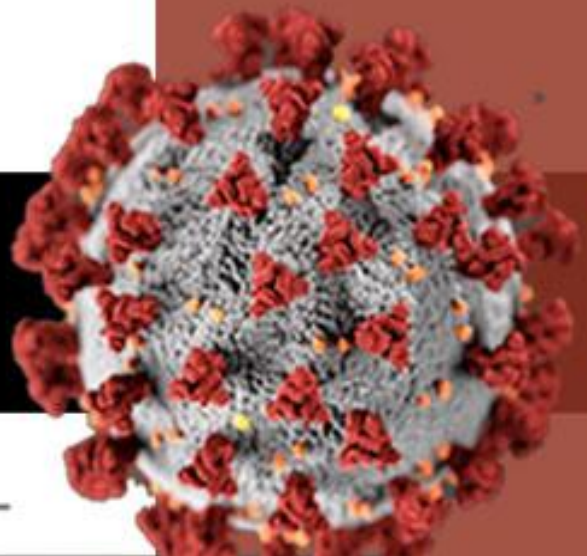


The **COVID-19** Pandemic Conference Webinar



THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC CONFERENCE WEBINAR

PROGRAM

APRIL 19-21, 2021

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Conference webpage (including registration link):

<https://ssh.nu.edu.kz/the-covid-19-pandemic-conference-webinar/>

Zoom link ((Meeting ID: 919 6891 0883 / Passcode: 968382):

<https://nu-edu-kz.zoom.us/j/91968910883?pwd=b3dRd3lJb0JBbVRUN3ViTS93K1FNZz09>

The COVID-19 Pandemic Conference Webinar

Sponsored by: Routledge publishers, the International Sociological Association, and Nazarbayev University

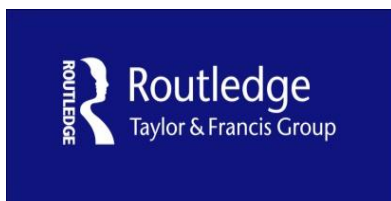
Organized by: Dr. J. Michael Ryan

April 19th, 20th, 21st, 2021

The “COVID-19 Pandemic Conference Webinar” will examine the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on individuals, communities, countries, and the larger global society from a social scientific perspective. It offers a timely and critical advance in knowledge related to what many believe to be the greatest threat to global ways of being in more than a century. It is imperative that academics take their rightful place alongside medical professionals as the world attempts to figure out how to deal with the current global pandemic, and how society might move forward in the future. This conference webinar represents a response to that imperative.

Sessions will provide critical insights into the ethics and ideologies, inequalities, and changed social understandings that lie at the heart of this pandemic. The focus will be on the ways in which the pandemic has impacted (most often disproportionately) individuals and societies, the successes and failures of means used to combat the virus, and the considerations and future possibilities – both positive and negative – that lie ahead. While the pandemic has brought humanity together in some noteworthy ways, it has also laid bare many of the systemic inequalities that lie at the foundation of our global society. This conference webinar will provide a significant step forward toward better understanding these impacts.

This conference webinar represents a remarkable diversity and quality of impassioned scholarship and is a timely and critical advance in knowledge related to the pandemic. The conference will highlight the work of more than 40 leading scholars from across 5 continents. The breadth and depth of the scholarship to be presented is matched only by the intellectual and global scope of the presenters themselves. The insights presented in this conference have much to offer not just to an understanding of the ongoing world of COVID-19, but also to helping us (re-) build, and better shape, the world beyond.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Dr. J. Michael Ryan (Assistant Professor of Sociology, Nazarbayev University) has recently edited two new volumes related to the COVID-19 pandemic – *COVID-19: Global pandemic, societal responses, ideological solutions* (Routledge 2021) and *COVID-19: Social consequences and cultural adaptations* (Routledge 2021). This conference webinar is based on contributions to those two volumes. In addition, Dr. Ryan is now the series editor for Routledge’s new “The COVID-19 Pandemic” series. You can find out more information about the series here - <https://www.routledge.com/The-COVID-19-Pandemic-Series/book-series/CVIDPAN> - or through the official Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/routledgecovid19series>. For any questions, please contact Dr. Ryan at j.michaelsociology@gmail.com.

Monday, April 19 th , 2021 06:00 (San Francisco) / 09:00 (NYC) / 14:00 (London) / 19:00 (Nur-Sultan) / 23:00 (Sydney)	
14:00-14:15	Introductory comments (<i>J. Michael Ryan</i>)
14:15-15:15	<div style="text-align: center;">Ethics and ideologies</div> <hr/> Necroethics in the time of COVID-19 and Black Lives Matter <i>Scott Schaffer</i> The political nightmare of the plague: The ironic resistance of anti-quarantine protestors <i>James Meeker</i> The blessings of COVID-19 for neoliberalism, nationalism, and neoconservative ideologies <i>J. Michael Ryan</i>
15:15-15:30	Break
15:30-16:30	<div style="text-align: center;">New ways of conceiving a pandemic world</div> <hr/> Making the invisible visible: viral cloud moments in the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic <i>Joseph A. Astorino and Anthony V. Nicola</i> Seeking stability in unstable times: COVID-19 and the bureaucratic mindset <i>Adam G. Sanford, Dinur Blum, and Stacy L. Smith</i> People’s experiences and attitudes during the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States of America and Poland <i>Magdalena Szaflarski</i>
16:30-16:45	Break
16:45-17:45	<div style="text-align: center;">Education and the pandemic</div> <hr/> Rethinking what we value: pandemic teaching and the art of letting go <i>Deborah J. Cohan</i> Spotlighting hidden inequities: post-secondary education in a pandemic <i>Stacy L. Smith, Adam G. Sanford, and Dinur Blum</i> Disruption and difficulty: student and faculty perceptions of the transition to online instruction in the COVID-19 pandemic <i>Lee Millar Bidwell, Scott T. Grether, and JoEllen Pederson</i>
17:45-18:00	Break
18:00-19:00	<div style="text-align: center;">KEYNOTE SPEAKER</div> <hr/> COVID-19 and the other half of the story: the social <i>William Cockerham,</i> Distinguished Professor and Chair Emeritus of Sociology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and Research Scholar of Sociology at the College of William & Mary

