

Special Issue

Mental Health Care and the Rule of Law – Lessons Learnt from the Corona Crisis

Message from the Guest Editor

Based on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), several UN bodies, among them the High Commissioner for Human Rights, have argued for a complete ban of all coercive interventions in mental health care. Concepts have been drafted for a system in mental health care based on support only. In such a model, psychiatry this would lose its function as an agent of social control but follow the will and preferences of those who require support.

Will we see in 2021 that persons with a psychiatric diagnosis or psychosocial disabilities at high risk for COVID-19 infection suffered more from the collateral damage of exclusion caused by state measures during lockdown than they benefitted—will they be grateful for this sort of special care? Additionally, which efforts did the German National Preventive Mechanism undertake during the pandemic to protect people from ill-treatment and torture?

Thank you very much for considering a contribution to this Special Issue on assessing the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic on the promotion of human rights in Germany's mental health care.

Guest Editor

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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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