



International Bio Law
Interest Group

**2025 ESIL Research Forum, Catania
20-21 March 2025**

“International Law in the Age of Permacrisis”

CALL FOR PAPERS

**THE NEW BOUNDARIES OF BIOETHICS AND BIOLAW IN THE AGE
OF ANTHROPOCENE**

Abstract

The emerging concept of One Health in academic debate and in scientific literature, due to the diffusion of emerging infectious diseases, the loss of biodiversity, climate change, the exploitation of animals, calls for a redefinition of the boundaries of bioethics and biolaw. The Anthropocene Biosphere has emerged as a overwhelming reality characterized by growing anthropogenic pressure on ecosystems and shrinking biosphere integrity,

Individual rights, which are ‘translated’ by the principle of autonomy and self-determination and the right to health, must be overshadowed by the interest of the human species and of future generations to inherit a healthy planet earth. Bringing together the concept of collective interest and the Anthropocene Biosphere dominated by individual interest and speciesism is challenging indeed.

Against this backdrop, several scholars have advocated a re-reading of Van Rensselaer Potter’s original thought, which advocated for the need to integrate ethics in life sciences to support ecology. The discipline of bioethics then shifted away from this original view, focusing then exclusively on human health and human well-being.

This anthropocentric view is confirmed in the founding documents of international biolaw, such as the UNESCO Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights, the Council of Europe Biomedicine Convention, the WMA Declaration of Helsinki (in its last version of 2024).

A change of paradigm is necessary in response to the Anthropocene Biosphere where species are displaced, genetically engineered, biomass increases, zoonotic diseases rise, inequality in the human species rises and the environment degrades. The issues of ecology and our relationship with non-human animals in the balance

of our planet are precisely those that should have greater relevance in terms of the desired shift in bioethical priorities.

In light of this changing scenario, do these acts need a deep revision, and an update and change of perspective? How can the One Health principle be integrated in the bioethical legal framework? What is the impact on bioethics and biolaw when set within the context of the Anthropocene Biosphere? Can new technologies help the human being in its transition towards a healthy planet or are they simply accelerating the Anthropocene Biosphere?

Submission of Abstracts

We invite the submission of abstracts including but not limited to topics falling within the following domains:

- An analysis of the birth of bioethics and the heritage of Van Rensselaer Potter;
- Our responsibilities towards future generations in the Anthropocene era;
- The necessity of an eco-centric approach in international law;
- The relevance of the UNESCO Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights in light of the major environmental and health challenges;
- The relevance of the European Convention on Biomedicine in light of the major environmental and health challenges;
- The role of genetic engineering in reshaping modern bioethics;
- Social justice and inter-generational equity in the Anthropocene era;
- Ethics and responsibilities in the Anthropocene Biosphere
- the risks and opportunities for collectivism and non-speciesism in the Anthropocene Biosphere.
- One health in the Anthropocene Biosphere

Please send all submissions (in word or PDF format, not exceeding 400 words), including a short bio to: ilja.pavone@cnr.it; abautista@uma.es; c.kuppuswamy@herts.ac.uk; rvy21@cam.ac.uk

The final papers should be unpublished, in an advanced stage of completion, and could be included in the ESIL SSRN Conference Paper Series or in the ESIL Conference Proceedings according to the ESIL rules.

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 1st March 2025

The workshop will be held on Monday 17 March 2025 starting at 09:30 am

The Coordinating Committee: Andrés Bautista-Hernández, Chamu Kuppuswamy, Ilja Richard Pavone, Rumiana Yotova.