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The Aftermath of COVID-19 I: States, Borders and Global Infrastructures

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The COVID-19 pandemic re-oriented politics in myriad ways within, between, and across states. It also brought to the fore or accelerated existing dynamics, and in some cases has forced a reckoning with what we thought we knew about state, non-state, and supra-state power and infrastructures. This panel examines these dynamics across different levels of analysis to shed light on changes to the power, legitimacy, authority, autonomy, effectiveness, and, indeed, temporality, of the global (health) governance architecture. It does this by examining the performance of so-called hybrid regimes during crises; the interpenetration of public and private interests and power in health security as seen through border regimes; changes in the WHO's autonomy in and through the pandemic; COVID-19 dashboards and assemblages of supposedly real-time data; and the normalisation of exceptional, peak-pandemic era public health and social measures despite lacking evidence for their effectiveness.

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