



COVID-19 PHSMs Research Outcome Conference

**CALL FOR PAPERS:**  
**COVID-19 Public Health and Social Measures (PHSMs)**  
**Research Outcome Conference**



### **COVID-19 Public Health and Social Measures (PHSMs) Research Outcome Conference**

The COVID-19 pandemic is an unprecedented global health crisis that requires international, transdisciplinary collaboration to address its broadscale societal and public health impacts. In comparison to what was possible during previous pandemics, the information age and rapid advances in data-driven research offer policy makers and scientists tools to identify strategies and policy solutions that can effectively mitigate the health effects of COVID-19 while minimizing their potential corresponding social, economic, and environmental impacts. The validity of any such research or analysis rests on the provision of complete and accurate data on COVID-19 policy interventions at all levels of policy making.

In the last year, researchers as well as stakeholders from the public and private sector around the world have been collecting an enormous volume of data on public health and social measures (PHSMs) made in response to COVID-19. Trackers all over the place formed the PHSM Network: the COVID-19 PHSMs Data Coverage Network provides the opportunity for different policy trackers to i) network, exchange and share key experiences and takeaways with the aim of inviting different groups to ii) explore and consider possibilities for collaboration and scientific exchange and iii) reflect on how to use lessons learned from current experiences with data collection to respond to future pandemics.

#### **Goal**

The COVID-19 PHSMs Research Outcome Conference provides an important forum for scholars to share and exchange information on research findings based on the datasets that are produced by PHSM Network members. We will cover a diverse spectrum across disciplines from epidemiology over social science to policy and economics and we aim to include voices and views from different backgrounds, both professionally and geographically. The conference will also create space for public health scholars to debate future pandemics and preparedness measures.



## Dates

The conference will take place between **October 5-7 2021 (7am - 9pm CET)**. Each day will have 7 slots where one slot is 105 minutes (including a 15 minutes break).

## Formats

Sections will include a combination of the following presentation formats:

Code	Type	Description
WS	Workshop	Guided and moderated policy forum that allows for active participation and in-depth discussion of a particular idea/question/challenge.
PP	Paper presentation Panel	Presentation of research papers. These can be already published works or working papers. Scholars wishing to participate in these panels will also need to volunteer as a discussant for other papers.
YS	Young Scholar Paper presentation Panel	Same format as paper panels. This format allows students and early career scholars to present their works and receive feedback from senior scholars.
RT	Round Table	Moderated forum that invites experts and speakers to discuss and exchange ideas in a public panel.
LT	Lightning talks	Opportunity for participants to hold a 5-minute talk about a topical question which serves as a starting point for an open unmoderated discussion among interested people.



## Sections

The conference will be organized in sections. Each section is chaired and curated by one or two partners of the COVID-19 PHSM network. These sections are:

### **Section 1: Plenary Session for PHSM Trackers (CoronaNet & Response2covid19)**

The plenary session of PHSM trackers will provide insights into data collection, data management and data sharing. It allows policy makers and scholars to interact with trackers and discuss ways to improve the data quality and to exchange thoughts on further collaboration.

**Format: RT.** *PHSM trackers that wish to present and discuss their work here can apply and will be asked to hold a 5–15-minute presentation about their tracker’s methodology. Policy makers, scholars, and media will interact with PHSMs trackers in a round table format. **There will be one session every day (3 in total).***



## **Section 2: Comparative Political Economy & International Political Economy (CoronaNet & OxCGRT)**

This section aims to bring together IPE scholars that analyze COVID19 PHSM data in the realm of international interaction of states, organizations, and other entities. The section will explore :

1. Federal/unitary systems: government decision-making, variation and cooperation.
2. Democracy, party politics, leadership and decision-making.
3. Authoritarian systems and emergency management.
4. Economic structures (e.g. varieties of capitalism) and COVID-19 policy responses.

**Format: PP, YS, RT**

## **Section 3: Simulation & Statistical Indices (CoronaNet)**

This section brings together simulation models that incorporate PHSM data outside of infectious disease modelling approaches. The section will focus on the prediction and comparison of countries' policies, and outcomes of the pandemic. Relevant topics of interest include research on building and constructing indices that describe the activity and stringency of countries' activity over the course of the pandemic. The section's focus will be to invite papers that combine different PHSM datasets in a highly sophisticated manner.

