



Principal Investigator: Prof. Ilina Singh, University of Oxford

The Ethics Accelerator receives core funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council as part of UKRI's covid-19 funding. Grant number AH/V013947/1.

[www.ukpandemicethics.org](http://www.ukpandemicethics.org)

## **UK Pandemic Ethics Accelerator**

### **Seeking Expressions of Interest:**

### **Covid-19: Unequal Impacts for Disabled and Chronically Ill Communities**

The UK Pandemic Ethics Accelerator intends to commission a research review, policy briefing, and short public engagement piece from an external academic to support its current priority area in Public Health and Health Inequalities. We are seeking expressions of interest from experts in ethics, applied in the context of the impacts of covid-19 pandemic (including the impacts of policies instituted in response to the pandemic) on Disabled communities.

### **Background**

The unequal impacts and experiences of covid-19 and the policy responses to it have been increasingly apparent since the onset of the pandemic; in particular since the development and implementation of restrictions regulations across the four nations of the UK from March 2020. With a view both to evaluating and learning from past experience, and to assisting planning in the future, the [UK Pandemic Ethics Accelerator](http://www.ukpandemicethics.org) is proposing to commission research concerning social ethics and unequal impacts of covid-19 for diverse Disabled communities in the UK. We are interested in this both in relation to health inequalities (including non-covid health impacts), and broader points of inequality that have arisen given responses to the public health situation. In both regards, we recognise the relevance and import of pre-existing legal, political, social, and structural conditions.

### **Purpose**

The commissioned work is aimed at two primary purposes: to inform public understanding, including in relation to points of disagreement/contention; and to inform policy debates and development, looking retrospectively and prospectively.

In achieving these purposes, the work should explain and spell out how unequal impacts have arisen and been experienced, and the questions of ethics/equity to

which they give rise. The research will review and engage with specialist works, but the outputs will need to be produced in a way that is accessible to generalist audiences.

### **Approach**

The review should be based on an analysis of the existing literature and other publicly-available resources. Much of the information required should be reported descriptively, and analysis of the ethical issues, tensions, and points of disagreement should be presented in an even-handed way. However, this does not preclude emancipatory paradigms being applied to provide critical recommendations for areas that require particular focus/concern both in evaluation of past experience and in recommendations looking prospectively.

The review would be expected to cover:

- (a) For diverse groups of Disabled communities across the four nations of the UK, insofar as this possible, to identify in a general way the weight and nature of unequal impacts that have arisen (recognising distinctions as relevant in legal and policy approaches respectively in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales, as well as at more local levels).
- (b) Ethical analysis of these differential impacts of the pandemic and responses to it to differently socially-located Disabled communities. These may be drawn out with a limited number of illustrative examples that are rationalised usefully to allow exploration of particular ethical challenges.
- (c) Ethical challenges may be presented with reference both to:
  - a. Procedural considerations: whether and how unequal impacts came about and were/might have been challenged, in particular through policy development;
  - b. Substantive considerations: why and in what ways they might be defended or considered unjust.
- (d) Relate its evaluation specifically to questions of social ethics and policy.

### **Scope**

The review should cover (albeit possibly not in equal depth) the following levels and jurisdictions:

- UK;
- National levels: England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales;
- As may be relevant, local levels, or distinctions e.g. through urban/rural, as well as through explicit consideration of the impact of different social locations on experiences of Disability and chronic illness.

### **How to apply and honorarium details**

We welcome proposals from individual researchers, or researchers with complementary expertise working together.

Interested researchers are invited to submit a brief proposal (no more than 750 words, excluding CV(s)) setting out how they would approach the review and meet the objectives outlined above. This should include:

- a brief summary of expertise and 1-page CV of the person/people who will undertake the work;
- up to 5 headline points that the review would be expected to explore;
- an outline of the proposed approach to fulfilling the brief (research methodology);
- an indicative outline of the final outputs (recognising that these will be subject to change as the research develops).
- The required outputs are:
  - an ethics review (expected to be between 3500-5000 words in length) identifying and explaining ethical issues that have arisen in relation to covid-19 and Disabled and chronically ill communities in the UK. This should be academically-rigorous, written in an accessible and engaging style, and aim to contribute to public understanding and debate;
  - a policy briefing (expected to be approximately 1500 words in length) explaining in succinct form the key issues for policy organisations to consider looking back and looking forward in relation to pandemic responses;
  - a short, public engagement piece (e.g. a blog) to summarise key aspects of the work and widen their reach.

The proposal should be submitted to the Ethics Accelerator Secretariat by close of business on **1<sup>st</sup> October, 2021**: [ukpandemicethics@psych.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ukpandemicethics@psych.ox.ac.uk)

The expected date for submission of the final report is **7<sup>th</sup> January, 2021**.

An honorarium of **£5000** is offered for this work.

To discuss further, please contact Professor John Coggon:  
[John.Coggon@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:John.Coggon@bristol.ac.uk)

### **Peer Review**

All proposals are subject to internal and external peer review.  
All final products for the Pandemic Ethics Accelerator are peer reviewed.

### **What will happen with the completed work?**

We will publish the ethics review and policy briefing, with the researcher(s) identified as authors, on the Pandemic Ethics Accelerator website. In all outputs, the researcher(s) are clearly identified as authors, and the Accelerator is identified as the

funder. If there is press interest or interest from policy-makers as a result of the review, we will direct that interest to the author(s).

We ask that the author(s) do not publish the review elsewhere without express permission from the Pandemic Ethics Accelerator.

If authors go on to develop the review for academic publication, the Pandemic Ethics Accelerator would expect to be acknowledged as (one of the) funders of the work.