Tuesday, April 20 th , 2021 06:00 (San Francisco) / 09:00 (NYC) / 14:00 (London) / 19:00 (Nur-Sultan) / 23:00 (Sydney)	
14:00-14:15	Introductory comments (<i>J. Michael Ryan</i>)
14:15-15:15	<div style="text-align: center;">Exacerbating inequalities</div> <hr/> Business as usual: poverty, education, and economic life amidst the pandemic <i>Ryan Parsons</i> The impact of COVID-19 on the lives of sexual and gender minority people <i>Matthew D. Skinta and Angela H. Sun</i> Housing as health care: mitigations of homelessness during a pandemic <i>Kristen Desjarlais-deKlerk</i>
15:15-15:30	Break
15:30-16:30	<div style="text-align: center;">Psychological impacts</div> <hr/> Managing trauma exposure and developing resilience in the midst of COVID-19 <i>Johanna Soet Buzolits, Ann Abbey, Kate Kittredge, and Ann E. C. Smith</i> Treating loneliness in the aftermath of a pandemic: threat or opportunity? <i>Kelly Rhea MacArthur</i> The costs of care: A content analysis of female nurses' media visibility and voices in the United States, China, and India during the COVID-19 pandemic <i>Mari DeWees and Amy C. Miller</i>
16:30-16:45	Break
16:45-17:45	<div style="text-align: center;">Leisure and the arts</div> <hr/> When sports stood still: COVID-19 and the lost season <i>Donna J. Barbie, John C. Lamothe, and Steven Master</i> Performing precarity in times of uncertainty: the implications of COVID-19 on artists in Malta <i>Valerie Visanich and Toni Attard</i> COVID-19, the pand(m)emic: social media explorations from the Arab world <i>Noha Fikry</i>
17:45-18:00	Break
18:00-19:00	<div style="text-align: center;">KEYNOTE SPEAKER</div> <hr/> COVID-19 and the law: surveillance and inequality <i>I. Glenn Cohen,</i> Deputy Dean and James A. Attwood and Leslie Williams Professor of Law, Harvard Law School and Faculty Director, Petrie-Flom Center for Health Law Policy, Biotechnology & Bioethics

<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, April 21st, 2021</p> <p style="text-align: center;">06:00 (San Francisco) / 09:00 (NYC) / 14:00 (London) / 19:00 (Nur-Sultan) / 23:00 (Sydney)</p>	
14:00-14:15	Introductory comments (<i>J. Michael Ryan</i>)
14:15-15:15	<p style="text-align: center;">Changing social understandings in response to crisis</p> <hr/> <p>Blowing bubbles: COVID-19, New Zealand’s bubble metaphor, and the limits of households as sites of responsibility and care (pre-recorded) <i>Susanna Trnka and Sharyn Graham Davies</i></p> <p>Innovation diffusion, social capital, and mask mobilization: culture change during the COVID-19 pandemic <i>Heather L. Mello</i></p> <p>Changing times: new sources of parenting stress and the shifting meanings of time with and for children <i>Melissa A. Milkie</i></p>
15:15-15:30	Break
15:30-16:30	<p style="text-align: center;">Social (in)justice</p> <hr/> <p>Violence, virus, and vitriol: the tale of COVID-19 <i>Monita H. Mungo</i></p> <p>The solution is the problem: what a pandemic can reveal about policing <i>Jodie Dewey</i></p> <p>COVID-19 and reproductive injustice: the implications of birthing restrictions during a global pandemic <i>Nazneen Khan</i></p>
16:30-16:45	Break
16:45-17:45	<p style="text-align: center;">Changing understandings of the social order</p> <hr/> <p>The rise of the COVID-19 pandemic and the decline of global citizenship <i>Atefeh Ramsari</i></p> <p>Inflection points: the intersection of COVID-19, climate change, and systemic racism <i>Jill Betz Bloom</i></p> <p>Toxic wild west syndrome: individual rights vs. community needs <i>Dinur Blum, Stacy L. Smith, and Adam G. Sanford</i></p>
17:45-18:00	Break
18:00-19:00	<p style="text-align: center;">KEYNOTE SPEAKER</p> <hr/> <p>Toward post-COVID-19 sociology <i>Sari Hanafi,</i> Professor of Sociology, A/Director of Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies and Chair of the Islamic Studies program at the American University of Beirut President, International Sociological Association</p>

Monday, April 19th, 2021

Session I: Ethics and ideologies

-8hrs (San Francisco) / -5hrs (NYC) / 14:15-15:15 (London) / +5hrs (Nur-Sultan) / +9hrs (Sydney)

Necroethics in the Time of COVID-19 and Black Lives Matter

Scott Schaffer

Abstract:

Starting with the simultaneous appearances in 2020 of the COVID-19 pandemic, the uprisings in response to extrajudicial executions of Black Americans, and the deployment of US federal troops in Portland, Oregon, this presentation explores the ways in which late-capitalist social ethics are rooted in a notion of expendability. I argue here that Achille Mbembe's notion of necropolitics can give us a way into understanding the ways in which this "triage ethos" is baked into the DNA of 21st century societies. For Mbembe, necropolitics is the deployment of social or political power to govern the exposure of other human beings to the realm of death, whether social, civil, or actual. In this presentation, I will extend this notion to argue that the necro- is actually embedded in the very material ethical relations between people. What has come to the fore in the time of COVID is the necroethical constitution of modern social orders in both their material and ideational aspects.

The Political Nightmare of the Plague: The Ironic Resistance of Anti-Quarantine Protesters

James K. Meeker

Abstract:

The COVID-19 pandemic has swept the globe, with millions of persons contracting the disease and hundreds of thousands dying. In response to COVID-19, nations have implemented a variety of quarantine measures restricting the movement of their population in order to combat the plague. These restrictions to contain COVID-19 are, by and large, universally supported by the global scientific community and healthcare experts. However, in the United States of America, a series of movements have emerged to protest these quarantine restrictions. These anti-quarantine movements are largely motivated by: (a) anti-rational, and (b) anti-governmental frames standing in contrast to the governmentality of the modern, rational state. The growth of these postmodern frames, as evidenced by quarantine protesters, suggests a political climate that is increasingly hostile to rational, scientific, and medical expertise. Consequently, it is anticipated that public healthcare policies, such as implementing quarantines, shall be increasingly met with resistance and non-compliance.

The Blessings of COVID-19 for Neoliberalism, Nationalism, and Neoconservative Ideologies

J. Michael Ryan

Abstract:

This presentation will examine the ways in which neoliberalism, nationalism, and neoconservative ideologies have all enjoyed a new-found resurgence, even while death tolls, unemployment numbers, and indicators of social and psychological distress have all surged to levels unknown in nearly a century. I will begin by discussing the ways in which this triple threat (a term I will use to collectively refer to the issues under discussion) are linked by a common theme of the construction of an "other" and a general promotion of inequality. I will then turn to a general discussion of each aspect – neoliberalism, nationalism, neoconservative ideologies – in turn, highlighting the ways in which each has benefited from the current global pandemic. I purposefully chose the term "blessing" because, as I will argue, each of these has received an unprecedented level of support during the current global pandemic. And where there might be minor crises experienced by the triple threat, such crisis will, I argue, only ultimately serve to make them stronger. I will conclude with some final reflections and a genuine hope that all of my arguments might be wrong.

