USC Law and Global Health Working Group - Meeting Notes
November 25th, 2014
12:30pm-2:00pm PST

Participants
Michael Cousineau, David Cruz, Laura Ferguson, Hannah Garry, Sofia Gruskin, Lyn Boyd Jensen, Shubha Kumar, Tom Lyon, Doe Mayer, Neeraj Sood, Tom Ward
Administrative support – Ian Henry, Alexandra Nicholson

Meeting Summary

This was the first meeting of the Law and Global Health Working Group at USC (please see attached Participant List). The purpose of this initial meeting was to get a handle on the work people are doing at the intersection of law and global health, make connections across the various disciplines and schools involved in this work, and discuss options for moving forward. Participants recognized that there is a lot of work that engages both law and global health within the university, but that individuals are generally not coming together or connecting. The first step therefore is to map participants' areas of focus and determine the various ways in which coming together can benefit our individual efforts and strengthen USC's profile in this area.

Participants agreed to take a broad view of global health, recognizing global health to include not only global norms and institutions, and what is happening in other countries, but also what is happening in the US (as the US falls within the scope of "global" after all). Regarding law, the focus of what is to be included is also intentionally broad: domestic law within countries; policy and regulation; and international law, from human rights law to trade law. This category is intentionally inclusive.

To that end, there are two primary entry points in how work is done at the intersection. For folks who work primarily in the health field, there are those whose work explicitly deals with the impacts of law and policy on health outcomes, or on the delivery of services, and those who deal explicitly with laws or regulation. On the other hand, there are folks who work primarily on the law and policy side, whose work either explicitly addresses health or directly impacts health. This combination of perspectives is potentially what makes this group super interesting.

In general, participants agreed that there is a lot happening within USC at the intersection of law and global health, and that communication and coordination would be extremely useful. Participants agreed that it would beneficial to give USC a profile in this area. In noting the potential of coming together as a group, standard methods of engaging with one another's efforts were discussed—joint courses, doctoral committees, safe spaces to share work across disciplines, Zumberges, etc. —but participants noted that this group has the potential for deeper collaboration.

Participants recognized the "local to global" connection in many of their areas of work, i.e. that their efforts at both levels are complementary, and that local efforts have implications for global regimes and vice versa. The example of another such group at USC which works on immigrant health was discussed, noting that its work had generated collaborations across schools with implications both in Los Angeles and globally. Building on the "local to global" theme, participants discussed work and a potential partnership with RAND's Center for Global Engagement and Ethics, focused on being better global citizens by being better local citizens. How to engage most usefully in relation to law and health was an open question, but the fact that such work is based on an ethical impulse to help our city may be a potential path forward. Participants noted their close work with partners in Brazil and in other countries, with the potential to engage similar health and law issues in various countries, perhaps simultaneously conducting work on the same research questions in several places, with regularly check-ins to advance learning. Potential topical areas noted by meeting participants included HIV, child and adolescent health, transgender health, sex work, and law and health questions directly affecting key populations more generally.

Regarding the future of the Law and Global Health Working Group, it was noted that many people had expressed interest in participating who were not able to attend this first meeting. Additionally, participants recognized the absence of environmental health people and people from engineering and suggested reaching out to them directly before the next meeting. It was agreed that it would be beneficial to have several more meetings within this academic year. As a first step, it was agreed that it would be useful to put together a resource which could be shared amongst participants regarding the work people are doing in this area, including some basics on relevant research interests. See attached Law and Global Health Working Group Matrix, a first draft attempting to pull together this information. People present at the first meeting are encouraged to fill this out soonest, as it can then be used to encourage others to do the same.

A Doodle poll will be circulated at the start of the next semester in order to get the dates for the next meeting on calendars soon as reasonably possible. It was agreed that the next meeting could begin with a targeted

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discussion of how people understand the connections between law and global health, followed by presentations approaching similar topics at the law and global health intersection from different entry points, as two people addressing similar issues from different spaces would be illuminating. Potential topics for this first exercise included child health and transgender health. It was agreed that this sort of grounding to the conversation would help to focus efforts. Participants discussed how exciting the big picture conversation could be, generating big ideas, multidisciplinary collaboration, and lots of funding. To that end, participants discussed how the next meeting could be the substantive, individually focused meeting, setting the stage for a meeting later in the semester to address larger big-picture issues.

Action Items
- Fill out Law and Global Health Working Group Matrix
- Agree on dates for the next meeting

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