

Hospitals Under Fire

Lawfare and the attack on care

Public Event and Online on Webex
Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025
Time: 12:30-14:00 with reception following
Venue: Geneva Graduate Institute, Auditorium Ivan Pictet A1B

Co-hosts: Queen Mary University, London and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)

SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES

Opening/Closing Remarks

Vinh-Kim Nguyen

Co-Director, Global Health Centre/ Professor, Anthropology and Sociology, Geneva Graduate Institute



Vinh-Kim Nguyen is a medical anthropologist and family physician from Montreal who also practises in the Canadian Arctic. He has worked in acute care settings in hospitals in Geneva and Paris and during humanitarian crises in the DRC and Guinea (during Ebola outbreaks) and in Yemen (during the ongoing conflict). He led the development and opening of covid treatment units in hospitals in Geneva and Montreal in 2020. As a result he has a broad experience in pandemic management. Nguyen's award-winning first book examines the introduction of antiretroviral therapy in West Africa and his second, co-authored with Margaret Lock, is a landmark treatise on the anthropology of biomedicine. He has recently led research projects examining how conflict drives antimicrobial resistance and, most recently, the financialisation of pharmaceuticals. Trained in psychedelic therapy, his latest research examines the "psychedelic renaissance" in Switzerland and beyond.

Setting the Stage

Maarten van der Heijden

Research Fellow, Global Health Centre, Geneva Graduate Institute



Maarten van der Heijden is a lawyer and social scientist specialising in global health. He has worked with the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization, Médecins Sans Frontières, and various other NGOs, with whom he continues to collaborate in a consultative capacity. He has advised over 20 countries on

health, human rights, pharmaceutical and food safety legislation, as well as the implementation of international treaties.

Maarten is currently a doctoral researcher at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and a visiting fellow at the Global Health Centre at the Graduate Institute Geneva. His research spans access to medicines, antimicrobial resistance, global health governance, and the intersection of global and humanitarian medical care. He holds an LLM in humanitarian law (Geneva Academy) and an LLM in trade and investment law (University of Amsterdam).

Speakers

Gloria Gaggioli

Associate Professor and Vice-Dean for Research, University of Geneva, Law Faculty, Department of Public International Law and International Organization, Former Director of the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights



Gloria Gaggioli was the Director of the Geneva Academy from 2020-2024 and is an Associate Professor and Vice-Dean of the Law Faculty of the University of Geneva. She is also member of the board of Geneva Call since August 2019.

Gloria Gaggioli has published widely in various fields of public international law and participates regularly in international conferences, roundtables and expert meetings. She is currently leading a four-year research project funded by the SNF on 'Preventing and Combating Terrorism and Violent Extremism: Towards a Legal-Empirical Approach'. Her work focuses notably on issues related to the interplay between international humanitarian law and international human rights law, the right to life and the use of force, including the conduct of hostilities, law enforcement and self-defence.

Prior to joining the University of Geneva, she served as Legal Adviser in the legal division of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and is the author of the ICRC report *The Use of Force in Armed Conflicts: Interplay between the Conduct of Hostilities and Law Enforcement Paradigms*.

Professor Gaggioli also taught at the University of Neuchâtel and worked as Visiting Professor at Lille Catholic University and at the University of Aix-Marseille, as External Lecturer at the University of Copenhagen and as Researcher/Teaching Assistant at the Geneva Academy and University of Geneva. She conducted research as a 'Distinguished-Scholar-in-Residence' at the US Naval War College, Stockton Center for the Studies of International Law.

She wrote her PhD thesis (summa cum laude, Pedone 2013) on 'The Reciprocal Influence between Human Rights Law and Humanitarian Law in the Light of the Right to Life'.

Neve Gordon

Professor of International Law, School of Law, Queen Mary University, London; Fellow of the British Academy of Social Sciences



After teaching for seventeen years at Ben-Gurion University in Israel, Neve Gordon joined the School of Law at Queen Mary University of London. His research focuses on international humanitarian law, human rights, the ethics of violence, with particular focus on Israel-Palestine and attacks on healthcare. Gordon is the author of *Israel's Occupation* (University of California Press 2008) and co-author of *The Human Right to Dominate* (Oxford University Press, 2015), *Human Shields: A History of People in the Line of Fire* (University of California Press, 2020). He is a Fellow of the British Academy of Social

Sciences and writes regularly for the popular press.

