

# Beyond Self-Interest and Crisis

A cosmopolitan approach to global health

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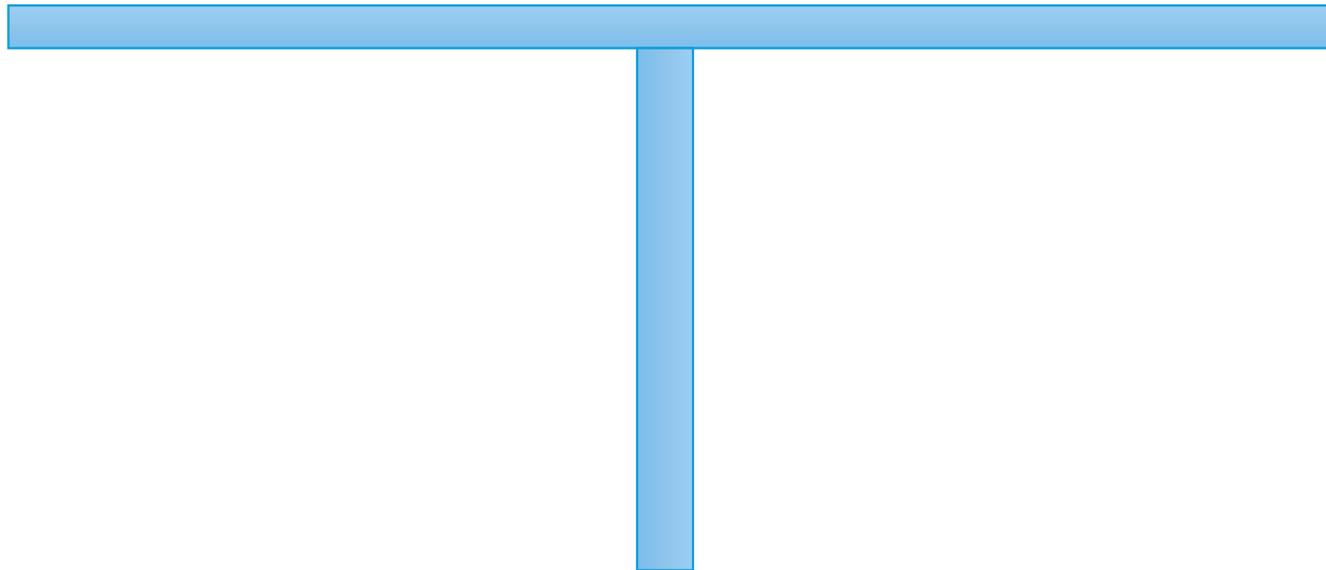


# Introduction

- Problem during COVID-19: To what extent does a state's duties end or extend at the borders?
- Nationalist frameworks prioritise state accountability; cosmopolitanism centres on equal moral worth.



