



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 the academic debate and in the scientific literature, due to the diffusion of emerging infectious diseases, the loss of biodiversity, climate change, the exploitation of animals, asks for a redefinition of the boundaries of bioethics and biolaw.

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.

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, facing the new challenges related to environmental degradation, the unfair treatment of animals and the challenge of zoonotic diseases. 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? Can new technologies help the human being in its transition towards a healthy planet?

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;

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: 23 February 2025

The workshop will be held on 18 March 2025 starting at 09:30 am

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