

Special Issue

Just Benefits? Intersections in Health Law and Social Welfare Law

Message from the Guest Editor

This Special Issue explores vital yet often undertheorised intersections between health law and social welfare law. Drawing on broad conceptions of health as a fundamental right (WHO) and acknowledging governmental responsibilities to provide social security benefits (constitutionally or otherwise), we invite submissions that critically interrogate how these ideals are realised or undermined. Inspired by debates on social welfare law's 'identity crisis' (Meers et al., 2023), we ask how the retrenchment of public welfare systems and the creation of the 'Welfare State 2.0' might be productively linked with health law and health outcomes. This issue invites papers critically examining these intersections, challenging narrow conceptions of social welfare law as merely the 'law for the poor' or a 'dustbin' of statutes. We seek contributions forging novel connections between social welfare law and health law, welcoming works of critical sociolegal theory, case analysis, legislative or legal system analysis, or empirical work.

Guest Editor

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (15 April 2026)



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About the Journal

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Laws is an international, open access journal featuring rigorous scholarship on critical developments in governance, courts, agencies, and social order. Analysis and synthesis, theory and practice, and empirical and doctrinal work have appeared in the journal; contributions that bridge these traditional boundaries are particularly welcome. The social sciences and humanities generate insights both from and for the legal system. While theory grounds *Laws* in a timeless dialogue shaped by traditions of inquiry, legal practice ensures that scholars are addressing pressing problems. Both normative and positive scholarship can aid policymakers, judges, and agency officials. *Laws* brings together the work of theorists and practitioners, and a diverse range of empirical researchers, to promote the progress of foundational legal norms.

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