaipnetwork.wordpress.com/conference/

Scientific Committee

1. Rachel Sing-Kiat Ting, PhD, Monash University Malaysia
2. Andrian Liem, PhD, Monash University Malaysia
3. Elizabeth Jones, PhD, Monash University Malaysia
4. Wenty Marina Minza, PhD, Universitas Gadjah Mada
5. Kyle Tan, PhD, University of Waikato
6. Angela Oktavia Suryani, PhD, Universitas Katolik Indonesia Atma Jaya
7. Joy R. Tungol, PhD, University of Santo Tomas
8. Rachana Bhangaokar, PhD, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda
9. Justine Jian-Ai Thong, PhD, HELP University

Organizing Committee

1. Rozel Balmores-Paulino, PhD, University of the Philippines Baguio
2. Jay A. Yacat, University of the Philippines Diliman
3. Maria Ana B. Diaz, University of the Philippines Baguio
4. Myreen P. Cleofe, PhD, University of Santo Tomas España, Philippines
5. Maria Theresa B. Gallardo, PhD, University of Santo Tomas España, Philippines
6. Maireen Joy N. Perez, MA., University of Santo Tomas España, Philippines
7. Aron Harold G. Pamoso, The Australian National University
8. Joselito Banono Jr., Cebu Institute of Technology - University, Philippines
9. Ker-Rou Chung, Monash University Malaysia
10. Syurawasti Muhiddin, Universitas Hasanuddin

Keynote Speaker Session:

1. Future of Indigenous Psychologies: How could East and West work together for a decentralized (global) psychology - *by Dr Grace Aguiling-Dalisay*

Plenary Speaker Session:

1. Indigenous Psychologies and Community: How Indigenous Psychology could bring healing and hope to marginalised communities in Southeast Asia? - *by Prof Jose Antonio R. Clemente*
2. Identity of Indigenous Psychologies: Indigenous Psychology vs Indigenous Communities Psychology vs Cultural Psychology, same or different? - *by Dr. Carl Martin Allwood*

Total No. of Registrants: 416

Total No. of Attendees: 185

Total No. of Paper presenters: 38

Total No. of Cluster Members: 85 (24 for Cluster 1, 28 for Cluster 2, 33 for Cluster 3)

Overall Summary:

SEAIP-2024 attracted 416 registrants coming from 20 different countries, including the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Australia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Canada, China, France, India, Italy, Japan, Pakistan, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Turkey, United States, and Spain. The two-day conference featured an Opening/Closing ceremony, 1 keynote speech, 2 plenary speeches, a seed-grant briefing session, 2 paper presentation sessions, and 2 cluster discussion sessions. The keynote speech was from Dr Grace Aguiling-Dalisay, who presented her works and research with respect to the future of indigenous psychologies and the potential collaboration between East and West for a decentralized psychology. Next, the conference featured 2 plenary speaker sessions from Dr. Jose Antonio R. Clemente and Dr. Carl Martin Allwood, who spoke about the healing potential of indigenous psychology to marginalized communities in Southeast Asia, and the identity of indigenous psychologies, respectively. We also received overwhelming responses for the cluster network registration (129 expressed interests), and cluster leaders (from the scientific committee) selected a total of 85 cluster members based on their research interests and alignment of the 3 cluster topics–Indigenous Research, Education, Community engagement. Moreover, we received 71 abstracts for paper presentation, and selected a total of 38 presenters (25 students, 13 professionals) for 7 moderated panels. Top 10 students awards were also granted based on a stringent judging system by the scientific committee. Two seed grant opportunities (2500 USD each) were also promoted during the conference, and collaborations were cultivated during the cluster meeting. The cluster members also had a chance to present their collaborative ideas and receive feedback on the last day.