Monday, April 19th, 2021

Session II: New ways of conceiving a pandemic world

-8hrs (San Francisco) / -5hrs (NYC) / 15:30-16:30 (London) / +5hrs (Nur-Sultan) / +9hrs (Sydney)

People's Experiences and Attitudes during the COVID-19 Outbreak in the United States of America and Poland

Magdalena Szaflarski

Abstract:

There is a limited understanding of how people in different sociocultural contexts fare during the COVID-19 pandemic and how they view their societies' responses. This study compares COVID-19 perceived threat, governmental response, impacts, and experiences in the United States of America and Poland. An online survey was conducted in June and July, 2020 using published COVID-19 instruments. The sample consisted of 538 participants (54% US-based). The study found COVID-19 perceived threat and impacts (e.g., logistical, psychological) to be generally lower in Poland than in the USA. However, views on government responses (e.g., lock-downs) were largely similar. Conservatives and moderates perceived COVID-19 threat as lower than liberals, but trust in science explained the effect for moderates. Also, women had a greater fear of COVID-19 than men. These and other findings confirm and extend prior knowledge. The discussion focuses on the role of ideological divides that shape COVID-19 attitudes/experiences in these two countries.

Making the Invisible Visible: Viral Cloud Moments in the SARS CoV-2 Pandemic

Joseph A. Astorino and Anthony V. Nicola

Abstract:

A pandemic is a moment in which the overlap of the cultural and natural dimensions of reality become visible. Viruses, invisible in society, become the major players for a period of time, forcing the public to come to terms with them as agents. The presenters use the constructionist framework to analyze the media's portrayal of SARS-CoV-2 at two phases of the pandemic timeline in the USA: before closing and at the reopening of society. The authors use 350 articles, sampled from across the political bias spectrum and coded for themes describing the virus as an active agent. These codes were synthesized into categories that illustrate the process of how a novel virus reshapes the historical disease landscape through naturalization, humanization, demedicalization, and acceptance of the conjoint constitution of viruses.

Seeking Stability in Unstable Times: COVID-19 and the Bureaucratic Mindset

Adam G. Sanford, Dinur Blum, and Stacy L. Smith

Abstract:

As a bureaucracy, higher education is ill-suited to make rapid changes such as those demanded by COVID-19. In this presentation, we draw on Weber, Lenski, Durkheim, Garfinkel, and Sanford to explain *bureaucraticity*, or the bureaucratic culture and mindset; how its norms of assembly, rules, rule-makers, rule-enforcers, and standards were disrupted by the onset of the international pandemic in March 2020; and how some types of bureaucratic norms and actors worsened, rather than improved, institutional response to the pandemic. We suggest avenues for further research into remedies for bureaucracies when confronted with unavoidable and sudden change, noting that novel problems demand nuanced solutions, and this creates a conflict for bureaucracies, where simple, rapid solutions are the default.

Monday, April 19th, 2021

Session III: Education and the pandemic

-8hrs (San Francisco) / -5hrs (NYC) / 16:45-17:45 (London) / +5hrs (Nur-Sultan) / +9hrs (Sydney)

Rethinking What We Value: Pandemic teaching and the art of letting go

Deborah J. Cohan

Abstract:

In this meditative presentation, sociologist Deborah J. Cohan draws on themes gleaned from her memoir that was published less than a month before the pandemic seized a chokehold on our lives. Reflecting on the central lessons from the memoir, she creatively uses these to make sense of the pitfalls, priorities, and possibilities of pedagogical shifts in pandemic teaching.

Spotlighting Hidden Inequities: Post-Secondary Education in a Pandemic

Stacy L. Smith, Adam G. Sanford, and Dinur Blum

Abstract:

In the spring of 2020, higher education changed abruptly in the face of the global health crisis created by COVID-19, resulting in an abrupt shift to remote instruction; a form of academic triage. Information on successful online learning and accessibility is ubiquitous; this crisis exposed what is largely missing: a discussion of the ways in which inequities affect our students. Using a combination of professional experience, large faculty discussion groups, and national surveys, we employ Bourdieu's concepts of habitus and capital, Goffman's presentation of self and stigma, and relative deprivation to explore inequities of access to technology, environment, and time in the USA during the initial higher education response to the pandemic.

Disruption and Difficulty: Student and Faculty Perceptions of the Transition to Online Instruction in the COVID-19 Pandemic

Lee Millar Bidwell, Scott T. Grether, and JoEllen Pederson

Abstract:

The sudden transition to online instruction mid-semester at traditional, residential colleges and universities due to the COVID-19 pandemic created unprecedented challenges for students and faculty. Two sets of surveys, sent five weeks apart, were distributed to faculty and students at a small, Southeastern, public university in the USA to analyze faculty and student perceptions and experiences of the abrupt move to online instruction. Findings indicate that students and faculty agreed that the move to online instruction was necessary and that online learning is less effective than face-to-face instruction. Faculty, however, misjudged the degree to which students were concerned about balancing work, school, and family obligations and changes to course material. Differences in perceptions and experiences between faculty and students reflect their different roles and statuses within the institution. Better emergency planning by, and communication from, university administrators are recommended to facilitate a more seamless response to unforeseen events.

Monday, April 19th, 2021

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

-8hrs (San Francisco) / -5hrs (NYC) / 18:00-19:00 (London) / +5hrs (Nur-Sultan) / +9hrs (Sydney)

“COVID-19 and the Other Half of the Story: The social”

Prof. William Cockerham

University of Alabama at Birmingham

If COVID-19 had remained isolated in Asian bat caves, it would not have become the greatest global pandemic in over a century. However, once this new coronavirus interacted with social agents, it was set on its course. The purpose here is to identify and discuss the social factors that served as causal agents in the onset and worldwide transmission of the virus.



