“Trade, Investment and Health: A New Collision Course between Public Health and International Trade and Investment Agreements?”

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Georgetown University Law Center
E.B. Williams Law Library, Room 358
600 New Jersey Ave., NW Washington, DC 20001

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The presentation will outline the relationship between public health on the one hand and international trade and investment agreements on the other. After tracing the relationship between these fields in general terms, the discussion will focus on current trade and investment law controversies concerning tobacco and alcohol control measures. These include Thailand’s plan to require pictorial health warnings on alcoholic beverages, Australia’s move to require plain packaging of tobacco products and restrictions on flavored tobacco products implemented in the US and Canada.

Benn McGrady directs the new O’Neill Institute Initiative on Trade, Investment and Health and is an Adjunct Professor at the Georgetown University Law Center, where he teaches International Trade and Health and co-teaches Public Health and International Investment Law. Benn’s research is also focused on this area of law and he is the author of Trade and Public Health: The WTO, Tobacco, Alcohol and Diet, (Cambridge University Press, 2011). Benn is active in providing advice to public health bodies, foreign governments and inter-governmental organizations on various aspects of public international law, including the law of treaties, international trade law and international investment law. Originally from Australia, Benn holds a Bachelor of Arts, a Bachelor of Laws (hons) and a doctorate from Monash University in Melbourne, as well as a Master of Laws (dist) (Global Health Law) from the Georgetown University Law Center.