Research Clusters Summary:

The summary of each cluster is presented below:

Cluster I: Research Collaboration on Indigenous Psychology in Southeast Asia

Cluster Leaders: Dr. Angela Oktavia Suryani & Dr Wenty Marina Minza
Cluster Mentors: Dr. Kyle Tan, Mr. Aron Harold Pamoso & Miss Syurawasti Muhiddin
Technical Support: Asst. Prof. Maria Ana Diaz
Attended Cluster Members: Alvin Joseph D. Mapoy (Philippines), Ida Fitria (Indonesia), Junix Jerald I. Delos Santos (Philippines), Kriti Gupta (India), Regina Isabel Olaguer Aquino (Philippines), Shruti Sharma (India), Yulius Yusak (Indonesia)

The cluster members came from the Philippines, Indonesia, and India. Before the cluster meeting, the leaders studied the research areas of the 23 selected registrants and found overlapping topics, namely marginalized groups, inequality/justice, and mental health. These topics were discussed on the first day. The members agreed to collaborate on research about (1) the meaning of a good life inspired by the topic presented by the keynote speaker and (2) the meaning of well-being and its relationship with community resilience. The cluster then split to focus on these two topics. Some early career researchers (mostly PhD students) expressed keen interest in the seed-grant application. On the second day, the cluster mentors (someone senior) successfully facilitated a discussion to form the proposal development for the seed grant among the members. After the conference ended, both groups continued to meet to furnish the research proposal for the SEED Grant (due Dec 31st, 2024) under the leadership of the current cluster leader.

Cluster II: Education or Training Collaboration on Indigenous Psychology in Southeast Asia

Cluster Leaders: Dr. Rozel Balmores-Paulino & Dr. Boon-Ooi Lee
Cluster Mentors: Dr Elizabeth Jones, Mr. Joselito Banono Jr. & Dr Andrian Liem
Technical Support: Mr. Alexander Dereck Cabangon
Attended Cluster Members: Bernadette B. Enriquez (Philippines), Donna Mae Batnag (Philippines), Joel Vincent S. Purugganan (Philippines), Jonathan Cabellon de la Cerna (Philippines), Joven F. Cruz (Philippines), Khael T. Quinain (Philippines), Kristy Chong (Malaysia), Ling Sai Ang (Malaysia), Lorelei V. Sobremonte (Philippines), Ma Lorella C Arabit Zapatos (Philippines), Mary Jane B. Cinco (Philippines), Mel Greg O. Concepcion (Philippines),

Michael Joseph (Philippines), Muhamad Amir Zakwan Azman (Malaysia), Nerizza V. Cristobal (Philippines), Renz Marjorie Lao (Philippines), Reymily Rose R. Sta. Ana (Philippines), Windy Gancayco (Philippines)

Out of 23 participants accepted into Cluster 2, half of them attended both days of discussion. Most members were first time attendees to both the SEAIP conference and the cluster meeting session. While most are affiliated with academia, the expectations were still quite varied, ranging from an interest in the basic knowledge, concepts, and understanding of indigenous psychology to complex issues surrounding the teaching of a course on indigenous psychology. Some fundamental and reflective questions guiding the discussion include:

- Who is indigenous? What are the different perspectives that are used to understand IPs?
- What are common values among SEA IP that have emerged from existing research and efforts?
- Who should be teaching and doing indigenous psychological research?
- What are the needs of Indigenous people?
- What is our vision as psychologists and educators, why are we doing this?

As for the teaching of indigenous psychology, members noted that there is still resistance to it even in academic settings. What appears as core themes that deserve further research include: 1) the side of those who offer and teach it, such as an exploration of how indigenous psychology (or other similar courses) is taught in SEA, including the course objectives and the expected basic content; and 2) the outcomes of the course in terms of the actual and measurable impact of the course on the students. The following themes emerged for future collaboration:

1. Investigate how integrating Southeast Asian (SEA) Indigenous psychological concepts into undergraduate curricula enhances students' research and practice skills.