William C. Cockerham is Distinguished Professor and Chair Emeritus of Sociology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and Research Scholar of Sociology at the College of William & Mary. He is past president of the Research Committee on Health Sociology of the International Sociological Association and author or editor of 20 books and several chapters and academic journal articles. Additionally, he has served in editorial positions for the *American Sociological Review*, *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, *Mental Health and Society*, and *Social Currents* among others. His most recent books with Routledge include *Sociological Theories of Health and Illness* (2021), *Sociology of Mental Disorder*, 11th ed. (2021), *The COVID-19 Reader: What the Science Says About the Social* (2021), and *Medical Sociology*, 15th ed. (in press).

Tuesday, April 20th, 2021

Session I: Exacerbating inequalities

-8hrs (San Francisco) / -5hrs (NYC) / 14:15-15:15 (London) / +5hrs (Nur-Sultan) / +9hrs (Sydney)

Business as Usual: Poverty, Education, and Economic Life Amidst the Pandemic

Ryan Parsons

Abstract:

Research scholarship has documented how the COVID-19 pandemic itself has exacerbated existing inequalities in the USA. Less attention has been paid to the unequal impacts of pandemic responses. In this presentation, I draw on two years of ethnographic fieldwork (four months during the pandemic) to explore how blanket pandemic response policies interact with underlying structural inequalities. By building on a framework that describes community vulnerability, I argue that the second-order effects of such policies operate to widen spatial inequality. The chapter considers the case of Central Delta County, an impoverished rural community in the Mississippi Delta that has experienced decades of persistent depopulation and systemic racism.

The Impact of COVID-19 on the Lives of Sexual and Gender Minority People

Matthew D. Skinta, Angela H. Sun, and Daniel M. Ryu

Abstract:

The COVID-19 pandemic has upended many aspects of daily life across the globe, though orders to shelter-in-place and fears about the spread of the virus have had a disparate impact on minority communities. Sexual and gender minority communities have served as a lightning rod for political and religious scapegoating during this era, and increased discriminatory acts have occurred globally. This presentation explores some of the forms of bias that have been amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic, both in the type of actions ostensibly intended to prevent the spread of the virus and the more common phenomena of pre-existing sites of discrimination becoming amplified within the context of a pandemic.

Housing as Healthcare: Mitigations of Homelessness During a Pandemic

Kristen Desjarlais-deKlerk

Abstract:

During the Covid-19 pandemic, healthcare providers have made stay at home orders to help minimize the spread of the virus. This has been a particularly problematic public health intervention for those experiencing homelessness as well as those who provide services to the homeless; consequently, service providers have responded in varied ways. This presentation examines the ways in which three different Canadian cities have responded to the needs of their unique homeless populations and the types of interventions they have enacted. In doing so, it highlights the importance of housing, demonstrates differences in responses, displays the types of risks identified, and cites the ways in which providers have advocated for clients experiencing homelessness. Politics remains one of the most important social determinants of health as it influences so many other health determinants.

Tuesday, April 20th, 2021

Session II: Psychological impacts

-8hrs (San Francisco) / -5hrs (NYC) / 15:30-16:30 (London) / +5hrs (Nur-Sultan) / +9hrs (Sydney)

Managing Trauma Exposure and Developing Resilience in the Midst of COVID-19

Johanna Soet Buzolits, Ann Abbey, Kate Kittredge, and Ann E.C. Smith

Abstract:

The spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus has created distress, loss, chaos and anxiety across the globe. As individuals struggle to navigate major upheaval in their personal lives; communities and larger society chart a path forward, balancing multiple complex issues such as protecting the health of the vulnerable, maintaining economic wellbeing, health care system capacity, and food chain issues. As we have moved through phases of the crisis, behavior patterns have emerged as people cope with their own distress as well as the impact of exposure to the suffering of others. This presentation will explore these reactions through the lens of *trauma stewardship*. We will outline the 16 warning signs of *trauma exposure response* by highlighting certain social behaviors that have manifested during these times. Finally, we will explore how we can choose, as individuals, organizations, and society to become good stewards of the trauma.

Treating Loneliness in the Aftermath of a Pandemic: Threat or Opportunity?

Kelly Rhea MacArthur

Abstract:

Well before distancing and quarantine mandates, individualistic cultural values and stratified structural conditions had led to a public health epidemic of loneliness. Given unprecedented rates of unhappiness, greater loneliness, and lower relationship satisfaction since the coronavirus outbreak, society cannot afford to further restrict social interaction from pre-existing levels. Since loneliness is associated with a vast array of adverse physical and mental health effects, standardizing the diagnosis and treatment of loneliness in clinical settings could provide the impetus for the cultural shift that is necessary to address loneliness, as it could institutionalize relationships as a type of health outcome in which the appropriate treatment is social. The pandemic and continued distancing guidelines pose both a threat that may exacerbate the loneliness public health epidemic— as well as an opportunity to reassess our cultural values and structural arrangements that shape social relationships and, in turn, affect individual and collective well-being.

The Costs of Care: A Content Analysis of Female Nurses' Media Visibility and Voices in the United States, China, and India During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Mari A. DeWees and Amy C. Miller

Abstract:

As women comprise a significant portion of the global health workforce, attention to their experiences during disease outbreaks is paramount. In turn, having a voice in the media plays an instrumental role in agenda setting and subsequent policy directives. Content analysis of 244 news items on nursing from the USA, China, and India during COVID-19 from January 1 to June 17, 2020 was administered to assess the visibility of female nurses as media sources, including the context and content of their voices. Study findings indicate visibility of these workers, yet country-specific differences shape the presentation of women's experiences. In order to increase public knowledge of health workers' differential experiences, the media's responsibility for connecting workers' stories to structural conditions and presenting diverse voices is highlighted. This is essential in developing inclusive policies and strategies designed to enhance public health in the face of ongoing disease outbreaks.

Tuesday, April 20th, 2021

Session III: Leisure and the arts

-8hrs (San Francisco) / -5hrs (NYC) / 16:45-17:45 (London) / +5hrs (Nur-Sultan) / +9hrs (Sydney)

When Sports Stood Still: Covid-19 and the Lost Season

Donna J. Barbie, John C. Lamothe, and Steven Master

Abstract:

Although sports cannot distract or unite us through this particular tragedy, their suspension during the summer of 2020 presents an opportunity to examine their importance in our culture. It offers a chance to observe how deeply, if at all, we feel the loss, how we manage to cope and work around it, what we are finding to fill the void, and how this unprecedented event might change sports, or how we view them and their place in our lives.

