



# IDEAL NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2021

FIRST EDITION



## Check out our website

IDEAL now has a website! For disaster law resources, as well as information about past and upcoming events, check out [www.disasterlaw.net](http://www.disasterlaw.net).



## Save the Date

As part of our online disaster law seminar series, IDEAL will host its next seminar on **May 27 2021**, at 0600 GMT (0900 Helsinki, 1500 Tokyo, 1800 NZ and 0700 UK). The seminar will focus on '**Cyberspace and Technology in Emergencies and Regulation**' and include presentations from Ass. Prof. Dr. Juha Saunavaara, Dr. Federica Cristani, and Mirva Salminen. This session will be moderated by Prof. Dr. Stefan Kirchner. **Please register your interest at [disasterlaw.net](http://disasterlaw.net) or email us at [admin@disasterlaw.net](mailto:admin@disasterlaw.net).**



## Online Global Conference

IDEAL hopes to host an online disaster law conference later in 2021, with presentations from all over the world. More details will be released closer to the time.

## Welcome to the IDEAL Network!



A warm welcome to all who have expressed interest in joining the International, Disaster, Emergency and Law Network (IDEAL). Formed in 2020, IDEAL aims to facilitate a hub for research and discussion related to the intersection between law and disasters.

In March 2021, IDEAL successfully hosted an open seminar on the topic '**Vulnerability, Law and Disasters**', with presentations from Dr Tommaso Natoli and Dr Christy Shucksmith-Wesley. This session was chaired by Dr Marie Aronsson-Storrier. Thank you to our speakers, Dr Aronsson-Storrier for chairing and to all those who registered their interest. Our next online seminar will be held on 27 May, and is titled '**Cyberspace and Technology in Emergencies and Regulation**'. Register your interest at [disasterlaw.net](http://disasterlaw.net) or [admin@disasterlaw.net](mailto:admin@disasterlaw.net).

As our international network continues to expand, we welcome all researchers, students and practitioners interested in disaster law to join. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions!



## In the media



Dr Toni Collins and Prof John Hopkins were recently interviewed by Radio New Zealand about the concept of Disaster Law and the legal situation around New Zealand's response to COVID-19. They also compare the response of Pacific Island nations such as Fiji, which have a centralised response to disaster and how New Zealand could learn from this response framework. The link to the interview is:

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/ourchangingworld/audio/2018782799/disaster-law>

If you have any forthcoming publications or media pieces please let us know as we would love to include them! Please either send these through our website [www.disasterlaw.net](http://www.disasterlaw.net) or to [admin@disasterlaw.net](mailto:admin@disasterlaw.net)



# IDEAL Seminar summary

This meeting was a chance to come together (albeit virtually) to reflect upon what it means to work with and address vulnerability through law. For example, **what would happen if we stopped considering vulnerability as a label or characteristic, and started seeing it as a process?** To what extent is there space within law for a deeper and more fully articulated understanding of what vulnerability is, and how it changes within different intuitions, spaces, and contexts? And similarly, **what are the limits of trying to address, or 'fix', vulnerability without first taking the time to understand it?**

In order to kick off our discussions, **Dr Tommaso Natoli** (University College Cork) discussed his report 'Addressing specific vulnerabilities through integrated climate and disaster risk governance: Lessons from the Philippines', and **Dr Christy Shucksmith-Wesley** (University of Nottingham) shared her reflections on 'The UK Response to Pandemics: Vulnerability, Law, and Equality'?

The presentations were followed by engaging interdisciplinary discussions, relating not only to 'vulnerability', but also including critical discussions on the concept of 'Build Back Better'. It is clear that this is an area which warrants further attention, and we look forward to exploring these important issues in future events.

**There is a more complete summary of the seminar available on request. If you would like a copy of this summary please email us at [admin@disasterlaw.net](mailto:admin@disasterlaw.net) or contact us via our website [www.disasterlaw.net](http://www.disasterlaw.net).**

## Introducing...

Following our successful March seminar on the topic '**Vulnerability, Law and Disasters**', we would like to introduce our participants:

Dr Tommaso Natoli, Dr Christy Shucksmith-Wesley, and Dr Marie Aronsson-Storrier.

### Dr Tommaso Natoli



Dr Tommaso Natoli is an Irish Research Council/Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action CAROLINE Fellow in the University College Cork School of Law. He is in the late stages of a research project, entitled 'Leave No One Behind: Developing Climate-Smart/Disaster Risk Management Laws that Protect People in Vulnerable Situations for a Comprehensive Implementation of the UN Agenda 2030'.

### Dr Christy Shucksmith-Wesley



Dr Christy Shucksmith-Wesley is an Assistant Professor at the University of Nottingham, School of Law. Christy's research focuses on humanitarian protection and assistance, and International Disaster Law, and she published widely in these fields. Over the past 5 years, she has increasingly been drawn into the UK disaster (or civil contingency) context. She is currently writing her second monograph on Health and Disasters: International Law and Disaster Risk Reduction (Hart, forthcoming).

We welcome all feedback so if there is anything you feel we may have missed or think would be a good addition please let us know! We would love to hear from you. You can contact us via email at [admin@disasterlaw.net](mailto:admin@disasterlaw.net) or via our website [www.disasterlaw.net](http://www.disasterlaw.net).

### Dr Marie Aronsson-Storrier



Dr Marie Aronsson-Storrier is the Programme Director for the LLM in International Law (with pathways); LLM/MSc in Global Crisis, Conflict, and Disaster Management; LLM Human Rights and LLM Advanced Legal Studies at the University of Reading. She is also the chair of the Student Experience Committee. She holds a PhD in International Law (University of Melbourne, 2017) and a Master of Laws (University of Gothenburg, 2011). Marie has published in the areas of international law on the use of force, human rights, disaster management, disaster risk reduction, international criminal law and international humanitarian law.

### Associate Professor Natalie Baird



We would also like to include an honorable mention for Associate Professor Natalie Baird whose research 'Disasters, Human Rights and Vulnerability: Reflections from the Experiences of Older Persons in Post-Quake Canterbury' was mentioned several times during the discussion.

Natalie is an Associate Professor and Co-Director of the LLM (ILAP) programme at the University of Canterbury. Natalie's current research interests lie in the areas of refugee law, international human rights, Pacific legal studies and the scholarship of teaching and learning.

The reference for Natalie's paper is: Baird N. (2019) Disasters, Human Rights and Vulnerability: Reflections from the Experiences of Older Persons in Post-Quake Canterbury. Yearbook of International Disaster Law 2: 314-340.

