



## **ESIL Interest Group on International Health Law**

### **International Law and Global Health Security: Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Global security has been largely jeopardized since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Political instabilities, global economic recession, social difficulties, human rights' limitations and violations are the results of what began as a public health crisis.

Links between global health issues and security are not completely new. In fact, the concept of “global health” was first used in relation with security issues in a report published in 1997 by the US Institute of medicine and entitled “America’s vital interest in global health: protecting our people, enhancing our economy, and advancing our international interest”. In this report, infectious diseases were identified as one of the greatest threats for the security of American people and the government was consequently encouraged to invest massively in a (global) surveillance system. Infectious diseases outbreaks have since been interpreted as (possible) threats to the maintenance of international peace and security: in the case of the 2014-2016 Ebola outbreak in Western Africa (Security Council Resolution 2177 adopted on September 18, 2014); in the case of the Covid-19 pandemic (Security Council resolution 2532, adopted on 1 July 2020 and Resolution 2565 adopted on 26 February 2021).

The consequences of interpreting health crisis as global security threats are multiple. For instance: States are encouraged to implement specific measures in order to be better prepared to combat infectious diseases (investments in specific surveillance tools or in medical technologies specifically addressing infectious diseases); responses to a public health emergency are developed outside of the health systems (military force to respond to a public health threat), etc. Moreover, the linkages between infectious diseases and human security might have a strong impact on the definition of the domain of application of global health law and on the identification of key issues to be addressed urgently by the international community.

Early career scholars<sup>1</sup> (PhD students, post-doc) are encouraged to answer this call for abstracts. The following subjects can be addressed:

- Public health crisis as a national, regional or global security issue;
- The meaning of global security after the covid-19 pandemic;

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with the definition adopted by the ESIL, “Early-career scholars are (i) candidates for a postgraduate degree in law; (ii) PhD candidates or those who have had their oral defence no longer than 3 years prior to the submission of an abstract; or (iii) those who are within the first 5 years of their career following the award of their last academic degree and who can provide evidence of their contribution to legal scholarship through academic publication”.

- The protection and promotion of the right to health (or other health related rights) as central for global security;
- Bioterrorism and global security;
- The legal preparedness for global health security;
- Financing global health with regard to global security.

**Venue and dates :** The event will take place at the Glasgow Centre for International Law and Security (GCILS) at the University of Glasgow, on **March 30, 2022**. The organisers are proceeding on the assumption that the 2022 Research Forum will be held in Glasgow as an 'in person' event. This assumption will be revisited in light of future developments relating to the Covid-19 pandemic, and participants will be kept informed. Speakers whose abstracts have been selected will therefore be expected to attend the Research Forum in Glasgow.

The Interest group is unable to provide funding for travel and accommodation. Selected speakers will be expected to bear the costs of their own travel and accommodation. All selected speakers can apply for travel grants by **20 February 2022** (see for more details <https://esil-sedi.eu/travel-grants/>)

**Eligibility:** All ESIL Members (early career scholars) are invited to submit abstracts. Non ESIL Members are also eligible to submit abstracts, but ESIL membership will be required if the abstract is selected. Speakers will also be required to register for the research forum.

#### **Abstract Submission and Procedure**

An abstract of no more than 700 words together with a small biography of no more than 200 words, should be submitted by **midnight 13 February 2022** to the following e-mail addresses: [esil.igihl@gmail.com](mailto:esil.igihl@gmail.com); [stephanie.dagron@unige.ch](mailto:stephanie.dagron@unige.ch); [snegri@unisa.it](mailto:snegri@unisa.it).

We expect to be able to inform successful applicants by **16 February 2022**.

The authors of selected papers will be required to submit a 1,500 extended abstract one month before the event.

Abstracts will be selected pursuant to the following criteria:

- Originality and innovativeness of the proposal
- Relevance of the proposal to the topic of the event
- Geographical and gender balance

The following information must be provided with each abstract:

- The author's name, affiliation and contact details
- Small biography (should be included in the same document)

#### **Steering Committee**

Prof. Gian Luca Burci, Graduate Institute, Geneva

Prof. Stéphanie Dagron, Faculties of law and medicine, University of Geneva

Prof. Stefania Negri, School of law, University of Salerno

Dr. Pedro Villarreal, MPI for comparative public law and international law, Heidelberg