Performing Precarity in Times of Uncertainty: The Implications of Covid-19 on Artists in Malta

Valerie Visanich and Toni Attard

Abstract:

During the current unprecedented times of uncertainty, caused by the global emergency situation of the COVID-19 pandemic, workers with insecure income, including artists, are amongst the most prone to experience hardship. This presentation tackles the shared concerns of artists during the pandemic, particularly on the disruption of their everyday life and their experienced financial loss. Their situation is more deep-seated than just a right to earn a living wage. Herein, this analysis is couched in an understanding of the precarious working conditions of artists in general and within the creative sector, which are more accentuated during such uncertain times.

This presentation draws data from an online survey addressed to artists, conducted in March 2020, during a period of increased restrictions on mass events, the normalisation of physical distances and imposed lockdown on various sectors of Maltese society. This survey is used here to inform the recommendations made in this presentation – specifically to secure the right for equitable income.

Based on these recommendations which were publicized in the media and discussed with public agencies, including Malta's economic development agency, this paper traces the sector's immediate response on the impact of COVID-19. Subsequently this led to the implementation of 'Covid Wage Supplement' - an emergency support to assist workers including artists to stay afloat and help the culture sector to withstand the crisis.

'COVID-19, the Pand(m)emic: Social Media Explorations from the Arab World'

Noha Fikry, Nada M. Ahmed, Malin E. Almeland-Grøhn, Laila ElKoussy, Mostafa A. ElSharkawy, Farah Seifeldin, Ahmed Ashraf Younis

Abstract:

Based on an introductory anthropology/sociology course titled "Arab Society", this presentation explores COVID-19 through the memes shared and circulated on social media, especially Facebook. This pandemic has created a rich ethnographic ground for our cultural analyses. Relying on our own social circles and networks, we explore the cultural patterns of the use of Facebook as a news outlet but we also argue as a classic "Arab family salon" in which gossip, rumors, and classist/racist self-definitions are maintained. Social media in this instance works through sustaining, maintaining, and cementing an understanding of Arab society that is based on difference, classism, racism, exclusivity, and othering in all shapes and forms. Arab society, as such, is always produced in contrast to, or in comparison with, other Arab or non-Arab societies for that matter — always in process, in potential, in contradiction, and in changing conditions.

Tuesday, April 20th, 2021

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

-8hrs (San Francisco) / -5hrs (NYC) / 18:00-19:00 (London) / +5hrs (Nur-Sultan) / +9hrs (Sydney)

“COVID-19 and the Law: Surveillance and Inequality”

Prof. I. Glenn Cohen

Harvard Law School

In this keynote, Cohen will focus on the ways in which COVID-19 has interfaced with the law focusing on surveillance and inequality. The keynote will discuss three key points of friction: (1) Exposure Notification Apps (aka “digital contact tracing”) run by government, google and apple, and others; (2) Immunity passports/licenses that would enable individuals to return to work or public life or school by demonstrating immunity to the virus; (3) Vaccine development and availability.



I. Glenn Cohen is Deputy Dean and James A. Attwood and Leslie Williams Professor of Law, Harvard Law School and Faculty Director, Petrie-Flom Center for Health Law Policy, Biotechnology & Bioethics. He is one of the world's leading experts on the intersection of bioethics (sometimes also called "medical ethics") and the law, as well as health law. His current projects relate to big data, health information technologies, mobile health, reproduction/reproductive technology, research ethics, organ transplantation, rationing in law and medicine, health policy, FDA law, translational medicine, and medical tourism. He is the author of more than 150 articles and chapters and the author, co-author, editor, or co-editor of more than 15 books. For the public he created the free online Harvard X class [Bioethics: The Law, Medicine, and Ethics of Reproductive Technologies and Genetics](#), already taken by more than 97,000 students. You can freely download his work [here](#), and follow him on twitter [@CohenProf](#).

Wednesday, April 21st, 2021

Session I: Changing social understandings in response to crisis

-8hrs (San Francisco) / -5hrs (NYC) / 14:15-15:15 (London) / +5hrs (Nur-Sultan) / +9hrs (Sydney)

Blowing Bubbles: Covid-19, New Zealand's Bubble Metaphor, and the Limits of Households as Sites of Responsibility and Care

Susanna Trnka and Sharyn Graham Davies

Abstract:

When New Zealand embarked on its Covid-19 lockdown, the world saw the emergence of a new social form: the “bubble.” This chapter examines bubbles for the social dynamics they enabled and elided, as well as for what the bubble metaphor suggested but did not always deliver. During level 4 lockdown, most New Zealanders (with exceptions such as essential service workers) were restricted to physical contact with members of their residence – a social unit the government referred to as the members of one’s “home,” “household,” or “bubble.” Not all care relations can, however, be reduced to a single home or household, nor are all households units of care. Regulations enabling bubble expansions in specific circumstances provided some means of addressing care needs that superseded households (e.g., singletons becoming “bubble buddies” to mitigate loneliness). But little was done for those consigned to bubbles whose members were unattached to one another, much less antagonistic. There is thus a need for bubble regulations to match more closely the flexibility inherent in the bubble as a concept when planning for future crises.

Innovation Diffusion, Social Capital, and Mask Mobilization

Heather L. Mello

Abstract:

Since the 1918 flu pandemic, wearing masks during illness has been uncommon in the USA. With the spread of the COVID-19 virus; however, this practice is changing. From discouragement to adoption and promotion, the rise of mask-wearing behaviors is an unusually rapid cultural practice change. Applying a “diffusion of innovations” and “social capital” approach to recent mask-mobilization, this study uses content and corpus analysis methods to examine the role played by formal and informal social relationships in the adoption and diffusion of mask-wearing as a pandemic preventive behavior. I argue that widespread mask-making, organizing and distribution, and their cascading communication through social networks, played a positive role in this change and further argue that contradictory messaging by social media networks and change agents played a negative role and contributed to anti-mask attitudes and practices.

Changing Times: New Sources of Parenting Stress and the Shifting Meanings of Time With and For Children

Melissa A. Milkie

Abstract:

The COVID-19 pandemic powerfully altered parents’ time schedules and time pressures as their lives shifted in unique and unprecedented ways. This chapter shows how three central forms of parents’ time during the pandemic – time parents spent *with* children, *for* children, and *toward safeguarding* children’s futures – was upended. I illustrate how the pandemic transformed these aspects of time, increasing parents’ demands. First, the quality of time with children became more stressful, although potentially more enjoyable and meaningful as well. Second, the time spent for children’s provision – in paid and unpaid labor -- increased to very high levels, in large part due to how children’s education demands moved into homes. Third, the time parents invest toward the safeguarding of children’s futures became more emotionally fraught. Notably, the increased demands and pressures related to parental time varied by social class and gender. Looking toward the future, there may be countervailing effects that lessen the blow of pandemic time stressors, as new meanings surrounding the value of spending time with and for children may develop among families and societies. Especially important for parental justice will be changes in societal supports for the healthy allocation of parents’ time with children, for children, and toward safeguarding their futures.

