

## IALS/WFD Digital Conference:

# Are Emergency Measures in Response to COVID-19 a Threat to Democracy? Fact and Fiction.

Thursday 10 September 2020, 09:00 – 17:00 h. (UK time)

### Conference schedule

9:00 – 10:15: First plenary session: COVID-19 – a challenge to democratic systems across continents

Welcome remarks

- Anthony Smith, *CEO, Westminster Foundation for Democracy*
- Constantin Stefanou, *Director, Sir William Dale Center for Legislative Studies, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (University of London)*

*Chairperson: Constantin Stefanou, Director, Sir William Dale Center for Legislative Studies, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (University of London)*

	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Title of paper to be presented at the conference</i>	<i>Geographical scope</i>
1	Maria Diaz Crego and Silvia Kotanidis, <i>European Parliament Research Service</i>	States of emergency in response to the coronavirus crisis and parliamentary control: developments in EU Member States	EU
2	Alex Read, <i>Democratic governance practitioner</i>	Risks to Democracy from Surveillance Technologies: Implications in the Global South	Global, transition countries
3	Sarah Moulds, <i>University of South Australia</i>	Democratic scrutiny of COVID-19 laws: Are Parliamentary Committees Up to the Job?	Scottish Parl., UK, Australia and NZ.

10:30 – 12:00 h.: Second plenary session: **Protection of human rights and rule of law**

*Chairperson: Dina Melhem, WFD*

4	Sonia Palmieri and Sarah Childs, <i>Australian National University and Royal Holloway, University of London</i>	Patience ladies: Gender Sensitive Parliamentary Responses in a Time of Crisis	Global
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5	Victoria Jennett, <i>Independent Consultant Justice Reform</i>	Emergency release of people from prison because of Covid-19, and the effect on rule of law and democracy	UK, US, Turkey, Indonesia, Argentina
6	Carmelina Sessa, <i>Bar Association of Nocera Inferiore</i>	Coronavirus, effects on rule of law: how fundamental rights live with mass surveillance technologies in democratic systems – an analysis of Europe and Italy in a global view	Europe and Italy
7	Kate Doust and Sam Hastings, <i>Legislative Council of Western Australia</i>	Legislative scrutiny in times of emergency: A case study of Australian parliaments	Australia

12:15 – 13:30: Break-out groups in thematic sessions

<b>Group 1: Principles of scrutiny</b> Chairperson: Sophia Fernandez, Senior Adviser Gender and Inclusion WFD Rapporteur: Victoria Hasson, Senior Parliamentary Adviser WFD				<b>Group 2: Scrutiny in practice</b> Chairperson: Maria Mousmouti, IALS Rapporteur: Dina Melhem, Senior Human Rights Adviser and MENA Director WFD			
8	Samantha Davey, <i>University of Essex</i>	The Coronavirus Act 2020 and Guidance Governing Social Relationships and Communication: An Orwellian Dystopia or a Protective Bubble?	UK	12	Elena Griglio, <i>Italian Senate</i>	Governments as Covid-19 lawmakers in France, Italy and Spain: Continuity or Discontinuity?	France, Italy and Spain
9	Emiliano Frediani, <i>University of Pisa</i>	Public Administration and precautionary approach in the Italian answer to Covid-19	Italy	13	Khimlal Devkota, <i>Constituent Assembly Nepal</i>	Case study of Post-Legislative Scrutiny of the Infectious Disease Act in Nepal	Nepal
10	Sean Molloy, <i>Northumbria University</i>	Approach with Caution: Sunset Clauses as Safeguards of Democracy?	Global / UK	14	Fotis Fitsilis, <i>Hellenic Parliament</i>	The Hellenic Parliament's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic - A Balancing Act between Necessity and Realism	Greece
11	Andrea Cullen, <i>Legislative Assembly Canberra</i>	Isolating Parliament and the People from budget scrutiny and oversight - suspending democratic practices in the fight against COVID-19? Some case studies from Australian jurisdictions	Australia	15	Htar Zin Zin Ei, <i>Lower House Myanmar</i>	A forward-looking response to Covid-19 choices shaping the future in Myanmar	Myanmar
				16	Sossi Tatikyan <i>Consultant public security policy and governance reform</i>	The adoption, enforcement and parliamentary oversight of the state of emergency measures in Armenia in response to Covid-19	Armenia

14:30 – 15:45: Break-out groups on country case-studies							
<b>Group 3: Operating between democratic fragility and special powers</b> Chairperson: Constantin Stefanou, IALS Rapporteur: Maria Mousmouti, IALS				<b>Group 4: Between democratic oversight and democratic backsliding</b> Chairperson: Franklin De Vrieze, Senior Governance Adviser WFD Rapporteur: Graeme Ramshaw, Research & Evaluation Director WFD			
17	Daniel Greenberg, <i>UK House of Commons</i>	COVID in Context – Emergency Measures as a Chapter in the Development of the Rule of Law	UK	21	Felipe de Paula, <i>University of São Paulo</i>	Emergency Measures in Brazil: is Covid-19 fostering authoritarianism?	Brazil
18	Marijana Opasinova Sundovska, <i>University American College Skopje</i>	The case of North Macedonia	North Macedonia	22	Kamil Kapica, <i>University of Warsaw</i>	Elections and abrupt changes of the electoral law in the era of pandemics – analysis on the example of constitutional crisis in Poland	Poland
19	Lianne van Kalken & Evert Stamhuis, <i>Erasmus University Rotterdam</i>	Digital equals public; assembly meetings under a lockdown regime	The Netherlands	23	Elohor Stephanie Onoge, <i>Law researcher</i>	Monitoring and Evaluating the Impact (Post-Legislative Scrutiny) of Emergency Regulation in Response to COVID-19 Pandemic: A Case Study of Nigeria	Nigeria
20	David Thirlby, <i>Westminster Foundation for Democracy</i>	Case study of Pakistan	Pakistan	24	Afrim Krasniqi, <i>Albanian Institute of Political Studies</i>	Impact on democracy of emergency measures against COVID-19: the case of Albania	Albania
16:00 – 17:00: Third and concluding plenary session: <b>A global perspective and evaluation</b> Chairpersons: Franklin De Vrieze, WFD and Constantin Stefanou, IALS							
	25	Joelle Grogan, <i>Middlesex University London</i>	States of Emergency: Analysing Global Use of Emergency Powers in Response to COVID-19	Global			
Panel discussion with rapporteurs from the 4 break-out groups. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victoria Hasson WFD</li> <li>• Dina Melhem WFD</li> <li>• Maria Mousmouti IALS</li> <li>• Graeme Ramshaw WFD</li> </ul> Concluding remarks, incl. announcement on the <i>double</i> Special Issue of the EJLR. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Franklin De Vrieze WFD</li> <li>• Constantin Stefanou IALS</li> </ul>							