# Global health – “T”



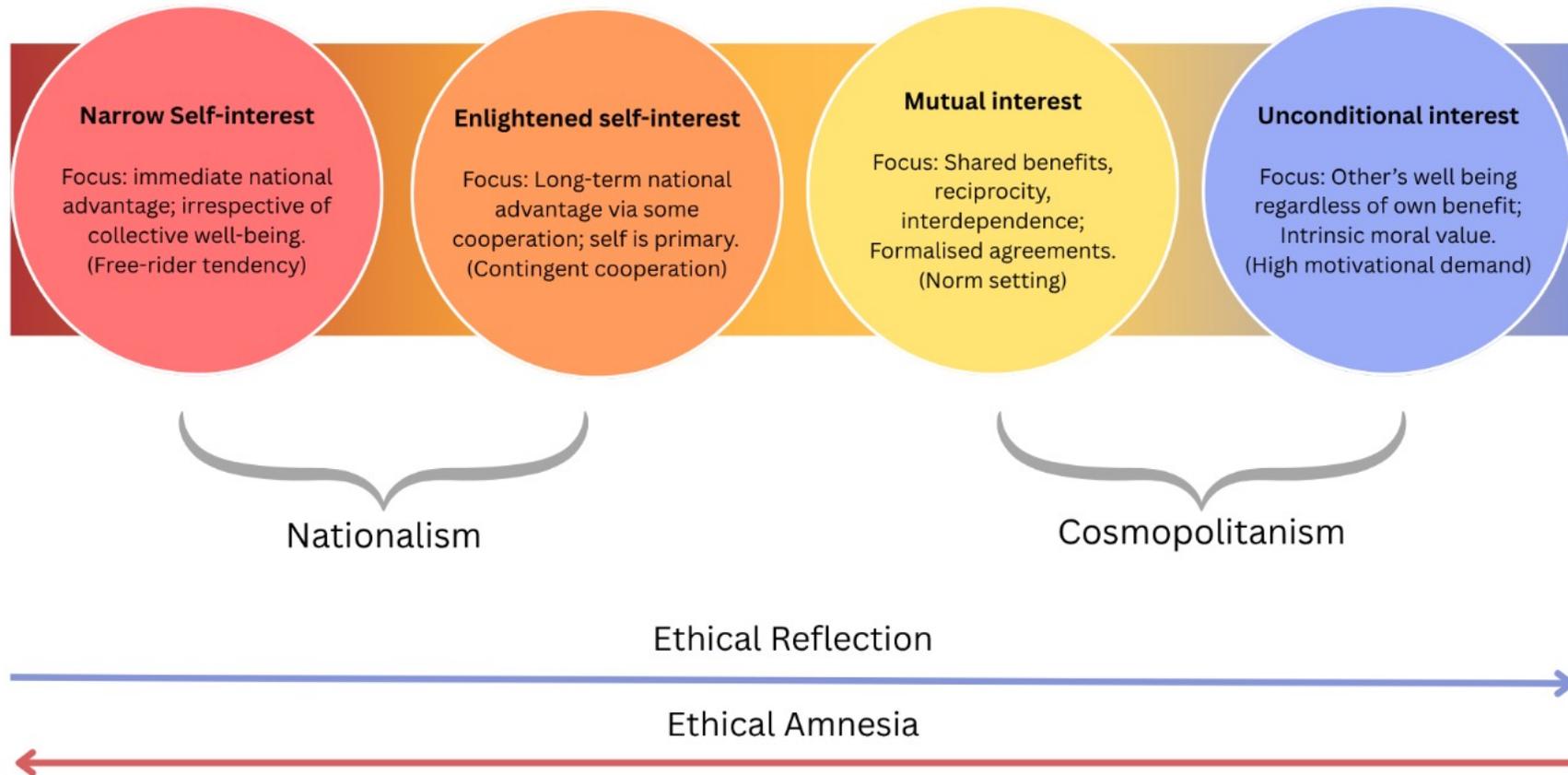
# Methods

- Interdisciplinary, utilising methods and frameworks from a range of disciplines to examine the ethical foundations of global health
- Political philosophy, sociological frameworks, thematic analysis, media analysis, policy analysis, ethical analysis

# COVID-19 pandemic

- Global health cooperation under 'gridlock', with norms of prevailing nationalism
- BUT also cosmopolitan 'moments', calls for cooperation and solidarity
  - Scientific collaboration
  - COVAX
  - TRIPS waiver proposals
  - WHO Pandemic Agreement

# The spectrum of interests in global health



# The reactive cycle of global health

- Crises catalyse ethical reflection on the limitations of nationalist approaches.
- As threats diminish, ethical amnesia erodes the motivation for cooperation.
- This cycle creates fragile commitments contingent upon the failure of self-interest.
- The result is a dilution of cooperative mechanisms and unpreparedness for future threats.

# Reorientation towards mutual interest

- Domestication → Shared responsibility
  - Codifying global health into domestic policy
- Unification → Solidarity (global)
  - Advocacy, broad local and global coalitions
- Securitization → Shared vulnerability
  - Use data to highlight necessity of global cooperation
- Separation → Humility
  - Transparency of global health actions, accountability

POLITICS / HEALTH

# Government to run full national interest test on World Health Pandemic Treaty

12:39 pm on 16 May 2025

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Foreign Minister Winston Peters. Photo: RNZ / REECE BAKER

The government will run a full national interest test on a draft Pandemic Treaty negotiated by the World Health Assembly before deciding whether to sign up to it.

# Mutual interest test for New Zealand

- ✓ Does this policy codify shared responsibility?
- ✓ Does it promote inclusive solidarity?
- ✓ Does it address shared vulnerability?
- ✓ Does it demonstrate cosmopolitan humility?

# Conclusion

- Current governance is insufficient due to the oscillation between reflection and amnesia.
- Moving from enlightened self-interest to mutual interest is necessary for stability.
- The 'Mutual Interest Test' offers a practical mechanism for this shift.
- Reorienting nationalist impulses creates structural rather than reactive solidarity.