Wednesday, April 21st, 2021

Session II: Social (in)justice

-8hrs (San Francisco) / -5hrs (NYC) / 15:30-16:30 (London) / +5hrs (Nur-Sultan) / +9hrs (Sydney)

Violence, Virus, and Vitriol: The Tale of COVID-19

Monita H. Mungo

Abstract:

The spread of the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19 has bewildered scientists and medical experts as well as the politicians and public officials whom they advise. Because the virus behaves in ways that are novel, its current, short-term, and long-term health effects are only beginning to be discovered. This is also true of the social impact of the virus. Measures taken and measures not taken to restrict the spread of the virus have disparate effects on lower socioeconomic groups. Not only is the current pandemic highlighting stark social inequalities, it is also illuminating numerous problems in social infrastructure. Galtung's notion of structural violence (1969) provides an ideal framework for which to examine the global pandemic, its politicization, and the social impact of each on citizens. The spread of the novel coronavirus and the United States' governmental response provides an ongoing case illustrating the concept of structural violence and its grave consequences.

The Solution is the Problem: What a Pandemic Can Reveal about Policing

Jodie Dewey

Abstract:

Policing has become a global health crisis. Though global pandemics and police-involved deaths appear to be separate problems, they become interconnected when the government transforms a health crisis into a criminal justice problem; doing so exposes deep racial inequities that cannot be resolved under the current police system. Particularly, the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed enduring health disparities among communities already experiencing the negative effects of aggressive police tactics. Further, protests against police violence and police responses to those protests both help further spread the virus.

The Implications of Birthing Restrictions During a Global Pandemic

Nazneen Khan

Abstract:

This research uses a *reproductive justice framework* to explore obstetric policy in the USA in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The presentation examines three core areas of the birth experience that are impacted by the pandemic—birth setting, birth support, and birth services. It explores the ways in which COVID-19 obstetric policies and practices heighten reproductive injustices and how these injustices map onto women's lives in differential ways; race, class, nationality, and type of health care coverage are all important factors that shape a pregnant individual's ability to navigate birth under COVID-19 restrictions. The presentation articulates the importance of considering the ways in which COVID-19 obstetric policies may result in higher rates of maternal mortality for birthing individuals of color.

Wednesday, April 21st, 2021

Session III: Changing understandings of the social order

-8hrs (San Francisco) / -5hrs (NYC) / 16:45-17:45 (London) / +5hrs (Nur-Sultan) / +9hrs (Sydney)

The Rise of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the Decline of Global Citizenship

Atefeh Ramsari

Abstract:

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, many countries have introduced travel restrictions and allowed only their citizens to enter their territory. Meanwhile, thousands of temporary workers, asylum seekers, and undocumented migrants have experienced social insecurity or had to leave their host country as they faced limited access to public services and health care. This exclusion has exacerbated the vulnerability of persons who are considered outsiders to the community and intensifies social inequality. This presentation will address differentiation in access to resources and rights, which points to the institutionalized exclusionary power of citizenship. As a result of the pandemic, the state is regaining its absolute claim over citizenship and enacting exclusive allocations through the recreation of national citizenship, whereby only legal members are entitled to rights.

Inflection Points: The Intersection of COVID-19, Climate Change, and Systemic Racism

Jill Betz Bloom

Abstract:

The COVID-19 pandemic is a vivid reminder of just how interconnected the world is. Global populations are united by a shared vulnerability to this invisible virus, just as they are by the unseen causes of climate change. COVID-19 and the climate crisis, too, have exposed the deep structural inequities among low income populations and communities of color, disparities that put these populations at a significantly higher risk to both crises. Today, due to globalization, dense urban population growth, and disruptions in the eco-system, humans are more vulnerable to viruses than at any other time in history. Through an examination of these intersecting relationships, this presentation looks, first, at the *biology* of coronaviruses, followed by the *ecology* of human and animal environments, and, last, at the *sociology* of health disparities.

Toxic Wild West Syndrome: Individual Rights vs. Community Needs

Dinur Blum, Stacy L. Smith, and Adam G. Sanford

Abstract:

This presentation introduces the concept of Toxic Wild West Syndrome - the combination of performative rugged hyper-individualism, a weaponized display of strength, and nationalism framed as patriotism in the United States, using Goffman's impression management and Durkheim's anomie as a framework. Citizen responses to COVID-19 have fallen into two general categories: pro-social/flexible, and hyper-individualist/inflexible. Most people are pro-social: self-isolated, working "essential jobs," or sheltering in place. However, a highly visible and audible minority falls into the hyper-individualist category: assembling in public to protest public-health directives, which disrupt their cherished norms. Although the pro-social response is a larger group, the hyper-individualist response is louder and more visible. Many protesters arrive armed and wearing military gear more suited to war zones than peaceful protests. This chapter calls for extensive research into methods of penetrating and mitigating this inflexibility, to maximize the safety of the population during this and future crises.

Wednesday, April 21st, 2021

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

-8hrs (San Francisco) / -5hrs (NYC) / 18:00-19:00 (London) / +5hrs (Nur-Sultan) / +9hrs (Sydney)

“Toward Post-COVID-19 Sociology”

Prof. Sari Hanafi

American University of Beirut

The surreal atmosphere of the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed fault lines in trust among human beings, among countries, between citizens and governments, and it is pushing us to raise big questions about ourselves, our social relationships, and life generally. And this crisis is not just limited to public and environmental health or the economy – what we are witnessing is a moment of truth regarding the crisis of late modernity and its capitalist system on a broad, overarching scale. This paper will propose a theorization of these crises, with a special attention on three tasks for sociology: to build multi-level focuses that branch from community to humanity; to take an active approach in fighting against the diseases of anthropocene and capitalocene; and finally to set a better agenda for recognition and moral obligation.



