

“SCIENCE AS RISK” IN INDIVIDUAL DECISION-MAKING ON VACCINATION: THE RIGHT TO REFUSE, THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE AND THE DUTY TO PROTECT?

Joint Workshop

**Health and Human Rights Unit, School of Law & Centre for the Study of Risk and Inequality
Queen's University Belfast
18 June 2019**

Vaccine hesitancy has been rising in several parts of the world and it is one of WHO's top health threats in 2019. An increasing number of individuals and interest groups question the widely endorsed view that vaccines are critical tools for ensuring populations' health and one of the greatest scientific achievements. A resulting decrease in vaccination rates has led to lowered herd immunity in societies and the return of diseases (eg measles) which had largely been suppressed. This workshop responds to these challenging facts. It aims to provide a forum for both transdisciplinary debate and inter-sectoral dialogue to discuss: (i) the nature and merits of a rights-based approach to vaccination; and (ii) whether the application of this approach can serve public health goals leading to better regulation and an increase of confidence in vaccination.

Programme

Registration and Coffee

8.45-9.15

Welcome and Introduction

9.15-9.45

*Dr Patrycja Dąbrowska-Kłosińska, Health and Human Rights Unit, School of Law
& Dr Fabian Schuppert, Director of the Centre for the Study of Risk and Inequality, Queen's University Belfast*

Panel 1: Principles and Approaches – Chair: Dr Fabian Schuppert

9.45-11.15

Protection of Fundamental Rights and Refusal of Vaccination – What Lessons from Comparative Case-law?
Dr Patrycja Dąbrowska-Kłosińska, School of Law, Queen's University Belfast

Parental Prerogative or *Parens Patriae*. Who Should Determine the Best (Vaccination) Interests of the Child?
Professor Roland Pierik, Faculty of Law, University of Amsterdam

Exploring the Psychosocial Factors Underpinning Vaccination Behaviour: How can psychological theory and methodologies contribute to our understanding of why people do or do not vaccinate?
Dr Emma Berry and Dr Martin Dempster, School of Psychology, Queen's University Belfast

Coffee break

11.15-11.30



Panel 2: National Experience: the Past and Present – Chair: Dr Amrei Müller

11.30-13.00

Big Picture, Little Picture: Using statistics and oral histories to tell of the impact of vaccine-preventable diseases
Dr Ida Milne, Carlow College, St. Patrick's

The Italian Constitutional and Legal Framework for Vaccination: Historical Roots and Recent Developments
Professor Federico Gustavo Pizzetti, Department of International, Legal and Historical-Political Studies, University of Milan

Can Health Care Professionals Influence Families to Change Perceptions about Vaccine Hesitancy and Refusal to Improve Chance of Uptake of Primary Vaccinations?

Dr Shilpa Shah, Paediatric Consultant, and Dr Aimee Henry, Paediatric junior doctor, Craigavon Hospital

Lunch

13.00-14.00

Roundtable Discussion with Stakeholders – Chair: Professor Thérèse Murphy

14.00-15.30

Dr Gillian Armstrong, Senior Medical Officer, Department of Health, Belfast

Mr Seamus Camplisson, Head of Health Protection Branch, Department of Health, Belfast

Dr Laura Heavey, Médecins Sans Frontières, Dublin

Ms. Elizabeth Sinclair, Legal Advisor, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, Stockholm

Closing remarks

15.30-16.00

Dinner for Invited Participants

18.00

Workshop Venue:

The workshop will be held at the School of Law, Queen's University Belfast, Main Site Tower, University Square, Belfast, Northern Ireland. Location: The Moot Court Room (Level 2).

Entrance: free.

Registration required:

Please register [on-line](#) by 14 June 2018. Lunch will be provided for registered guests.

Queries can be sent to the workshop organiser dr Patrycja Dąbrowska-Kłosińska (p.dabrowska@qub.ac.uk).