2. Identify effective teaching methods and students' expectations regarding Indigenous Psychology (IP).

3. Explore common values, perspectives, and Indigenous ways of knowing in SEA IP.

4. Develop fundamental competencies or a curriculum framework for SEA IP education and practice.

As a future collaboration among the cluster members, the idea of developing a unified curriculum framework/guide for SEA IP or Fundamental competencies in SEA IP (how it can be utilised to train educators on fundamental competencies) emerged in the meeting. The proposal entails conducting a small-scale qualitative study to investigate how integrating SEA indigenous psychological concepts in undergraduate psychology curricula enhances students' ability to apply these ideas in research and practice. This project could collect data from student focus groups, reflective assignments, and collaboration with educators, community leaders, students, etc. The project outcomes could possibly develop a preliminary framework or fundamental competencies to train educators and students in SEA IP, addressing the needs of Indigenous communities in the psychological discipline. The cluster members continued seed grant development after the conference and decided to submit a proposal jointly under the mentorship of cluster leaders.

Cluster III: Translating Indigenous Psychology Research to Community Engagement and Practice

Cluster Leaders: Dr. Rachel Sing-Kiat Ting & Dr Rachana Bhangaokar

Cluster Mentors: Dr. Justine Thong

Technical Support: Mr. Raymond M. Intal

Attended Cluster members: Ann Heather B. Kiwang (Philippines), Henmar C. Cardiño (Philippines), James Christian Espayos (Philippines), Kyle Christian Orata (Philippines),

Loressa Joy D. Paguta (Philippines), Luluk Dewi Handayani (Indonesia), Mah Siew Chung (Malaysia), Maita Angelica S. Arenas (Philippines), Maria Dolor A. Felisilda (Philippines), Rachel C. Reyes-Laureano (Philippines), Raessel Gutoman (Philippines), Vipul Kumar (India), Yang Tongping (China), Angeline Mercado (Philippines), Azizatul Adni (Indonesia), Daniel Naval (Philippines), Khristen T. Quiambao (Philippines), Liberty D. Acosta (Philippines), Michelle P. Cuevas (Philippines)

A total of 30 members were selected for this cluster. An email with an introduction and reflective questions for anchoring the discussion further was shared with the selected members before the conference. These were:

1. How can we align our psychological research and practice to 'real world" issues?
2. What 'misfits' with popular theory could you identify in the course of your research or practice with indigenous concepts/persons/communities?
3. How can we enable communities and cultures to inform indigenous psychology and strengthen it?
4. Without compromising on the principles of good quality research, what methods would be most conducive to use in diverse communities?
5. How can we encourage/enable participants to be equal partners in our research programs or interventions, especially in indigenous communities?

On Day 1, the cluster meeting began with welcoming the participants and sharing the aims of the cluster exercise. The final number of attendees was 18 out of 30 accepted members from the Philippines, Indonesia, Hong Kong, China, Malaysia, and India. Their main areas of expertise were psychological assessment, community wellbeing, culture and identity, clinical practice and therapy, and group dynamics for farmers. Some of them had a rich experience of working with Indigenous communities in different regions of SouthEast Asia.

Cluster leader (Dr. Rachana) started the discussion by sharing a model of interventions and research developed in her department in India, which integrates principles of global psychology and the psychological concerns of local communities. Members were

encouraged using the theory-research-practice feedback loop, to address the issues of mental health and other psychological aspects relevant to the real-life experiences of Indigenous and majority-world groups. Then, the group was split intentionally into a professional vs student group, moderated by different cluster leaders/mentors. Then, the subgroup resumed in a cluster meeting to report their discussion.

The members were encouraged to reflect on their individual research areas and the methods they used to work with Indigenous communities. Issues related to permissions with leaders and elders of Indigenous groups, the significance of spirits and other entities in ensuring wellbeing, and ethical concerns, as well as barriers encountered in the research process due to factors like colonization legal and bureaucratic rules, were discussed. The leaders facilitated collaborative research for the SEAIP grant application among its members. The main interests that emerged were:

1. Wellbeing across Indigenous communities – describing the concept and its experience
2. Power dynamics and land rights of Indigenous groups in legal conflicts

On Day 2, the members further zoom into the topic 2 above, as there were more passions and concerns revolving about the injustice of Indigenous community. The members then garner ideas from each other to develop the proposals further on the construct of "justice" across different cultural contexts. Most of the professional members expressed lack of capacity in leading a seed grant proposal at the moment, though the student members are keen.

