

BEYOND PANIC & NEGLECT: BUILDING A HUMAN RIGHTS FRAMEWORK FOR PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREVENTION, PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

23 May 2023, 17:00 - 19:00 CET

Auditorium A1A, Geneva Graduate Institute, Maison de la Paix and online on Webex

BIOGRAPHIES

Moderator

Gian Luca Burci

Adjunct Professor, International Law, Geneva Graduate Institute



Gian Luca Burci is Adjunct Professor of international law at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva since 2012. He is also the Director of the joint LLM on Global Health Law and Governance between the Graduate Institute and Georgetown Law School, as well as Academic Adviser in the Global Health Centre of the Graduate Institute. Since 2016, Prof. Burci is Visiting Professor and Senior Scholar at the O'Neill Center on National and Global Health Law, Georgetown University School of Law. Before his appointment at the Graduate Institute, Gian Luca Burci served in the Legal

Office of the World Health Organization from 1998 to 2016 and was its Legal Counsel from 2005 to 2016. He previously worked in the Department of International Cooperation of the International Atomic Energy Agency (1998-1999). During his service in WHO, he was involved in the negotiation and implementation of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, the revision and implementation of the International Health Regulations, WHO's response to the 2009-2010 H1N1 influenza pandemic and the 2014-2016 Ebola outbreak as well as the institutional aspects of WHO reform. Prof. Burci holds a postgraduate degree in law from the University of Genova, Italy. His areas of expertise are public international law, the law and practice of international organizations as well as global health governance and law.

Speakers

Roojin Habibi

Research Fellow, Global Strategy Lab, York University

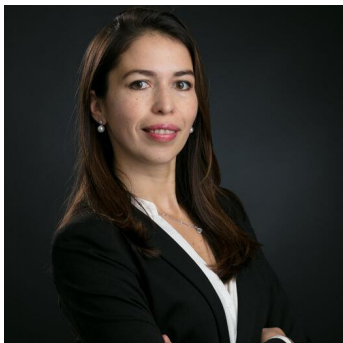


Roojin Habibi is a research fellow of the Global Strategy Lab (York University) and incoming Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa. Bridging the disciplines of international law, health law and human rights, her scholarly work examines the impact of transnational institutions, actors, and norms on global health equity and the realization of health as a human right. She has worked extensively on health and human rights issues in in

government, non-governmental, and international organizations, and served on international expert advisory committees, including the 2022 WHO Review Committee regarding amendments the International Health Regulations (2005). As an active and co-founding member of the Global Health Law Consortium, Roojin led the three-year development of the *Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Public Health Emergencies*. She holds Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation Scholarship for her ongoing doctoral research at Osgoode Hall Law School, York University, as well as a law degree (J.D.) from the University of Ottawa, a specialization in transnational law from the University of Geneva, and a Master's of Science in Global Health from McMaster University.

Viviana Muñoz Tellez

Coordinator, Health, Intellectual Property And Biodiversity Programme (Hipb), South Centre



Dr. Viviana Muñoz Tellez is the Programme Coordinator of the Health, Intellectual Property and Biodiversity (HIPB) Programme of the South Centre, the intergovernmental think tank of 55 developing countries. As of 2006, Dr. Munoz leads the team providing policy-oriented research, expert advice and technical assistance activities to developing countries and institutions on health and intellectual property issues. She holds a Doctorate degree on management of technology from the École Polytechnique of Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland, - having focused on models of R&D collaboration to deliver affordable biomedical innovations addressing the disease burden in developing countries, and a Master's degree in Development Management from the London School of Economics (LSE).

Ian Seiderman

Legal And Policy Director, International Commission Of Jurists



Ian Seiderman has served with the ICJ from 2000-2005 and from 2008 to present. He served as Senior Legal Adviser for Amnesty International from 2005-2008. He has advised both organizations on a broad range of legal and policy questions in the areas of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. From 1994-1997, he was legal assistant to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture, Sir Nigel Rodley. He also served as a researcher for the Netherlands Institute of Human rights and as a staff attorney with the US-based Central American Refugee Center. He holds a PhD cum laude (Utrecht University); LLM (Essex University); JD (City University of New York at Queens College) and BA (University of Pennsylvania).

Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona

Executive Director, Global Initiative For Economic, Social And Cultural Rights (Gi-Escr)



Magdalena Sepúlveda is a human rights lawyer with vast experience in economic, social and cultural rights. In her 20-year career, Magdalena has focused on the intersection of poverty, development and human rights and has bridged research and policy formulation. She has worked as a researcher at the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights, as a staff attorney at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, as the Co-Director of the Department of International Law and Human Rights of the United Nations-mandated University for Peace in Costa Rica and as a Research Director at the International Council on Human Rights

Policy, in Geneva. More recently, she was a Senior Research Fellow at the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD).

Steven Solomon

Principal Legal Officer, World Health Organization



Steven Solomon is the Principal Legal Officer at the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland, where he heads the Legal Office's unit on international, constitutional, and global health law. He provided legal support for the WHO's response to the COVID-19 outbreak and has served as the WHO legal adviser to the negotiations which led to the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) Framework. Prior to joining WHO, Steven served as Deputy Legal Counselor at the United States Mission to United Nations Organizations in Geneva, negotiating a variety of human rights and humanitarian law instruments. He was an

attorney with the State Department for several years before handling multilateral negotiations related to the control of conventional weapons as well as international humanitarian law. Before joining the State Department, Steven was a lawyer in private practice at the Washington, D.C. law firm of Williams & Connolly and has also worked on Capitol Hill. Steven has written widely on matters pertaining to international law, including global health and humanitarian law matters. Solomon attended Georgetown University, where he received his legal training, and received his B.A. degree from Columbia University.

Saman Zia-Zarifi

Executive Director, Physicians For Human Rights



Saman Zia-Zarifi serves as PHR's Executive Director, steering PHR's overall work and acting as PHR's lead representative to policy, practitioner, donor, and constituent communities. Zarifi, an Iranian-American lawyer with 30 years of experience, was previously the Secretary-General of the International Commission of Jurists, a leading INGO that defends the rule of law worldwide, where he oversaw all aspects of ICJ's work across some 50 countries and 100+ staff. At ICJ, he helped launch and lead

initiatives on strengthening global accountability mechanisms as well as responses to public health emergencies. Before joining the ICJ, he led Amnesty International's Asia & Pacific program after leading several teams at Human Rights Watch, including as Washington advocate and deputy director of the Asia program. He has carried out dozens of research and advocacy missions across the world, including in conflict and post-conflict settings in Afghanistan, Iraq, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Thailand. As a senior research fellow at Erasmus University Rotterdam, Zarifi carried out seminal research on business and human rights, after having worked as a corporate litigator in Los Angeles. Zarifi received his BA and JD from Cornell University and an LL.M. in human rights law from NYU School of Law.