

Workshop 8

This workshop aims to draw the outlines of a reflection associating historians and lawyers, doctors and politicians on the topic of the history of law and the history of medicine in the case of vaccination.

The history of medicine shows that health innovations have not been accepted immediately and absolutely irreversibly. Immunization imposed on infants, children and adults is a good illustration of this problem, and the long history of prevention shows that historians and jurists can contribute to reflection. Debates, often oriented from the ideological point of view, resurface periodically by opposing individual freedom to major public programs, regulations in support.

Despite the disappearance or extinction of many infectious diseases, new forms of resistance have emerged. They sometimes emanate from patients, sometimes practitioners, sometimes social media actors who claim to inform the population and prevent potential risks to public health.

Can the right to health become a duty when the risk of contagion imposes a form of more or less authoritarian sanitary constraint? Does the history of resistance to pharmaceutical innovations reveal, in an enlightening way, the complexity, if not the ambiguity, of the dialogue between the patients, the general public and the experts, and therefore also the politicians? These questions will be addressed by the guest speakers and will be discussed with the audience.