

Health Politics, Policy and Political Discourse under COVID-19 in Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg.

The Journal of **Politics of the Low Countries** (PLC) invites the submission of paper proposals for a special issue on health politics and policy under COVID-19 in the BeNeLux region.

This special issue seeks to present rigorous empirical analyses related to the politics of the COVID-19 pandemic, both focused on either on the Belgian, the Dutch or the Luxemburgish case, and from a comparative perspectives between the two or three. We are particularly (but not limitedly) interested in studies by political scientists, economists, sociologists, communication scientists (and also cross-discipline studies), focusing on all politics and policy related aspect of the pandemics. We are interested in qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-methods approaches.

We seek proposals that provide perspectives on the following topics, but the call for papers is not limited to these subjects:

- Variation across Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg in the ethical, legal, and policy responses to COVID-19 by government agencies, public health systems, health care services, and/or other actors; and in the effectiveness of these responses;
- Politicization of scientific evidence, health threats, and public and policy responses (e.g., compliance with social distancing, mask-wearing, hands washing, light vs heavy lockdown);
- Social construction and political discourse of the epidemic, especially in relation to data quality and availability;
- The policy and political consequences of the socially unequal impact of COVID-19.

We are mainly interested in analyses that leverage empirical data, rather than commentaries. Proposals should be submitted as structured abstracts with the following sections: Authors and Affiliations, Research Objectives, Motivation/Theory, Research Design, Preliminary Results (if available), and Implications. Proposals may be a maximum of 700 words, not including the section headings.

Submit paper proposals via email to Lorenzo Terrière, PLC's editorial assistant, at politicslc@boomdenhaag.nl by December 15, 2020. Please put "COVID-19 special issue" in the subject line. The editors of the journal will assess the theoretical and empirical contribution of the paper, fit for PLC, and coherence with other papers proposed for the special issue.

We anticipate that, for authors selected to submit papers, the deadline for manuscripts will be March 15, 2021 so that the articles appear in the second issue of 2021. All papers will undergo double-blind peer review.