

Trust, trustworthiness and the COVID-19 pandemic **14th March 2022, 1.00-2.00PM (London time)**

Trust in government and other institutions is said to play a key role in the success of pandemic response. Mistrust and distrust can therefore impede the effectiveness of response measures, leading some countries to fare worse than others despite similarities in epidemiological context and health system infrastructure. So, how exactly does this relationship between trust and successful pandemic response work? What key things should be done to strengthen trust? Insofar as trust has a historical element and can take significant time and effort to build, what can governments and public health authorities do during a crisis when operating with low levels of public trust? Finally, what is the difference between promoting trustworthiness as opposed to promoting trust, and what is the relevance of this distinction for pandemic response efforts?

Chair:

- [Professor Michael Parker](#), Professor of Bioethics, Director of the Ethox Centre, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK

Panel:

- [Professor Doris Schroeder](#), Co-ordinator of the [TRUST project](#), Professor of Moral Philosophy, Director of the Centre for Professional Ethics, School of Sport and Health Sciences, University of Central Lancashire, United Kingdom
- [Dr Lauren Paremoer](#), Department of Political Studies, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa.
- Third panelist to be confirmed

Seminar attendees are invited to submit questions in advance of the seminar when they register or during the live discussion.

Background Reading

[Researchers are asking why some countries were better prepared for covid. One surprising answer: Trust. - The Washington Post](#)

[Pandemic preparedness and COVID-19: an exploratory analysis of infection and fatality rates, and contextual factors associated with preparedness in 177 countries, from Jan 1, 2020, to Sept 30, 2021 - The Lancet](#)

[Moral dilemmas and trust in leaders during a global health crisis | Nature Human Behaviour](#)

[Exhortations to Trust Biomedical Experts: What's Missing? - The Hastings Center](#)