**RS12 - Sociology of Law: Law in Action in the Covid-19 Crisis**

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(i) Crisis legislation has involved legal scholars originating in the particular regulatory structures which relate to public services, army, civil defense, and public health. We propose to invite contributions describing examples of these issues which have occurred during the Covid crisis, for example, the use of troops in enforcing lockdown arrangements, and demands made on medical personnel to work without protective equipment. In addition, we wish to invite commentary on the regulatory structures which are developing to manage the compliance of the public with Covid related legislation, including quarantine, and the balance between public and individual rights nationally and across national borders.

(ii) The central institutions of the justice system, the courts, are not only places for legal decision making, they are also the site of complex social interactions which have measurable effects on the way these decisions are reached. But with Covid, many courts have closed, and hearings are held remotely online. The impact on access to justice and quality of decision-making requires urgent investigation by sociologists on the nature and quality of interaction by audio and video means, particularly for parties who are unable to afford good equipment or the support of a lawyer. As sociologists we can contribute analysis of the impact of new forms of social interactional formalities. We propose to invite contributions on the analysis of court-related social interaction since the onset of Covid, and the related impacts on access to justice and the rule of law.