INPLASY PROTOCOL

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Theorizing Global Health Governance: A Scoping Review Protocol

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Review question / Objective: The review question is: what theories or theoretical frameworks were developed for global health governance? This scoping review aims to (1) assess the extent of existing research articles on global health governance with theories or theoretical framework; (2) summarize their differences and commons in theoretical basis, disciplinary perspectives, methods or methodology, mainly focused stakeholders or actors, and research agenda, etc.; (3) mapping a research roadmap for theorizing global health governance.

Background: Given the globalised health issues, health governance in each sovereignty has been closely linked. From the pandemic of SARS to COVID-19, repeating global health crises have alerted the need for global health solidarity efforts. However, there is still a lack of a solid global health governance framework under "international anarchy".

INPLASY registration number: This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 03 July 2022 and was last updated on 03 July 2022 (registration number INPLASY202270009).

INTRODUCTION

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Rationale: Global health governance challenges entailed a scoping review and critical analysis of how the academia has theorized global health governance.

METHODS

Search strategy: The literature was searched systematically from 1st January 2000 to 31st December 2021 in the following bibliographic databases: Pubmed, CINAHL, Embase, Ovid, Science Direct, ProQuest, Web of Science, Cochrane library, and International Political Science Abstracts. We also conducted an additional search of grey literature in Google Scholar. The search date was 4 June 2022. The search terms were developed based on three concepts: (1) global health, (2) governance, and (3) theory. Besides, we referred to MeSH and Emtree databases as well as completed and ongoing related systematic reviews and scoping reviews. The search terms are, therefore, (1) "global health", "international health", and "worldwide health"; (2) "govern*"; (3) "theor*", "model*", "concept*". We join all terms within each concept with OR and join each concept together using AND. An example of the search conducted in PubMed is as follows: ((("Global Health"[Mesh]) OR (Health[Title/Abstract] AND (global[Title/Abstract] OR international[Title/Abstract] OR worldwide[Title/Abstract]))) AND (govern*[Title/Abstract]) AND ((theor*[Title/Abstract]) OR (model*[Title/Abstract]) OR (concept*[Title/Abstract]))) AND English[Language] AND ("2000/01/01"[Date - Publication] : "2021/12/31"[Date - Publication]).

Eligibility criteria: Inclusion criteria: research articles centering on global health governance with theories or theoretical frameworks, including but not limited to the following situations:
(1) Applying a theoretical framework or perspective to study global health governance
(2) Supplementing, structuring or configuring a global health governance theory through other existing theories or theoretical frameworks
(3) Developing a new governance theory based on global health norms
(4) Studying stakeholders or specific issues in global health governance with theories or theoretical frameworks
Exclusion criteria:
(1) Discussing the concept, definition, meanings (there has been this kind of review) or narrative history of global health governance or global health;
(2) Not making global health governance the main focus;
(3) Commentary, letters, editorial, and meeting abstract.

Source of evidence screening and selection: After the removal of duplicate literature, a three-stage screening phase as follows will be completed by three members: (1) title screening based on the exclusion criteria; (2) abstract screening and (3) full-text screening based on the eligibility criteria. A pilot test with randomly selected 50 samples was conducted. The reviewers discussed discrepancies and modify the eligibility criteria and elaboration document. The screening only started when 75% agreement is achieved. The reasons for any exclusion following the full-text review will be recorded. The reviewers resolve disagreements through discussions throughout the selection process. A third reviewer makes the final decision if the two paired reviewers cannot resolve the disagreement.

Data management: Two reviewers will extract data from the eligible literature independently using a tailored data extraction tool developed by the authors. If discrepancies occur during the data extraction process, the two reviewers will

discuss to reach a common decision. If there is an unsolved disagreement, a third reviewer will make the final decision. There will be a pilot test to ensure consistency among the reviewers. The selection is conducted through Endnote. The search results and the study selection process will be reported in the final scoping review and presented in a PRISMA extension for scoping review (PRISMA-ScR) flow diagram. All data will be recorded and exported into Excel form after the whole process ends.

Reporting results / Analysis of the evidence: There will be a qualitative content analysis to summarize the eligible literature's differences and commons in theoretical basis, disciplinary perspectives, methods or methodology, mainly focused stakeholders or actors, and research agenda, etc and a prospective research roadmap for theorizing global health governance.

Presentation of the results: Tables and figures will present the extracted data for each extraction category, followed by detailed descriptive analyses.

Language restriction: English.

Countries involved: China.

Keywords: global health governance, scoping review protocol, theory, critical analysis.

Contributions of each author:
Author 1 - Aidan Huang was the co-first author of the protocol who drafted the protocol and led and provided feedback for screenings and the development of the research question, search strategy, eligibility criteria and data extraction and presentation plans.
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Author 2 - Qianqian Wang was the co-first author of the protocol who led the refinement and modification of the search strategy, eligibility criteria and protocol draft, led and conducted pilot tests and formal screening of search results against eligibility criteria.

Author 3 - Qing Meng drafted the protocol and provided feedback for screenings and the development of the research question, search strategy, eligibility criteria and data extraction and presentation plans.
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Author 8 - Zhenggang Bai is the co-guarantor of the review. He provided feedback, oversaw screenings and refined the search strategy and eligibility criteria.
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Author 9 - Kun Tang is the co-guarantor of the review. He provided feedback in principle and oversaw revisions.
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