

Constraining Government Regulatory Authority: Tobacco Industry Trade Threats and Tobacco Plain Packaging

ASPIRE 2025

SEMINAR

Monday 15 June 2015
University of Otago,
Mein St, Newtown, Wellington

We invite you to an **ASPIRE2025** seminar with Eric Crosbie from the University of California, Santa Cruz. Hear how transnational tobacco companies are using trade agreements to constrain government regulatory authority.

[Register now for this crucial update.](#)

Background: Australia introduced standardised packaging for tobacco in 2012. The New Zealand government has also introduced a bill for plain packaging, however transnational tobacco companies are using international trade agreements to legally challenge Australia's policy and threaten the plain packaging proposal in New Zealand. Trade challenges are particularly concerning for public health as provisions in trade agreements allow corporations to shift decision-making authority away from government regulatory bodies, which allow public discussion and debate, into trade tribunals that are more business friendly and conducted privately.

Research to date has primarily focused on *identifying* trade challenges instead of analysing their *political* implications. However, this seminar will examine how governments respond to tobacco industry trade threats when proposing progressive health warning label policies.

Keynote Address: Eric Crosbie

Eric Crosbie is a PhD candidate in the Politics Department at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Eric earned his Masters Degree in International Relations studying regional trade integration in South America. He worked under Stan Glantz at the Centre for Tobacco Control Research and Education at the University of California, San Francisco researching and publishing studies on tobacco control policy making in Latin America and international trade. His recent publications on trade agreements and tobacco control served as a springboard for his dissertation project, which examines how tobacco companies use trade agreements to constrain government regulatory authority. His project is a comparative analysis that examines cigarette package health labels, including the pending proposal for standardized packaging in NZ. Eric has also participated in sessions with trade representatives during trade negotiations for the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement.



Seminar Schedule

- 1.15pm Coffee & registration
- 1.30pm Welcome
- 1.35pm Keynote address
- 2.30pm Questions & discussion

There is no cost to attend this seminar, but registration is required.

To register, please contact Fran Wright at the University of Otago, Wellington by Wednesday 10 June. Email: fran.wright@otago.ac.nz

Web-conferencing is available for those outside of Wellington. Please indicate this option when you register. Registration is not open to individuals who have any current or previous affiliations with any tobacco company.

ASPIRE2025

is a national collaboration of leading New Zealand tobacco control researchers with experts from the University of Otago, Massey University, AUT, Tala Pasifika and Whakauae Research for Māori Health and Development.

ASPIRE2025 conducts research to inform the Smokefree 2025 goal.