

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS
Disasters, Risk & Resilience
MANCEPT Workshops in Political Theory 2021 (online)
8th - 10th September 2021

Convenors:

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Keynote Speakers:

Elizabeth Brake (Rice)
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Extended Abstract Deadline: 15th July 2021

Workshop Description:

Major disasters and emergencies—such as the 2008-09 financial crisis, the 2010 Haiti earthquake, and even future global catastrophic risks—share three common characteristics: one, they are often unpredictable; two, they inherently disrupt what is often considered as the “normal functioning” of individuals, institutions, and communities; and three, given current socio-political-economic conditions, their occurrence in the future is inevitable to a large extent.

These events raise many urgent questions for normative theorists, as the on-going COVID-19 pandemic has made so vividly apparent. For instance, when a disaster strikes, it can stretch institutional resources beyond their immediate capacity to deal with the crisis, foment distrust between citizens and fray social connections. In severe cases, a disaster can even undermine a government's legitimacy, as exemplified by the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. This poses questions for both the short- and long-term capabilities of individuals, institutions and governments to respond to external shocks. Moreover, different kinds of disasters may raise different normative considerations, depending on their scope and scale. For example, it might be thought that we should prioritize the most extreme possibilities—such as future global catastrophic risks rather than focus on short term events—for normative investigation.

Disasters raise further problems relating to the appropriate distribution of responsibilities, especially when we consider the international arena. The burdens of disasters and catastrophes fall disproportionately on developing countries (e.g. Dayton-Johnson 2006; Zorn 2018); these burdens may be compounded by the historical injustices of colonialism and present-day global inequalities between the developed and developing worlds. The task for theorists of global justice, then, is to provide an adequate response to the uneven and unequal distribution of vulnerability to disasters across the planet.

Disasters also represent paradigm cases of risky events: even if we have strong epistemic reasons to believe that a disaster is likely to strike in the future, it frequently remains unclear exactly when the disaster will occur, how large it will be and the severity of the post-disaster outcome. Consequently, disaster theory must be attentive to the ethics of risk and uncertainty,

as well as the extent of our obligations to future generations who are at risk of suffering impending catastrophes. How to approach this is an urgent task for normative and political philosophers.

Relatedly, addressing and preparing our society to cope, adapt and recover from these events requires building resilience against risky events —or so the conventional wisdom goes. As a theoretical concept, resilience is invoked in order to develop robust institutions for future generations (Global Priorities Institute Research Report 2020). It also appears in discussions of climate-related social inequalities (Doorn, Gardoni & Murphy 2019), and is sometimes conceived as a necessary condition for legitimacy and justice (Koler 2016). However, for the most part, the concept of resilience remains largely under-theorized, and its relation with disaster and risk is not always clear. From a practical standpoint, resilience has infiltrated various policy agendas and institutional frameworks. For instance, the International Monetary Fund (2005) and the World Bank (2006) have increasingly incorporated strategies of resilience into their plans for crisis management. The current pandemic has motivated governments to initiate community resilience for a post-COVID world (such as the UK's Community Resilience Development Framework). Even so, how resilience should be implemented in practice remains a contested issue.

Further questions to be addressed at this workshop include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- (a) What is a disaster? What is resilience? How are they conceptually related to risk?
- (b) How should we measure the impact of disasters?
- (c) How should we distribute the burdens of disaster mitigation and response?
- (d) How should we respond ethically to disasters as cases of risk imposition? Is 'natural' or environmental risk different from technological risk in this respect?
- (e) What intrinsic or instrumental value does resilience have?
- (f) What is the relationship of risk and resilience to other socio-political ideals such as justice, equality, security, liberty, democracy and so on, especially in the case of disasters?
- (g) What does it mean to build resilient individuals, institutions, communities, ecosystems?
- (h) Whose resilience matters and what should we be resilient against in the case of global catastrophic risks?
- (i) What is the relation between resilience and capability theory?
- (j) Is resilience a social public good or is resilience a form of political power? If so, then what are its features?

This workshop aims to provide a forum for addressing these and other related questions, against the backdrop of the ongoing pandemic. It will unite moral and political theorists interested in the normative issues concerning disasters, risks and resilience with empirical scholars in the interdisciplinary field of disaster studies and practical insights from (e.g.) policymakers and emergency managers. Ultimately, this workshop will set forth a research agenda for tackling disasters, emergencies and global catastrophic risks from normative, practical and policy standpoints.

Submission Information:

If you are interested in applying for the workshop, please send an abstract (300-500 words) prepared for anonymous review to manceptdisasters2021@gmail.com by **15th July 2021**. Abstracts should be accompanied by a non-blind cover sheet listing the speaker's name, paper title, institutional affiliation and contact details. Each speaker will be allotted 15-20 minutes for presentation and 25-30 minutes for discussion. We especially welcome submissions from underrepresented groups.

