

Gotong royong for global health

BUILDING EQUITABLE RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS *through* COLLECTIVE SOLIDARITY

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The bittersweet history of *gotong royong* in global health



In **2007**, Indonesia withdrew from sharing virus samples during H5N1 crisis...



... which led to the creation of PIP framework in **2011**, 4 years after Indonesia's tectonic move

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In **2017**, Prof. Adi Utarini was named TIME 100 The Most Influential People on the Planet

Partnership is *often* utilized as instrument of power



Partnership is not neutral

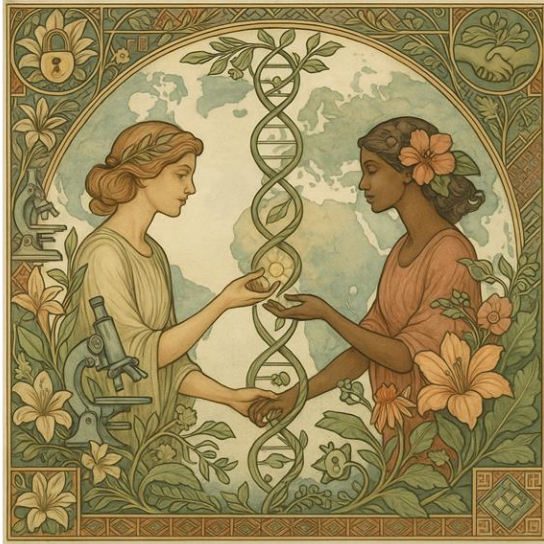


Asymmetric control in resource & knowledge production



Symptomatic fixes remains surface-level

Partnership is *often* utilized as instrument of power



AI prompt: Illustrate the state of global health research partnership between Global North and Global South



Partnership is not neutral

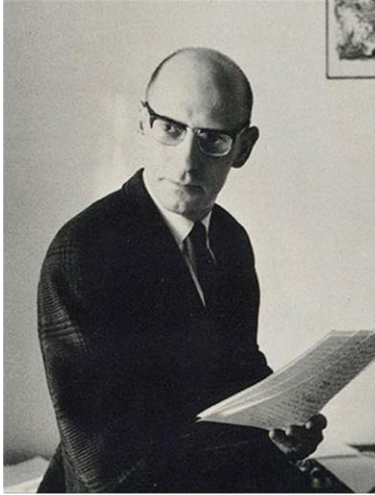


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The power imbalances can be understood through several theoretical lenses



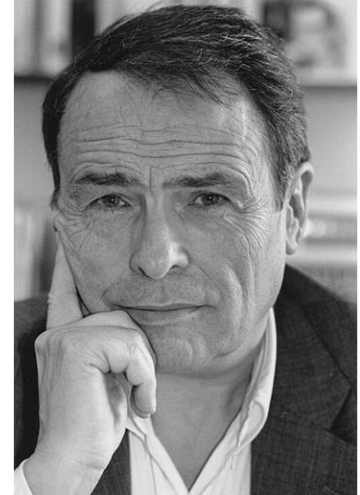
Michel Foucault

Biopolitics/biopower



Amartya Sen

Capability development



Pierre Bourdieu

Theory of capital

Gotong royong goes beyond the concept of friendship



Reciprocity

Shared well-being as ends in themselves



Solidarity

Contributes to health programs

Constraints of gotong royong... a price tag

1

Market commodification and
commercialized output

2

Voluntary work for humanity
might be exploited



Constraints of gotong royong... striking the right balance

1

Market commodification and
commercialized output

2

Voluntary work for humanity
might be exploited

3

Asymmetric power over structures,
“standards”, timeline

4

Sovereignty can drift
into “biopolitical insulation”

Where and when gotong royong flourishes

High-visibility, high-stakes
collective threats

Pre-negotiated rules with clear
benefit-sharing (reciprocity)
Build trust and anticipate tit-for-tat



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Communal coherence with
consensus-building forums
Talking is thinking

