



CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

# SOLIDARITY AND HEALTHCARE

A STUDY GROUP

Conveners

**Dr. Hagai Boas**

The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute

**Prof. Dani Filc**

Ben Gurion University of the Negev

Does solidarity contribute to health? If so, how? And the corollary: What can we learn about solidarity from health challenges? In recent years, in the wake of a series of health and environmental crises and following advances in the development of medical technology, questions regarding solidarity have become relevant to a growing number of areas in the fields of medicine and public health. The most prominent example is the return to the question of mutual responsibility and solidarity in the context of the coronavirus pandemic, access to vaccination worldwide, and the tension between public health and the rights of individuals over their bodies. The “new normal” generates a new normative array for social and political life, in which the question of mutual responsibility and solidarity is crucial for coping with the current crisis and those in the future.

But what is solidarity? Is its existence dependent on the existence of an external enemy, a commitment to a particular interest, or universal values? The literature on solidarity offers answers from the fields of bioethics, social sciences, and health sciences. At this stage, and without committing to one binding definition, it is reasonable to assume that these questions do not represent an either/or situation but rather various combinations within a complex social reality. For analytical purposes one may view these questions as representing a set of axes that connect ideal types, such as “us” and “you,” “interests” and “values,” “communalism” (particularism) and “liberalism” (universalism). The concept itself is polysemic and takes on political meanings in various contexts.

This study group will delve into the concept of solidarity in the field of healthcare. It intends to discuss solidarity and healthcare along the following axes: (a) historical analysis of the concept’s development; (b) philosophical-bioethical: the meaning of solidarity in conceiving the relations between the individual and the social; (c) sociological-institutional: forms of organizational institutions that promote solidarity; (d) normative policy – how to pursue solidarity on the backdrop of contemporary challenges in healthcare; (e) what are the differences between discussing solidarity in the context of healthcare and discussing it in other fields. The group will advance the theoretical analysis of solidarity along these five axes in order to deepen our understanding on how to conceptualize, analytically and normatively, solidarity in the 21st century.

This study group is part of a project on solidarity in healthcare that empirically engages cases where solidarity emerges as a key component in healthcare initiatives. In addition to its theoretical discussions, it will confer about the findings of the project’s research teams and will invite researchers to present cases that are relevant to the discussions.

The study group is an initiative of the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute in Israel. It invites local and international researchers who are interested in solidarity and healthcare to submit their candidacy as members of the study group. The study group will convene once in three weeks beginning December 2021 via Zoom for two-hour sessions. The group is open to researchers that hold PhDs in the fields of social sciences, humanities, and health sciences.

Submissions should include: an academic CV, and a short letter (not more than one page) specifying the interest in the group’s subject matter.

Deadline: 31 October 2021.

Submissions should be sent to: [solidarity@vanleer.org.il](mailto:solidarity@vanleer.org.il)