Esperanza Martinez

Professor of Practice and Head of Health and Human Security, College of Law, Governance and Policy, Australian National University; Former Head of Health and Head of Crisis, ICRC



Dr. Martinez serves as the Head of Health and Human Security at the Australian National University's College of Health and Medicine. Her role includes harnessing cross-disciplinary knowledge and expertise to develop evidence-based, practical, and impactful solutions addressing national, regional, and global challenges.

Before joining ANU, Dr. Martinez was instrumental in leading responses to complex crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic and humanitarian efforts in Ukraine, for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Geneva. She led the

ICRC's Health division for five years, delivering essential healthcare services to populations affected by armed conflict and violence in over 80 countries.

Trained in Colombia as a medical doctor and general surgeon, Dr. Martinez specialized in International Public Health and Health Management in Australia. Her extensive career of over two decades includes more than ten years of fieldwork in several conflict-affected countries, as well as collaborations with UN agencies, governments, and the private sector. She is an experienced strategic advisor in global health, humanitarian action, and crisis leadership.

Tarak Bach-Baouab

Head of Advocacy - Operations Management Team, Médecins Sans Frontières



Tarak Bach Baouab is a French-Tunisian humanitarian aid worker since 2003. Starting in emergency logistics and project administration before moving on to country-level management, he has overseen large budgets (up to 20M EUR) and supervised multinational teams (up to 350 staffs) while working across conflict and violence-affected contexts such as the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Iraq, Pakistan, Lebanon, Haiti, Yemen, Ethiopia, and the Sudan. He joined Médecins Sans Frontières in 2010 in Niger before taking up the position of Humanitarian Affairs Advisor in the MSF-Holland office in Amsterdam (2011-2017).

Between 2018-2020, Tarak joined the European Commission as a humanitarian expert, managing EU grants and monitoring the quality and impact of program implementation by UN agencies and international NGOs. As part of the EU Delegation, he was the point-person on the Humanitarian-Development Nexus in Iraq. He then returned to MSF, working in Nigeria as an analyst overseeing humanitarian access negotiations in Borno State while developing an innovative operational partnership with a local NGO to access hard-to-reach populations. Since mid-2022, he is based in Geneva as Head of Advocacy for MSF-Switzerland and is a member of the Operations Management Team.

Tarak holds degrees in Applied Mathematics (McGill University, 1999) and International Relations (Universiteit van Amsterdam/Graduate Institute of Social Sciences, 2001). He completed his formal training with a Post-Graduate Diploma in International Humanitarian Assistance and a Certificate in Humanitarian Negotiations (Fordham University, 2006-2008). He is passionate about the protection of civilians in conflicts, Thai food, and Liverpool FC.

Moderator

Ellen Rosskam

Coordinator, International Geneva Global Health Platform, Global Health Centre



Ellen Rosskam joined the Global Health Centre in October 2022 as the Coordinator of the International Geneva Global Health Platform, convening international Geneva stakeholders across the global health community to collaborate, capture lessons, gain foresight from data insights and experiences, and seek scalable solutions to complex global health challenges.

She holds a PhD from the University of Lausanne, School of Management; a Master in Public Health from the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Public Health; and a Bachelor degree from the University of California, Berkeley, Department of Sociology.

Prior to joining the Global Health Centre, Ellen worked extensively as a global public health practitioner, technical specialist, researcher, and university professor in various international organisations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Center for Social Epidemiology, Gavi the Vaccine Alliance, The Global Fund, Boston University School of Public Health, Webster University, the Global Health Centre, Bosphorus University, NGOs and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Most recently, she led research for the Concept Foundation on the challenges for Ministries of Health in 9 sub-Saharan African countries to provide essential medicines to prevent and treat postpartum hemorrhage to reduce maternal mortality and achieve Universal Health Coverage. Prior to that she managed the mercury and health portfolio at WHO for more than 2.5 years.

Ellen is a senior Strategist for Research & Global Public Health and Advisory Board Member for the Center for Social Epidemiology; Senior Advisor to AMIRRAH (NGO); member of Women in Global Health Switzerland and GENDRO; advisory board member for various journals.