Sari Hanafi is currently a Professor of Sociology, A/Director of Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies and Chair of the Islamic Studies program at the American University of Beirut. He is the President of the International Sociological Association. Recently he created the “Portal for Social impact of scientific research in/on the Arab World” (Athar). He was the Vice President of the board of the Arab Council of Social Science. He is as well editor of *Idafat: the Arab Journal of Sociology* (Arabic) Among his recent books are: *Knowledge Production in the Arab World: The Impossible Promise*. (with R. Arvanitis). He is the winner of 2014 Abdelhamid Shouman Award and 2015 Kuwait Award for social science. In 2019, he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate (Doctor Honoris Causa) of the National University of San Marcos (the first and the leading university in Lima- Peru – established in 1551). (His website: <https://sites.aub.edu.lb/sarihanafi/>)

Presenter Bios

Ann Abbey received her M.A. in Clinical Psychology from the Michigan School of Psychology and is also an RYT-200 yoga teacher. She has a private practice providing psychotherapy and yoga in Lake Orion, Michigan and online. She works with adults and teens, specializing in adoptees, codependency, and trauma. Her past and current research includes the mental health of adult adoptees, vicarious trauma & resilience, and yoga as a treatment for anxiety and depression.

Joseph A. Astorino holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from Washington State University. His doctoral work focused on environmental sociology, social stratification, and science and technology studies. He now practices applied sociology serving as a post-doctoral scientist within the George Washington University's Cancer Center, developing a research and training agenda around the field of implementation studies. He also recently led the Palouse Tables Project, a USDA-funded community assessment that utilized participatory research to design solutions addressing the causes of chronic hunger regionally. After the start of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic in 2020, he was at home for long periods of time with his partner and co-author.

Toni Attard is the Founder and Director of Culture Venture, an arts advisory and management firm. He was the first Director of Strategy at Arts Council Malta and served as an advisor to the Ministry of Finance to co-author the Creative Economy Strategy and is one of the authors of Malta's national Cultural Policy. Toni is a regular speaker at international conferences and a visiting lecturer in Arts Management at the University of Malta. Toni is a founding member of Opening Doors, an NGO for the artistic development of adults with learning disabilities. Toni chaired the International Programming Advisory Committee for the 8th World Summit for Arts and Culture in Malaysia.

Donna Barbie earned a Ph.D. from Emory University and is an Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and professor of humanities and communication at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida. Publications in cultural studies include the monograph *The Making of Sacagawea: A Euro-American Legend*; a chapter concerning Tiger Woods in *Horsehide, Pigskin, and Oval Tracks, and Apple Pie*; and two edited anthologies about sports, *The Tiger Woods Phenomenon* and *Athletes Breaking Bad*. She is an avid golfer and has attended golf tournaments around the globe.

Lee Millar Bidwell, professor of sociology, has been teaching at Longwood University since 1990. She received a B.A. in sociology and political science from Maryville College in 1984, and a master's degree (1986) and Ph.D. (1991) from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She is the co-author of the textbook *Sociology of the Family: Investigating Family Issues*. Dr. Bidwell is a Certified Family Life Educator and specializes in teaching family classes. She is currently involved in a collaborative project designed to enhance parental engagement with children, and is conducting research on the value of project-based learning for undergraduate student learning.

Jill Betz Bloom is a Professor in the Department of Clinical Psychology at William James College, Boston, MA, Co-Director of the Center for Multicultural and Global Mental Health, and Director of the Global Mental Health Program. Dr. Bloom's broad areas of interest are international psychology and global mental health, the social and cultural history of psychiatric diagnosis, the psychology of climate change, and gender, sexuality and racism. Dr. Bloom has presented widely at national and international conferences on global mental health, international sex trafficking, global gender violence, transnational feminism, gender and sexual identity, and prejudice and racism.

Dinur Blum, is a lecturer in the Department of Sociology at California State University, Los Angeles. He received his Ph.D. from the University of California, Riverside. He researches the social causes of mass shootings in the United States (with Christian G. Jaworski) and is publishing a forthcoming book (working title: *School, Sports, or Sleep: Student-Athletes and the College Dilemma*) exploring obstacles student-athletes face to help them in school. Dinur co-hosts the *Learning Made Easier* podcast with Dr. Adam G. Sanford, offering effective learning and teaching techniques. He has been interviewed by various news outlets as an expert on mass shootings.

Johanna Soet Buzolits is a licensed psychologist who is a faculty member at the Michigan School of Psychology. She is also the co-owner and operator of Arbor Wellness Center in Ann Arbor, Michigan which provides psychotherapy, yoga and meditation for clients as well as supervision and consultation for mental health professionals. Clinically, Dr. Soet Buzolits works with adolescents and adults specializing trauma, eating disorders, managing chronic illness, recovering from toxic relationships, sexual and domestic violence. She has conducted research and written on topics such as trauma, sexuality, birth, college student mental health, instrument development, multicultural counseling and spirituality.

William C. Cockerham is Distinguished Professor and Chair Emeritus of Sociology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and Research Scholar of Sociology at the College of William & Mary. He is past president of the Research Committee on Health Sociology of the International Sociological Association and author or editor of 20 books and several chapters and academic journal articles. Additionally, he has served in editorial positions for the *American Sociological Review*, *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, *Mental Health and Society*, and *Social Currents* among others. His most recent books with Routledge include *Sociological Theories of Health and Illness* (2021), *Sociology of Mental Disorder*, 11th ed. (2021), *The COVID-19 Reader: What the Science Says About the Social* (2021), and *Medical Sociology*, 15th ed. (in press).

Deborah J. Cohan, Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of South Carolina Beaufort, is the author of *Welcome to Wherever We Are: A Memoir of Family, Caregiving, and Redemption*. A public sociologist, she writes for *Psychology Today*, is a frequent contributor to *Inside Higher Ed*, and is regularly featured in national media including: CNN, MSN, *Teen Vogue*, *USA Today*, *US News & World Report*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Chicago Tribune*, and *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. Cohan is trained in mindfulness and healing work, and facilitates Deep River workshops.

I. Glenn Cohen is Deputy Dean and James A. Attwood and Leslie Williams Professor of Law, Harvard Law School and Faculty Director, Petrie-Flom Center for Health Law Policy, Biotechnology & Bioethics. He is one of the world's leading experts on the intersection of bioethics (sometimes also called "medical ethics") and the law, as well as health law. His current projects relate to big data, health information technologies, mobile health, reproduction/reproductive technology, research ethics, organ transplantation, rationing in law and medicine, health policy, FDA law, translational medicine, and medical tourism. He is the author of more than 150 articles and chapters and the author, co-author, editor, or co-editor of more than 15 books. For the public he created the free online Harvard X class [Bioethics: The Law, Medicine, and Ethics of Reproductive Technologies and Genetics](#), already taken by more than 97,000 students. You can freely download his work [here](#), and follow him on twitter [@CohenProf](#).

