

PANEL

Gender, Health, Education, and Social Norms in Conflict Affected Chin Communities

Convener

Sena Galazzi Lian

Panel Description

This panel brings together scholars connected in different ways through the Chin State Academic Research Network (CSARN), all across different stages of their research trajectories. Henry Za Lal Lian contributes analysis from a collaborative study on mental health, gender, and conflict in Chin State conducted with CSARN, exploring how moral authority, religious institutions, and entrenched patriarchal structures shape experiences of distress, violence, and exclusion. Henri Myrntinen, a CSARN mentor, and Lal Rin Sangi, a CSARN Fellowship alumna, present their published study on gender norm change among Chin refugees in Mizoram, examining how political upheaval and displacement intersect with evolving expectations around masculinity, femininity, and family roles. The panel also features two current CSARN Fellows. Niang Sian Lawh Lun examines how displaced Chin female university students negotiate decisions to continue or discontinue higher education under the combined pressures of gendered expectations and forced migration. Ngun Len Zing investigates knowledge and attitudes toward sexuality education at Chin National University, analysing how cultural norms and gender roles influence young people's access to information and bodily autonomy. Taken together, these contributions offer grounded, community-linked analysis of how gendered expectations structure survival, wellbeing, and aspiration under conditions of protracted conflict. The panel contributes both substantive findings and a reflection on locally anchored research within contemporary Burma/Myanmar Studies.