

Responsible Citizens Irresponsible States: Should Citizens Pay for their State's Wrongdoings? A Book Talk

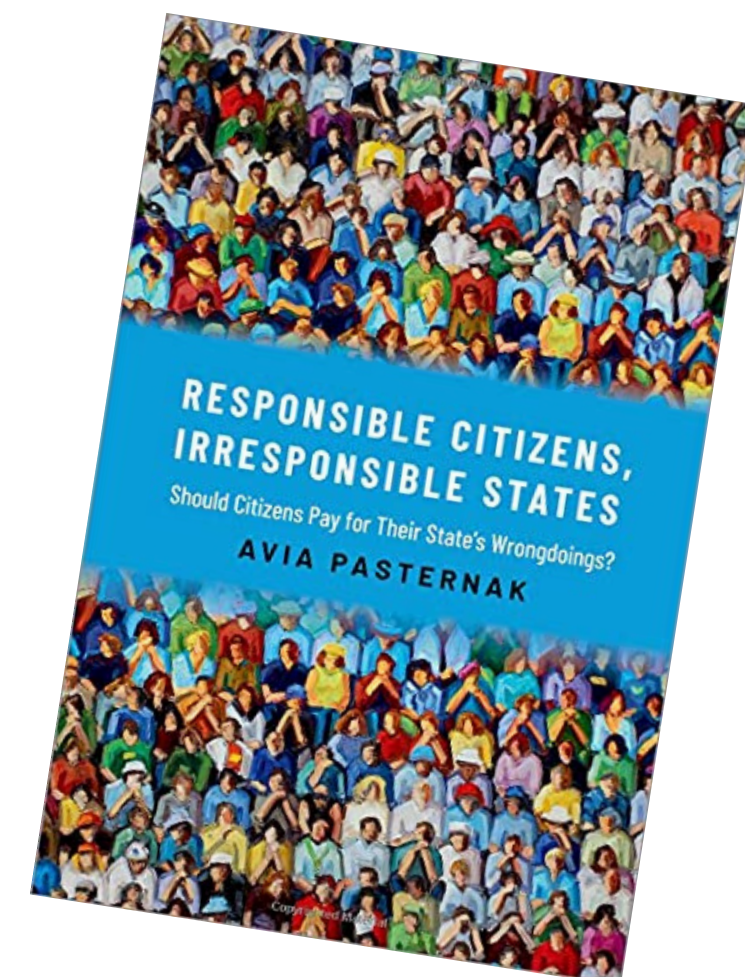


Dr. Avia Pasternak
(University College London)

Thursday, January 20, 2022

2:30-4:00 pm

Zoom



Bio: Avia Pasternak is an Associate Professor in Political Theory at the Department of Political Science, University College London. Currently, her work concentrates on collective responsibility in democracies, on the duties of citizens in unjust democracies and on the permissibility of violent protest.

Abstract: *Responsible Citizens, Irresponsible States* develops a fresh justification for citizens' duties to share the burden of their state's wrongdoings. This justification revolves around citizens' participation in their state: drawing on recent debates in the philosophy of collective action, Avia Pasternak shows that citizens are acting together in their state and that their state policies are the product of this collective action. Given this participation, citizens ought to share the burden of remedying harmful wrongs their state policies bring about. However, she also argues that not all citizens in all states are participating in their state. In many authoritarian states, citizens' participation in the state is highly restricted or coerced. Here, ordinary citizens do not share responsibility for their state policies and should not be forced to pay for them. These conclusions carry significant real-world implications for the way domestic international law holds various types of states, and their citizens, responsible for their wrongdoings.