

## Updated Call for Papers – Legislative Response to Coronavirus

The journal, [Theory and Practice of Legislation](#) will be publishing an emergency special issue on legislative responses to the Coronavirus.

Theory and Practice of Legislation aims to offer an international and interdisciplinary forum for the examination of legislation. The focus of the journal remains with legislation in its broadest sense. Legislation is seen as both process and product, reflection of theoretical assumptions and a skill. The journal addresses formal legislation, and its alternatives (such as covenants, regulation by non-state actors etc.).

Papers for the special issue could examine the following issues, along with anything else relevant to the overall legislative response to Coronavirus:

- The definition of “emergency” which allows for emergency legislation
- Changes to the normal law-making procedures for emergency legislation
- Responsibility of legislatures in these circumstances, to either initiate or scrutinise legislative proposals
- Effectiveness of legislatures in holding governments to account
- Whether legislatures continue to sit, and if so, adaptations allowing them to sit
- Nature, form and content of emergency legislation
- Clashes between public health protection and individual liberties
- Whether legislation is evidence-based, or a political response to circumstances
- Role of scientists / experts in making law
- Procedural safeguards built into legislation: access to courts, scrutiny by parliaments etc
- Time limits for emergency legislation and procedures for extending it
- Curtailment of ordinary constitutional practice and rule of law during emergencies
- Compliance of national legislation with international obligations under ICCPR and Siracusa principles
- Fitness of purpose of existing domestic legislation to deal with emergencies or need for new legislation
- Co-ordination of responses within states (federal, regional, municipal, local), and across states (EU, UN, other international organisations)
- Differences in legislative responses for pandemics, war, terrorism, other natural disasters

### Country Specific Analysis

We have had queries about country specific papers. These are within our scope and we expect to have at least a few of them. If you are proposing to write about the legislative response in a particular country, then we would expect in addition to a description of the legislation, some normative assessment of it. This will need to be original analysis of the legislation. For example,

- assessment by reference to international norms (eg Siracusa Principles)
- assessment by reference to legislative effectiveness
- constitutionality of the provisions
- strain the provisions (or enactment process) is placing upon normal constitutional order
- allocation / clashes between different levels of government in making the response (eg Italy has municipalities, regions and central government all working on different parts of the problem, in the US federal government is sometimes clashing with state government, in Brazil governors of the states are clashing with central government)

Our publishers, Taylor and Francis have made the following statement

[All COVID-19 related](#), peer-reviewed research published in Taylor & Francis journals is free to access and available for anyone to read.

Corresponding editors are Ronan Cormacain ([ronancormacain@gmail.com](mailto:ronancormacain@gmail.com)) and Ittai Bar-Siman-Tov ([Ittai.Bar-Siman-Tov@biu.ac.il](mailto:Ittai.Bar-Siman-Tov@biu.ac.il))

Our usual paper length 6,000 to 8,000 words, and we encourage submissions of this length. However, in view of the circumstances, we will accept shorter submissions, with the minimum length being 4,000 words.

Style Guide OSCOLA 4<sup>th</sup> edition, quick reference guide [here](#).

Detailed instruction for authors [here](#).

Because of the procedure set out below, Papers and abstracts should be emailed directly to corresponding authors, rather than via the journal website.

### **Procedure**

We are very grateful for the interest and requests for further information submitted. In view of the volume of material, and to reduce workload for editors, reviewers and contributors at this hectic time, we are adopting the following procedure.

**1.** Please send an abstract of your proposed paper directly to the corresponding editors. This should include the provisional title and an outline of the proposed content of your paper. We would expect this to be a few hundred words long (no word limit though).

### **Deadline for submission of abstract – Monday 6 April 2020**

**2.** The editors will carry out a preliminary sift of abstracts and will invite authors to submit a full paper.

### **Deadline for submission of final paper – Friday 8 May 2020**

Earlier submissions will be greatly appreciated and will maximise impact. The journal publishes papers online as soon as ready. In view of the difficulty in producing papers so quickly, and in order to ensure quality, we have pushed back the deadline. But quicker submissions will be dealt with speedily.

**3.** Editors will carry out peer review on those authors asked to submit full papers with a view to publishing online within 2 weeks for those papers accepted.