

Coronavirus and International Affairs

Webinar Conference/Roundtable



Sponsored by the Coalition for Peace & Ethics, the Research Forum for Law and International Affairs, Penn State School of International Affairs, and Penn State Law

17 April 2020

9.30 am. – 12.30 pm

On-Line Only

Conference website: **QR Code** or <https://www.thecpe.org/projects/education-projects/roundtable-coronavirus-and-international-affairs/>

Roundtable Description:

The emergence of a new strain of coronavirus, COVID-19, one of a more lethal strain of a class of virus that cause disease in humans, has had a profound effect on virtually all aspects of human activity. As of 2 April 2020, worldwide 900,306 cases have been confirmed 45,693 COVID-19 related deaths have been reported in 206 countries by the World Health Organization (WHO, [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) Pandemic](#)). But even those numbers are contested. For the same period Worldometer reported 51,703 deaths of 1,007,103 confirmed cases ([Worldometer, Coronavirus Death Toll](#) (28 Feb 2020)). The pandemic appears in every corner of the world. While the medical and health implications of COVID-19 are profound and tragic, the effects of the disease on governance, law, and international affairs will likely be even more significant and long lasting. As states, institutions, and individuals respond to the challenges, always contextually unique, all of the structures of the contemporary world have come under stress, and principally the structures and normative frameworks of globalization. These include everything from the free movement of investment, capital, and goods, to migration. The international ramifications have also stressed the constitutional orders of many states as the needs of responses sometimes might threaten domestic (and international) constitutional orders. At the same time, COVID-19 has opened a path to a revolution in the use of data driven governance, big data, and artificial intelligence in the management of society and collective responses to pandemic.

In this dynamic context, the COVID-19 epidemic has brought out both the best and worst of individuals and human societies. Those best and worst impulses may eventually embed themselves into the patterns of behavior and expressed as law, policy or cultural bias. These impulses are brought to climax as borders are sealed, transport is severely constrained, and the constant focus on pandemic creates the sort of stress on individuals (jobs, mobility, sickness and the like) that produces suicide, madness, and other psychological difficulties. This Conference/ Roundtable brings together experts in law and international affairs from Asia, Europe, North America and the Caribbean to discuss the collateral effects of COVID-19 in those terms. More specifically participants will speak to (1) misperceptions about the situation in China; (2) the use of coronavirus as a veil for racism; (3) national responses to perceptions of crisis; (4) effects of coronavirus on the movement of people, investment and capital across borders; (5) consequences of coronavirus for the state of international affairs and legal structures (e.g., quarantines, education, supply and production chains, human rights versus collective responsibilities, etc.); (6) repercussions for big global trade projects, with specific reference to the Belt and Road and America First initiatives; and (7) effects on education and other service industries. Inputs are welcome and will be posted to the conference website; participants will respond to questions delivered before the roundtable date. Registration for the Conference/Roundtable is required but there is no fee. Send questions and inputs to VirusConfPSU@gmail.com. Organizers hope to make a recording of the Conference/Roundtable available .