4

Safety net from
structural exploitation
Proportional decision-making

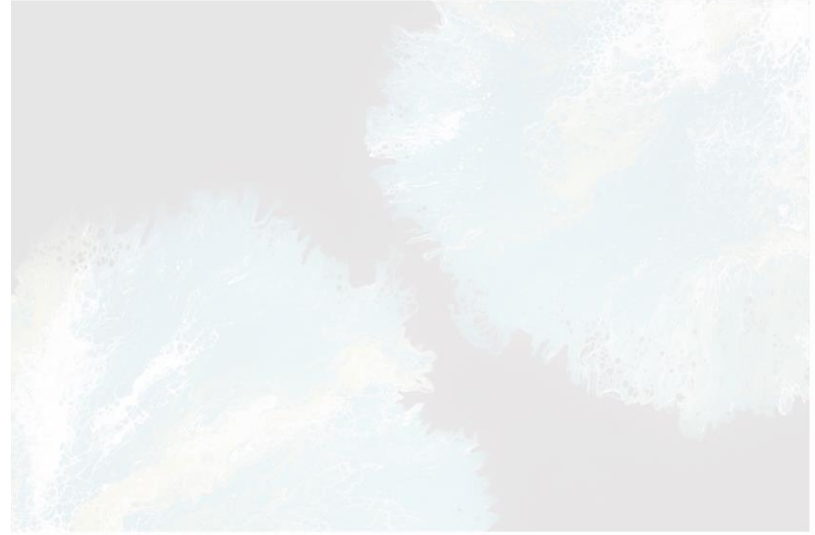
Indonesia already promotes gotong royong in its global health partnerships.



Indonesia implicitly promotes *gotong royong* values in the **PABS negotiation** process



Indonesia's genomics and clinical research initiatives prioritized **reciprocity** from partners



Gotong royong transforms colonial histories of extraction into a decolonial ethics

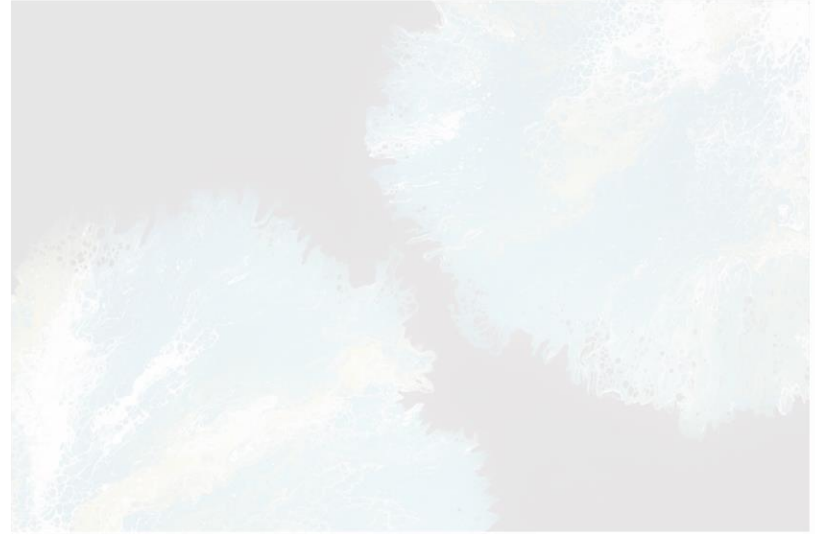
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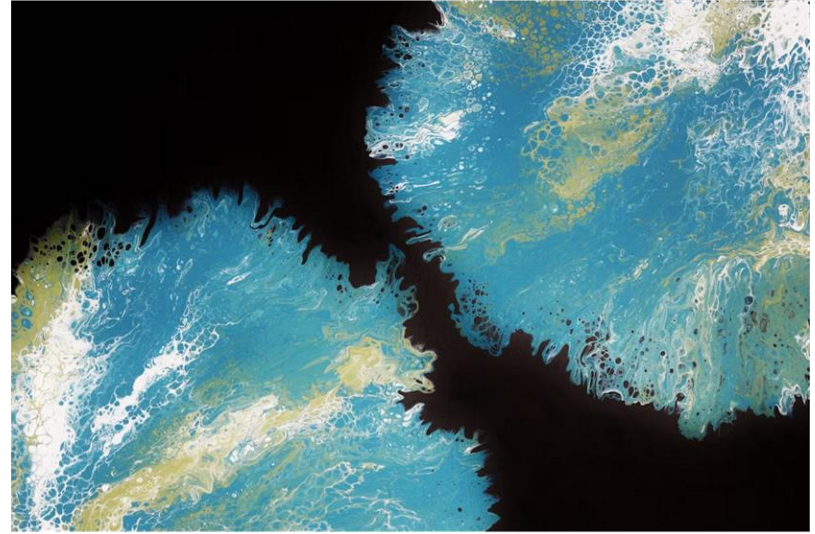
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- **All the health workers** in the world, for your often thankless services to the society