**Format: PP, YS, RT**

## **Section 4: Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Modeling (JHU HIT-COVID)**

This session will be open to researchers and scientists that have developed tools to model infectious disease dynamics, including statistical, mathematical, and ensemble approaches. This section will focus on how PHSM data is used as input in infectious disease modeling, such as forecasts, inferential models, and scenario projections. We will discuss the specificities of how PHSM data needs to be collected, aggregated, and coded to make useful contributions to infectious disease models. Additionally, this section will cover how to best estimate the effect of PHSM on COVID-19 transmission, outcomes (e.g., morbidity and mortality), and prevention. This section will bring together epidemiologists, biostatisticians, and other public health researchers studying the impact of PHSM on COVID-19 (and other infectious diseases).

**Format: PP, YS, RT, LT**



## **Section 5: Direct Feeds: How can Public Authorities automate/publish their policies as Open Data and feed trackers/mapping directly? (Project Lockdown)**

**Scope:** How can Public Authorities (PAs) automate/publish their policies as Open Data and feed trackers/mapping directly? This session will explore:

- How would PAs proceed to publish policies in Open Data formats?
- What are the standards out there and where are they used?
- How to ensure interoperability?

**Format:** **WS**

## **Section 6: Observing COVID-19 policies from a rights perspective. Which policies matter? (Project Lockdown)**

**Scope:** How can the policies enacted affect people's rights (Human + Digital)? Which are the policies that should be monitored? The session will present:

- A list of proposed documents and treaties to serve as reference for Rights
- The methodology used in Project Lockdown
- Exchange about how to improve the methodology moving forward

**Format:** **RT**

## **Section 7: Economic impact of COVID19 responses (Response2covid19 / Oxford Supertracker)**

This session will focus 1) on the impact of NPIs and economic responses to COVID-19 on economic outcomes such as consumption, income, well-being and equity, and 2) issues around the costs vs. efficacy effects of NPIs on both economic and public health outcomes. This section will bring together economists, management scholars and public health researchers studying the PHSM impact of COVID-19.

This section brings together quantitative papers with a causal approach. The section's focus will be the quantitative evaluation of the impact of PHSMs and economic responses to COVID-19 on different economic outcomes such as income, well-being or equity. Management and finance scholars are welcome to present papers related to the impact of lockdowns on financial performance or measures of stock uncertainty. Empirical papers comparing the relative costs and efficacy effects of NPIs are also welcome. The session shall focus on economic questions related



to COVID-19. The section's focus will be to invite papers using different PHSM datasets and following different approaches.

**Format:** PP, YS

### **Section 8: COVID-19 policies, enforcement and compliance behaviour (OxCGRT)**

Containing COVID-19 --an unprecedented global health crisis-- requires significant behaviour change and generates considerable psychological burdens on individuals. A better understanding of compliance behaviour could help align policies with disease-spread outcomes. Equally important, governance during the pandemic must rely on some combination of enforcement and voluntary compliance. While enforcement may secure higher compliance in some contexts, it may risk crowding out voluntary motivation in others.

As the pandemic evolves, vaccines are being distributed and new COVID-19 virus variants are appearing. New combinations of policy measures are coming into effect in response, and so researchers have to update understanding of how government policies, messages and enforcement measures affect people's thoughts and actions over time; what evidence policymakers choose to follow, and how they reconcile tensions between science and their political preference. This session encourages the submission of abstracts with topics broadly relevant to the enforcement of COVID-19 policies, compliance behaviours in the population and their interrelations. In particular, we invite paper submission from one of the following strands:

1. Social and cultural determinants of risk perception and compliance;
2. Science communication, reception and individual health behaviour;
3. Vaccine attitude, taking-up and post-vaccination behaviour change;
4. Leadership and the use of scientific evidence in decision making;
5. Stress, policy fatigue, and coping;
6. Enforcement, moral decision, political and social trust;

**Format:** PP, YS



### **Section 9: Learning from global experiences: Uses of trackers by policymakers and evidence-to-policy organizations (INGSA/UK International Public Policy Observatory/OxGRCT)?**

This session will bring together policymakers and representatives of organizations that support the links between evidence collection and production and governmental decision-making to tell us how tracker data was used in decision making during the covid-19 crisis.