Summative Feedback from the participants (n=37)

At the end of the conference, QR code and link to the feedback form were sent to all attendees. Overall, the participants' feedback was extremely positive. The quantitative ratings received showed that participants considered the SEAIP-2024 conference to have excellently met all the objectives. In written feedback, they reported that the keynote and plenary speakers provided insightful material that contributed to their learning and professional development. As for the

paper presentation sessions, participants reported that the scientific papers presented were diverse, offered a new perspective on indigenous psychology with their interesting findings, and presented new ideas on how to design their future research studies. For the cluster networking discussion sessions, participants highly appreciated the opportunity to engage with experts, share cross-cultural ideas pertaining to the cluster topic, and gain diverse perspectives from researchers around the world. Participants also enjoyed this session as they got to meet and collaborate with other researchers and scholars from other countries. Overall, the participants reported that this indigenous-focused conference offers a platform to see the cultural similarities among South East countries and provides an opportunity to value their own unique cultures. In addition, many participants also gave a favourable evaluation of logistics-related matters, such as the hybrid platform used, allowing both online attendance for overseas participants and in-person attendance for local participants. Participants also highly appreciate the organised time management of the sessions.

Participants also provided several suggestions for future conferences:
1. More clarification about the scope of indigenous psychology
2. Allocate more time for Q&A section for paper presentations
3. Design a shorter version of the handbook consisting of essential information to the conference (e.g., Zoom links, conference schedule)
4. Consider an on-site conference mode
5. Assign experienced researchers to lead the grant proposals
6. Encourage diverse participations and Southeast Asia country representations
7. Extend the duration of the conference to 3 days

Future plans:

On Dec 13th, a debriefing meeting was held among the committee members. See below for summarized feedback and reflection from the committee members:

A. Research Paper Presentations

1. Invite external reviewers for the abstract review process when the submission volume is high (e.g., reviewers from various Southeast Asian countries with different expertise)

2. Restructure the paper presentation format to begin with a paper presentation and followed by a Q&A session for ALL presenters as a panel

3. Establish more ground rules for paper presentation session–such as requesting presenters to report themself to the group moderator at the beginning of the session

B. Cluster Meeting Sessions:

4. Implement a more structured cluster networking session (e.g., cluster members would be required to prepare a capsule research/brief project proposal prior to the session). Implement a multi-step cluster member screening (e.g., self-nomination statement→ideas collaboration→commitment to engage)

5. Implement e-orientation for cluster members prior to the conference (e.g., cluster leader could send a Group Email of introduction; a Google doc can be shared for members to e-introduce themselves and share respective research interests; set up ground rules for group participation) to boost attendance and commitment from cluster members

C. Logistics in organization

6. Conference planning is be done in tandem with the hosting university's key dates

7. More human resources are needed for the hosting university on-site to assist with organisation tasks (e.g., student volunteers)

D. Technical problems for online speakers

8. Encourage speakers to send their presentation slides to the committee prior to the conference.

9. Encourage speakers to send a video recording as backup prior to the conference.

E. Finance and/or Funds management

10. As many governmental organizations (e.g. University of Philippines) required stringent paperwork and complicated disbursement process, future conference funding could

consider other private/non-profit organizations as recipients of the grant.

11. To facilitate receiving external funding, SEAIP could consider registering as an independent non-profit platform.

12. Could consider charging registration fee (minimally) in the future to cover some logistic expenses.

13. Seed grant management (2025) will be led by Dr. Rachel Sing-Kiat Ting and her selection committee

F. **SEAIP-2025 Host/Organizer: expression of interest from colleagues in Indonesia to chair/host/organize**

    a. Dr Angela Oktavia Suryani- SC chair or host (pending confirmation)

    b. Dr. Andrian Liem & Ms. Syurawasti Muhiddin to help out if SEAIP-2025 is to be hosted in Indonesia