

Power and the COVID-19 Pandemic

Webinar Series 12-14 May 2021

Programme

Marking the conclusion of the “Power and the COVID-19 Pandemic” Symposium, this webinar series brings together contributors from around the world to discuss the impact of the pandemic on law and governance, drawing on five transversal themes: human rights; democracy; the rule of law; science and decision-making; and the impact of an extended emergency.

The 2021 “[Power and the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)” was hosted by the Verfassungsblog, convened by Joelle Grogan, and supported by Democracy Reporting International, the Horizon-2020 RECONNECT Project and the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law.

Each panel will consist of short interventions by each speaker, followed by a moderated Q&A session. Register to join a Webinar, or watch live on the [Verfassungsblog](#). Tweet your questions with #PowerandPandemic.

Wednesday, 12 May 2021

WEBINAR 1: "Human Rights and the COVID-19 Pandemic"

10.00-11.30 CEST - [Click here to convert to your timezone](#)

Register: https://mdx-ac-uk.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_htUQMQP_RuGi7996f9m6ng

COVID-19 – and state responses to it - present a threat to human rights unparalleled in the contemporary era. At the same time, human rights offer a universal framework which guides decision-makers, ensures accountability for their actions and omissions, and renders visible the structural inequalities which drives the pandemic’s differential impact on certain communities. Looking forward, this panel discusses how human rights can be used to underpin a just and sustainable post-pandemic recovery.

Chair:

[Lucy Moxham](#), RECONNECT and Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law

Commentary:

[Alice Donald](#) “[Human Rights and COVID-19: Forging Recovery After a Pandemic of Abuses?](#)”

Country Contributors:

[Kenya](#) [Nerima Were](#) / [Tara Imalingat](#)

[Netherlands](#) [Manon Julicher](#) / [Max Vetzo](#)

[Phillippines](#) [Maria Ela L. Atienza](#)

THURSDAY, 13 MAY 2021

WEBINAR 2: "Democracy and Disruption"

09.00-10.30 CEST - [Click here to convert to your timezone](#)

Register: https://mdx-ac-uk.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ryNuObYoTgmYuCthVpbxpQ

How has democracy been impacted by over a year of pandemic response and emergency? How have states ensured the democratic accountability of their actions in response to the global health emergency? What lessons can be learned for now, and for the future? This panel examines democratic practices, and highlights the best – and most concerning – developments.

Chair:

[Michael Meyer Resende](#), Democracy Reporting International

Commentary:

"[Democracy and the Global Pandemic – Reshuffled Reputations and the Future of the 'Free World'](#)" – [Tom Daly](#), Melbourne School of Government and Curator of [COVID-DEM](#)

Country Contributors:

[Lebanon](#) [Sabine El Hayek](#)

[New Zealand](#) [Dean R Knight](#)

[Norway](#) [Hans Petter Graver](#)

WEBINAR 3: "Science, Law and Decision-Making"

15.00-16.30 CEST - [Click here to convert to your timezone](#)

Register: https://mdx-ac-uk.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Ta8FUAAhT2G2rWgg9EQEJQ

Bringing together experts representing states who have adopted divergent attitudes to the role of science in law and decision-making, as well as an examination of vaccination policy, equity and individual choice, this panel considers the complex policy choices, rationales and politics which interplay in decision-making during a pandemic.

Chair:

[Ciara Staunton](#), Middlesex University London

Commentary:

"COVID-19 vaccines: How macro-level factors can vitiate autonomy at the individual level" [Jerome Singh](#)

Country Contributors:

[Sweden](#) [Iain Cameron](#) / [Anna Jonsson-Cornell](#)

[USA](#) [Mark A. Graber](#)

FRIDAY, 14 MAY 2021

WEBINAR 4: "The Rule of Law in the Pandemic"

10.00-11.30 CEST - [Click here to convert to your timezone](#)

Register: https://mdx-ac-uk.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_pDkHx5QnT9uLpMISsBEPOQ

The COVID-19 pandemic has placed extreme strain on legal systems, requiring action in response to fast-changing and complex situation of the pandemic emergency. This panel evaluates state action – and in particular, executive-decision making – in response to the pandemic against the standard of the rule of law, and considers whether this will lead to permanent shifts in legal systems worldwide.

Chair:

[Joelle Grogan](#), RECONNECT and Middlesex University London

Commentary:

["Rule of Law as a perimeter of legitimacy for COVID-19 Responses"](#) [Julinda Beqiraj](#)

Country Contributors:

[Hungary](#) [Kriszta Kovács](#)

[Germany](#) [Anna Katharina Mangold](#)

[Pakistan](#) [Shaheera Syed](#) / [Nadia Tariq-Ali](#)

[Taiwan](#) [Wen-Chen Chang](#) / [Chun-Yuan Lin](#)

WEBINAR 5: "Quo Vadis? - The Impact of an Extended Emergency"

15.00-16.30 CEST - [Click here to convert to your timezone](#)

Register: https://mdx-ac-uk.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_mR3gMiQ7RriTRKma0UHVSsw

How has COVID-19 impacted upon legal and political systems; minorities and indigenous peoples; and conflict-affected states in transition? This final panel debates themes of trust, equality, conflict and power, and concludes with a commentary by the convenor of the Symposium who will draw together key findings, emergent threats, and reasons for hope.

Chair:

[Joshua Castellino](#), Middlesex University London

Commentaries:

["A Stress Test for Politics: Insights from the Comparative Covid Response Project \(CompCoRe\) 2020"](#) [Sheila Jasanoff](#) and [Stephen Hilgartner](#)

["COVID-19, Minorities, and Indigenous peoples: The Litmus Test of Equality"](#) [Rasha Al Saba](#) and [Samrawit Gougsa](#)

["Emergency Law Responses and Conflict-Affected States in Transition"](#) [Sean Molloy](#), [Christine Bell](#), [Asanga Welikala](#), [Erin Houlihan](#) and [Kimana Zulueta-Fülscher](#)

["Power, Law and the COVID-19 Pandemic"](#) [Joelle Grogan](#)