Registration Information:

This conference will be held online 8th-10th September 2021 (BST). Registration will open in May. All participants are required to register (go to <https://estore.manchester.ac.uk/conferences-and-events/faculty-of-humanities/school-of-social-sciences/mancept/the-mancept-workshops-in-political-theory-2021>). The fees for MANCEPT Workshops 2021 are as follows:

Academics: £45

Graduate students, retirees, and unaffiliated attendees: £20

Non-speaker/non-presenting attendees: £15

A small number of bursaries (for graduate students only) are available. Please state in your application whether you intend to apply for a bursary.

CALL FOR PAPERS FOR THEME ISSUE OF LITERATURE AND MEDICINE
HUNGER AND WASTE

Volume 40, Number 1, Spring 2022

Issue Editor: Isabelle Meuret

This issue of *Literature and Medicine* will interrogate expressions of hunger and waste in both literary and biomedical contexts.

Hunger is a physiological disposition, a daily preoccupation, and a metaphor for desire. On another scale, global hunger—leading to malnutrition and starvation—affects hundreds of millions living in poverty. As for waste, the dearth, careless use, or squandering of resources, together with climate change and other environmental challenges, have raised new concerns about food supplies and unequal access.

Literary variations on the theme of hunger and waste span from the stories of hard-line strikers to those of hunger artists or modern anorexics. Famine fiction is a genre in itself. Memoirs by eating-disordered patients have replaced fasting saints' hagiographies. Likewise, doctors and caregivers are confronted with the complications of bodies wasting away: subjects may be affected by severe pathologies, suffer dietary restrictions, endure invasive treatments, or resist nutritional intervention or rehabilitation. But while inanition can be lethal, fasting also proves therapeutic. Severe calorie restriction endangers the functions of the organism, induces alterations in energy metabolism, results in nutrient deficiencies and dehydration—yet abstaining from food may cause health benefits in terms of weight loss, blood pressure, and cholesterol levels.

Both literature and biomedicine grapple with issues pertaining to hunger and waste in terms of representations (How, by whom, to what ends are stories of starvation told? How do the mechanisms of hunger and waste work? What are the effects of malnutrition on mind and body?); significations (What are the social, political, religious meanings of hunger? Is anorexia a response to trauma?); aggravations (What are the consequences of famine on vulnerable populations? How does emaciation interpellate the other?); counteractions (Which clinical, ethical, and humanitarian responses best address food deprivation? What are the challenges of (re-)feeding individuals and entire nations?)

These questions show the many avenues for problematizing hunger and waste in fields such as the health and medical humanities, cognitive literary criticism, fat and hunger studies, and narrative medicine. They invite interdisciplinary dialogue with sociology, philosophy, history, psychology, anthropology, media and cultural studies, and performing and visual arts. They also encourage and welcome intersectional methodologies, for instance in connection with disability and lgbtq+ studies, or critical race theory. In any instance, proposals should consider literature or biomedicine, or both, in their broadest sense, as points of reference, and will ideally fit in one of these topical categories:

- Food insecurity; malnutrition in times of poverty, famines, wars, exiles, and epidemics.
- Food waste; including protest against consumerism, or environmental impact thereof.
- Hunger strikes; political and/or subversive resistance to coercion and oppression.
- Fasting vs feasting; asceticism, relative to spiritual or religious taboos and rituals.
- Anorexia; pathologization, medicalization, and treatment of self-starvation.
- Hunger and anger; expression of rage, of ravenous appetites and insatiable desires.

Strong submissions that do not quite fit into the theme issue as it takes shape will also be considered for inclusion in general issues of the journal.

Deadline for submission: August 1, 2021. Address inquiries to Isabelle.Meuret@ulb.be.

Call for Papers and Guidelines for Contributors

Literature and Medicine is a peer-reviewed journal publishing scholarship that explores representational and cultural practices concerning health care and the body. Areas of interest include disease, illness, and health; the cultures of biomedical science and technology and of the clinic; disability; and violence, trauma, and power relations as these are represented and interpreted in broadly defined archives of verbal, visual, and material texts. Literature and Medicine features one thematic and one general issue each year. Past theme issues have explored identity and difference; contagion and infection; cancer pathography; the representations of genomics; and the narration of pain.

Literature and Medicine is published semiannually. Literature and Medicine editors will consider essay clusters devoted to a particular topic or written on a specific occasion. Submissions on any aspect of literature and medicine will be considered, but the journal rarely publishes short notes, personal essays, or creative writing. Authors are advised to look carefully at past issues of the journal (available on the journal website) before submitting their work. Manuscripts should be between 5,000 and 9,000 words in length. Please include an abstract of 100–150 words, and 3–5 keywords. All submissions should have text, end notes, and bibliography double-spaced and prepared according to guidelines in *The Chicago Manual of Style*, current edition. Authors will be responsible for securing permission to include visual images, figures, or verbal quotations that exceed fair use.

Literature and Medicine is a peer-reviewed journal. Authors' names should appear only on a cover sheet, and any identifiers in the text should be masked so manuscripts can be

reviewed anonymously. Literature and Medicine reviews only unpublished manuscripts that are not simultaneously under review for publication elsewhere.

Manuscripts must be submitted in digital form (.doc, .docx, or .rtf) through our website: <https://lit-med.scholasticahq.com>.

Correspondence should be sent to: Isabelle.Meuret@ulb.be.