

JULY 2021 - CALL FOR PAPERS



QUEEN MARY  
POSTGRADUATE LAW CONFERENCE



Queen Mary  
University of London

Centre for Commercial Law Studies

## **The Covid-19 Aftermath**

Covid-19 has had a dramatic impact on work practices across every industry, and law is no exception. Industries like retail and hospitality were challenged while others like life sciences, e-commerce, technology, and finance thrived. Workplace culture saw immense alterations giving rise to different employment considerations such as safe working environments, working from home and duties of care. Insurance claims for loss of business skyrocketed. Contract negotiations and attempts to revisit 'force majeure' clauses were invoked. Almost all industries had to find digital solutions for many aspects of their work. Legal as well as commercial proceedings were prolonged because of the social distancing restrictions.

Although, governments introduced several measures to mitigate the effects of the pandemic like new restructuring and insolvency regimes, financial support packages, relaxed application of competition laws surrounding essential products and services, virtual court hearings, sharing of court documents and several other adjustments to the litigation framework, it is unclear what the long-term implications of such developments are and which of these changes might be here to stay.

We seek papers from any LLM or other law masters students that offer innovative conceptualisations and critical reflections on law and the pandemic and its 'aftermath'. The theme is deliberately broad and open to different interpretations. Specific questions or topics that fit within the theme of this conference include:

- What are the limits of the government's powers under national emergencies?
- How has the law facilitated the success of some industries or adversely affected others?
- How did the pandemic impact human rights and immigration regulations?
- Are the implemented 'track and trace' initiatives compliant with GDPR?
- How do service providers in the legal industry need to adapt their practice to pull through?

### **Application Process**

To apply for a presentation at the conference, please send the following to [qmpglawconference@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:qmpglawconference@qmul.ac.uk) with the subject heading "QMPGLC 2021 Abstract Submission":

- 1) Abstract of no more than 300 words (The title of your paper is not included in the word count).
- 2) Completed Biographical Details Form (attached to this Call for Papers).

Please note that the application process is open to all current master level students of all UK universities.

The deadline for submitting abstracts is on **Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup> of June 2021** at 23:59 (GMT UTC+0). The submitted abstracts will be evaluated on the relevance to the conference theme, clarity of arguments and originality of ideas. You shall be updated on the status of your application by the **9<sup>th</sup> of July**. Successful applicants will be expected to present their papers on the **22<sup>nd</sup> of July** and will have the option to submit their papers for publication on the QMUL website. The provisional time for the commencement of the conference is at 10:00 (GMT UTC+0). The attendees and the presenters will receive a confirmation e-mail with all the necessary details closer to the date.

## Further Information

Each presentation should not last more than 15 minutes, and the presenters are highly encouraged to make use of PowerPoint. After the presentation, the panellists will interact with the presenter in a friendly environment and will offer him/her constructive feedback on his/her work. Those who wish to publish their papers should bear in mind the following:

- The word limit is 3,000 words, fully referenced with footnotes (OSCOLA format)
- The papers need to be submitted in a Word document (.docx)
- The font must be 'Arial' while the font size 12.
- The line space should be 1.5.

Key Dates	Function
Sunday 27 June 2021	Deadline for submitting abstracts/application
Wednesday 9 July 2021	Update from conference team on the status of your application (acceptance/rejection)
Thursday 22 July 2021 (at 10:00 GMT UTC+0)	Conference Date
Thursday 30 September 2021	Deadline for Submitting the Paper for online publication

## Accessibility and Registration

Attendance to the event is free of charge, but previous registration via Eventbrite is required regardless of your status as a presenter or a mere attendee. Due to the pandemic, this year's Conference will be held **virtually via Zoom**. The QMPGLC team will be in touch with all the attendees (including the presenters) nearer the time to provide further information on how to access the Conference. The detailed Conference programme with the names of the presenters, keynote speakers and panellists will be announced later.