

Global Mobility, Contagious Disease and International Relations

Instructor: Rey Koslowski rkoslowski@albany.edu

Fall 2020 Wednesday 6:00–8:50 PM; RPOS 599; 3 credits

Teaching mode: Fully remote synchronous distance learning using Zoom

(Will be added to Fall schedule and myUAlbany registration after the end of July)

UAlbany graduate students interested in this course should email instructor for a draft syllabus.

Course description: Unprecedented human mobility across international boundaries at the rate of over two billion international travelers per year increased humanity's vulnerability to contagious diseases with security consequences that have major ramifications for International Relations. Air travel that now connects all populations made the rapid worldwide spread of the novel coronavirus possible and renders humanity vulnerable to COVID-19 until a vaccine is given to as much of the world's population as is necessary to contain the disease through global herd immunity. This course examines: the security consequences of human mobility and disease in world history; the role of isolation and quarantine to control disease transmission within a broader discussion of state controls over borders, the relationship between epidemics and national security as well as international political economy; and, finally, international cooperation on global mobility and public health.

Tentative outline/schedule:

8/26 Introduction

I. Migration and epidemics in world history

9/2 Plagues and peoples

9/9 Influenza pandemic of 1918-19

II. Border controls and public health

9/16 International migration, travel and border controls

9/23 Epidemics, public health responses and quarantine

9/30 COVID-19 travel restrictions, quarantine and testing

III. Epidemics and national security

10/7 Armies, epidemics and shifts in the balance of power

10/14 Biological warfare and bioterrorism

IV. Epidemics and international political economy

10/21 Economic consequences of epidemics and pandemics

10/28 Epidemics and economic development

V. International cooperation on global mobility and public health

11/4 Global mobility regimes

11/11 WHO international health regulations and emergency response

11/18 International cooperation to combat COVID-19

Instructor: Rey Koslowski is Professor of Political Science and Director of the Master of International Affairs Program, [Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy](#), University at Albany. Koslowski's book [Migrants and Citizens: Demographic Change and the European State System](#) (Cornell University Press, 2000) examines the interaction of contagious disease and human mobility as well as the consequences of migration for world politics and the conceptualization of international relations. Koslowski is also editor of [Global Mobility Regimes](#) (Palgrave Macmillan: 2011) editor of [International Migration and the Globalization of Domestic Politics](#) (Routledge, 2005) and co-editor (with David Kyle) of [Global Human Smuggling: Comparative Perspectives](#) 2nd ed. (John Hopkins University Press, 2011). Recent articles include "[Chinese Soft Power and Immigration Reform: Can Beijing's Approach to Pursuing Global Talent and Maintaining Stability Succeed?](#)" (with Sheng Ding), "[Drones Along Borders: Border Security UAVs in the United States and the European Union](#)" (with Marcus Schulzke) and "[International Travel Security and the Global Compacts on Refugees and Migration.](#)" He has held fellowships at the German Marshall Fund, the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Princeton University and Georgetown University. Koslowski is often interviewed and widely quoted in the media, including the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Houston Chronicle*, Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), National Public Radio (NPR), the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC).