



## Bane or Blessing? Reviewing Cultural Values of Bats Across the Asia-Pacific Region

Mary-Ruth Low, Wong Zhi Hoong, Zhiyuan Shen,  
Baheerathan Murugavel, Nikki Mariner, Lisa Marie Paguntalan,  
Krizler Tanalgo, Moe Moe Aung, Sheherazade,  
Lawrence Alan Bansa, Tuanjit Sritongchuay, Jason Hideki Preble,  
and Sheema Abdul Aziz



**Supplementary Figure 1.** Examples of bat motifs found in Malaysian cultures: (left to right) *siku keluang* in Malay *songket* fabric; Iban *semawa* tattoo block, and Chinese lucky bats on a tombstone. Photos by M. R. Low and S. A. Aziz 2020.

**Supplementary Table 1.** Cultural values (adapted from Kellert 2008) of bats according to countries and cultures of the Asia-Pacific region.

Country	Culture	Value(s) towards bats	Positive	Neutral	Negative
Australia	Badmardi	Naturalistic		•	
	Jawoyn	Naturalistic		•	
	Kakadu	Humanistic		•	
	Karuah	Utilitarian	•		
	Wik	Moralistic-Negativistic	•		
	Yanyuwa	Naturalistic, Utilitarian	•	•	
	Yarralin	Humanistic, Naturalistic	•	•	
Bhutan	Bhutanese	Naturalistic		•	
China	Han Chinese	Aesthetic-Symbolic, Naturalistic, Moralistic-Negativistic; Utilitarian	•	•	
India	Assamese	Moralistic-negativistic	•		
	Bihari	Moralistic-negativistic	•		
	Longpfurii	Utilitarian	•		
	Mizos	Utilitarian	•		
	Tamil	Humanistic, Naturalistic, Moralistic-Negativistic	•		
Indonesia	Asmat	Aesthetic-Symbolic, Humanistic	•		
	Batak	Moralistic-Negativistic			•
	Bugis	Moralistic-Negativistic	•		
	Han and Straits Chinese	Aesthetic-Symbolic, Utilitarian			
	Huauulu	Moralistic-Negativistic			•
	Iban	Utilitarian	•		
	Javanese	Utilitarian	•		
	Minahasa	Utilitarian	•		
	Nage	Naturalistic, Moralistic-Negativistic		•	•
	Rindi	Moralistic-Negativistic	•		
Japan	Ainu	Naturalistic, Moralistic-Negativistic	•	•	
	Yamato	Aesthetic-Symbolic, Moralistic-Negativistic, Naturalistic	•	•	•
Laos	Han Chinese	Aesthetic-Symbolic, Utilitarian	•		
Malaysia	Berawan	Moralistic-Negativistic, Utilitarian	•		
	Iban	Aesthetic-Symbolic, Moralistic-Negativistic, Naturalistic, Utilitarian	•	•	

**Supplementary Table 1.** (Continued).

Country	Culture	Value(s) towards bats	Positive	Neutral	Negative
	Han and Straits Chinese	Aesthetic-Symbolic, Moralistic-Negativistic, Utilitarian	•		
	Jakun	Utilitarian	•		
	Mah Meri	Aesthetic-Symbolic, Moralistic-Negativistic, Naturalistic	•	•	
	Malay	Aesthetic-Symbolic, Naturalistic, Utilitarian	•		
	Penan	Utilitarian	•		
	Semai	Moralistic-Negativistic, Utilitarian	•		
	Temuan	Utilitarian	•		
Micronesia	Mortlock	Naturalistic		•	
Myanmar	Myanmese	Naturalistic, Moralistic-Negativistic, Utilitarian	•		
Nepal	Newar	Naturalistic, Utilitarian	•	•	
New Zealand	Māori	Moralistic-Negativistic			•
Pakistan	Pakistani	Moralistic-Negativistic, Utilitarian	•		•
Papua New Guinea	Bowi	Moralistic-Negativistic	•		
	Chachet	Moralistic-Negativistic	•		
	Nidula	Moralistic-Negativistic	•		
	Trobriand	Aesthetic-Symbolic, Moralistic-Negativistic	•		
Philippines	Filipino	Naturalistic	•		
	B'laan	Moralistic-Negativistic			•
	Ilocano	Moralistic-Negativistic			•
	Manuvu	Moralistic-Negativistic			•
Samoa	Samoaan	Aesthetic-Symbolic, Humanistic, Moralistic-Negativistic, Naturalistic, Utilitarian	•		
Singapore	Han and Straits Chinese	Aesthetic-Symbolic, Utilitarian	•		
Solomon Islands	Solomon Islanders	Utilitarian	•		

**Supplementary Table 1.** (Continued).

Country	Culture	Value(s) towards bats	Positive	Neutral	Negative
South Korea	South Korean	Aesthetic-Symbolic	•		
Sri Lanka	Sri Lankan	Moralistic-Negativistic	•		•
Taiwan	Han Chinese	Aesthetic-Symbolic, Utilitarian	•		
Thailand	Thai	Moralistic-Negativistic, Naturalistic, Utilitarian	•	•	•
	Han and Straits Chinese	Aesthetic-Symbolic, Utilitarian	•		
Vanuatu	Ni-Vanuatu	Humanistic	•		
Vietnam	Han Chinese	Aesthetic-Symbolic, Utilitarian	•		
	Khmer	Moralistic-Negativistic	•		