**Participants:** Trackers (OxGRCT/INGSA) will introduce and facilitate this session. Speakers/participants will be from governments or organizations as described above.

**Format:** WS

### **Section 10: Labour market and social policy responses to the pandemic (Oxford Supertracker)**

Welfare states have been facing a litmus test during the pandemic. Far reaching social policies were implemented to safeguard jobs, avoid social hardship, and limit inequalities. Policy-makers responded at unprecedented speed and scale, though measures varied across welfare states.

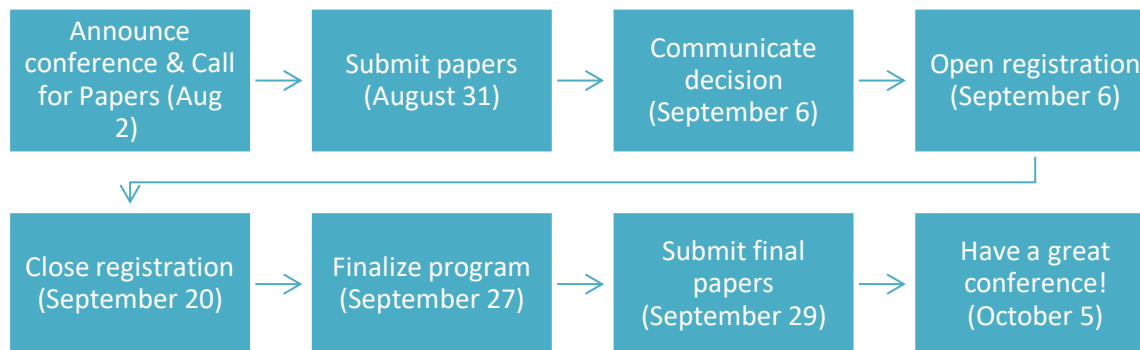
This section will discuss policy responses to mitigate the employment and social impact of the pandemic. Policy areas covered by this stream include labour market and social policies across all areas of the welfare state. Both comparative and causal approaches are welcome.

**Format:** PP, YS





## Deadlines



## Apply to participate!

You can submit your contribution [by August 31 via this form](#).

Paper presentation panels and young scholar paper presentation panels need to be either a working paper or already published article. Either way, the decision will be made based on your paper and not an abstract. You will be asked to submit a final version [by September 29](#).

If you wish to propose a round table or workshop, feel free to submit an abstract and tell us why you would like to be considered for participation.

A participation in workshops and lightning talks do not require a submission. Rather, you will be asked at the moment of registering to the conference (September 6-20).

## Registration

You can register for the conference [between September 6 and 20](#). We welcome registrations not only from presenting participants, but invite scholars, policy makers, journalists and other interested attendees. If you wish to be reminded when the registration opens, please [RSVP HERE](#).



## Convenors

The [CoronaNet Research Project](#), represented by Cindy Cheng and Luca Messerschmidt, will host the conference in collaboration with the Chair for International Relations (Tim Büthe) at the Hochschule für Politik (Technical University of Munich).

Co-hosting partners are:

- [Health Intervention Tracking for COVID-19 \(HIT-COVID\)](#), represented by Sophia Zweig, Alex Zapf, Qulu Zheng, and Hanmeng Xu.
- [International Network for Government Science Advice \(INGSA\)](#), represented by Tatjana Buklijas, and Naomi Simon-Kumar.
- [Oxford Coronavirus Government Response Tracker \(OxCGRT\)](#), represented by Thomas Hale and Yuxi Zhang.
- [Oxford Supertracker \(OxST\)](#), represented by Bernhard Ebbinghaus and Lukas Lehner.
- [Project Lockdown \(PL\)](#), represented by Jean F. Quéralt.
- [Response2covid19 \(R2C19\)](#), represented by Simon Porcher.