



Has International Law prepared us for the next pandemic? The International Health Regulations on Trial



About the seminar

Following the outbreak of SARS in 2003, the international community committed to a new era of international law, by revising the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR). The IHR are intended to prevent, and to provide a framework for responding to public health emergencies, including globally-significant, communicable diseases. The IHR are legally binding on all World Health Organization (WHO) Member States, including Australia. Since the IHR entered into force, the world has faced a number of significant health events, including H1N1 pandemic influenza in 2009, the 2014-2016 Ebola outbreak in West Africa, and the 2018 Ebola outbreaks in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Each of these events have tested the utility and function of the IHR.

In this seminar, a panel of experts in public health law and global health security will examine whether the International Health Regulations are meeting their goal of protecting public health, international trade, and human rights, and whether the obligations in the IHR are sufficiently robust to respond to ever more complex health emergencies. This free event hosted by Sydney Law School is a side-event, to the first [Global Health Security Conference](#) in Sydney, Australia held from **18 -21 June 2019**.

When

Monday 17 June

6-7.30pm

Where

[Sydney Law School](#)

New Law School Building (F10)

Eastern Avenue, Camperdown

The University of Sydney

Registration

Free, registration essential

[Click here](#)

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CRICOS 00026A

Panellist/topics:

[Dr Mark Eccleston-Turner](#), Keele University

The WHO response to Ebola in the DRC: a critical analysis of the legal application of the International Health Regulations

[Dr. Alexandra Phelan](#), Georgetown University

Human Rights under the International Health Regulations in an era of nationalism: laws in Australia and the United States

[Dr. Sara Davies](#), Griffith University

The Politics of Implementing the International Health Regulations



Dr Mark Eccleston-Turner

Mark Eccleston-Turner is a Lecturer in Law at Keele University. His doctorate was awarded by the University of Manchester in 2016 for a thesis entitled: "The Right to Health and Access to Pandemic Influenza Vaccines: Procurement Options for Developing States", and was funded by a scholarship award from the University of Manchester. His current research interests lie in the field of pandemic influenza preparedness, access to vaccines, the International Health Regulations, and the law of international organisations in the context of global health. In 2017 he was Visiting Fellow at the Brocher Foundation in Geneva. He is currently an Emerging Leader in Biosecurity Fellow at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security. He holds an LLB (Hons)(2009) from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, an LLM in Medical Law and Ethics (2011) from the University of Edinburgh.



Dr. Alexandra Phelan

Dr. Alexandra Phelan is on faculty at the Center for Global Health Science and Security at Georgetown University School of Medicine and Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University Law Center. Dr. Phelan's work examines legal and policy issues related to infectious diseases, with a particular focus on outbreaks and international law. She has worked as a consultant for the World Health Organization, the World Bank, and Gavi: the vaccine alliance, and has advised on matters including international law and pathogen sharing, human rights law and Zika, intellectual property law, and contract law. Dr. Phelan previously worked for a number of years as a solicitor at a firm in Melbourne, Australia and was admitted to practice to the Supreme Court of Victoria and High Court of Australia in 2010. She holds a Doctorate of Juridical Science from Georgetown University Law Center, a Master of Laws, specializing in international law, from the Australian National University, and a Bachelor of Biomedical Science/Bachelor of Laws (Honours) double degree from Monash University. She also holds a Diploma of Languages (Mandarin Chinese). Dr Phelan is a General Sir John Monash Scholar recipient and was recognized as an Associate Fellow of the Royal Commonwealth Society in 2015 for her human rights advocacy during the 2013-15 Ebola outbreak.



Dr. Sara Davies

Sara Davies is Associate Professor in International Relations at the School of Government and International Relations, Griffith University, Australia. She is also Adjunct Associate Professor at the Gender Peace and Security Centre, School of Social Sciences, Monash University. She has been a consultant for the World Health Organization (Geneva) and the International Peace Institute (New York). Sara's research is in global health governance and gender security in the Asia Pacific. She has published in *Review of International Studies*, *Security Dialogue*, and *International Affairs*. Sara is author of *Global Politics of Health (Polity)*, co-author of *Disease Diplomacy* (Johns Hopkins University Press, with Adam Kamradt-Scott and Simon Rushton). Sara is editor of the *Oxford Handbook on Women, Peace and Security* (Oxford University Press, with Jacqui True) and recently published *Containing Contagion: The Politics of Disease Outbreaks in Southeast Asia* (Johns Hopkins University Press).