Sharyn Graham Davies is Director of the Herb Feith Indonesia Engagement Centre and Associate Professor in the School of Languages, Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia. Sharyn has published extensively on issues of health, gender, and sexuality. Her co-edited book *Sexuality and Sexualities* (Routledge 2015) won the Ruth Benedict Prize awarded by the American Anthropology Association. Sharyn is currently Principle Investigator on a Marsden-funded project exploring assisted reproductive technologies and innovative formations of family run through Auckland University of Technology. Working with a team of researchers led by Dr Nick Long (LSE), Sharyn has published on Covid-19 in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Kristen Desjarlais-deKlerk is a public sociologist who teaches sociology fulltime at Medicine Hat College in Medicine Hat, Alberta. Her academic work has centered on health, stress, and social support with a focus on homelessness and housing. Before completing her doctoral work, she worked at a homeless shelter, and she maintains connections to homeless service agencies.

Mari A. DeWees is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers, Florida. Her research focuses on globalization, mortality, crime, and Asian cultures. She has published work on violence, capital punishment, and homelessness. Her current projects include an investigation of gender-based violence during the COVID-19 pandemic and an examination of visitor crime in Thailand.

Jodie Dewey is a Professor of Sociology and Director of the Criminal Justice Program at Concordia University Chicago. Her research interests mainly focus on how gender shapes institutional knowledge and practices used in the field of medicine, psychiatry, and the criminal justice system and how such processes regulate the daily lives of those most marginalized in society. Specifically, Dr. Dewey has studied and published on reintegration of the formerly incarcerated, medical and psychiatric decision-making of trans-identified patients seeking gender transition, and more recently, masculinity and the training of police recruits. This latter work informs her development of a certification in policing that connects academic theory with social justice principles and practices to students interested in working within the criminal justice system.

Noha Fikry is a PhD student in Anthropology at the University of Toronto. Her research interests include the anthropology of food, ecological anthropology, and the anthropology of the Middle East. After finishing her MA, Noha spent two academic years teaching at the American University in Cairo. Guided by her professors (including the editor of this book, J. Michael Ryan), Noha takes it as a duty to train and help critical undergraduate students get published, and this collaborative chapter is her first attempt at that.

Scott T. Grether was born and raised in Asheville, North Carolina. He earned a Ph.D. in sociology from North Carolina State University in 2018. His primary research interests are in exploring how gender, racial, and class inequalities are reproduced in varying social contexts. He explored this thread of research in recently co-authored projects examining how frames of colorblind racism are produced in film reviews and how HR professionals utilize social media and ‘googling’ to screen job candidates. He’s currently working on projects examining the relationship between social support and interracial divorce and how men experience and explain their involvement in housework and childcare.

Sari Hanafi is currently a Professor of Sociology, A/Director of Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies and Chair of the Islamic Studies program at the American University of Beirut. He is the President of the International Sociological Association. Recently he created the “Portal for Social impact of scientific research in/on the Arab World” (Athar). He was the Vice President of the board of the Arab Council of Social Science. He is as well editor of *Idafat: the Arab Journal of Sociology* (Arabic) Among his recent books are: *Knowledge Production in the Arab World: The Impossible Promise*. (with R. Arvanitis). He is the winner of 2014 Abdelhamid Shouman Award and 2015 Kuwait Award for social science. In 2019, he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate (Doctor Honoris Causa) of the National University of San Marcos (the first and the leading university in Lima- Peru – established in 1551). (His website: <https://sites.aub.edu.lb/sarihanafi/>)

Nazneen Khan is Associate Professor of Sociology at Randolph-Macon College. She received her Ph.D. in Sociology and a Graduate Certificate in Women’s Studies from the University of Maryland. Her research uses qualitative methods to examine intersections of race, class, and gender within U.S. families. Currently, Dr. Kane is working on a research project that examines state-level maternal mortality review committees and the ways in which their policies and recommendations drive and/or address practices of obstetric racism. Her recent scholarship can be read in *Contexts, Children & Society*, and *Sociological Focus*.

Kate Kittredge is a limited licensed psychologist who is currently a second year Psy.D. student at the Michigan School of Psychology. Kate is a registered yoga teacher (RYT-200) and has specialty training in Aerial Yoga (RYT-50). Her past and current research interests include vicarious trauma and resilience, the experience of pre and peripartum mothers, Postpartum Depression in both mothers and fathers, yoga, meditation, the development of protective factors for individuals, empowerment, and trauma.

John Lamothe earned a Ph.D. from the University of Central Florida and is an associate professor of humanities and communication at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida. He has written and spoken widely about a variety of issues related to athletics, including a chapter in *The Tiger Woods Phenomenon*. He is the co-editor of the anthology, *Athletes Breaking Bad*, and wrote two chapters for that work. His dissertation, being developed for publication, addresses how culture rhetorically constructs arguments about performance-enhancing technologies in sports.

Kelly Rhea MacArthur is an Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Nebraska Omaha (UNO) in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. She is a medical sociologist with teaching and research expertise in medical socialization/education and statistics. Her past work has examined various aspects of the doctor-patient relationship, with publications in journals including *Academic Psychiatry*, *BMC Medical Education*, *Social Science and Medicine*, *Numeracy*, *Child Abuse & Trauma*, and *Health Sociology Review*. Her current research focuses on the well-being of medical students, statistics pedagogy, and the effects of loneliness on health.

Steve Master earned an MS from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism and is an associate professor of communication and humanities at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida. Prior to his teaching career, he worked for twenty years as a sports writer for the *Daytona Beach News-Journal*, where he still contributes as a correspondent. His 2006 story commemorating the 40th anniversary of Jackie Robinson breaking baseball's color barrier earned a national award from the Associated Press Sports Writers. Master also was previously a columnist for *NASCAR Illustrated* and published a chapter in both *The Tiger Woods Phenomenon* and *Athletes Breaking Bad*.

James Meeker is an assistant professor of sociology at University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Previously, James was a visiting assistant professor at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio. James graduated from Kent State University with a Ph.D. in sociology in 2019, having been awarded the 2019 Lewis-Benson Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award, the 2018 Outstanding Doctoral Student Award, and the 2017 James E. Fleming Memorial Award in Theory. Currently, James' research investigates the relationship between inequality and cultural production, having most recently published an article examining the role of resistance and misrecognition in hip-hop music in *Critical Sociology*.

Heather Mello is a Writing Instructor at Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan. She began her career as a military linguist and later earned a Master's in Sociology from Georgia Southern University and a PhD in Linguistics from the University of Georgia. She has taught language and social science courses in academic and community settings in the USA and abroad and worked as a public health researcher and statistician for state and federal agencies. Dr. Mello served twice as a US Department of State English Language Fellow in Volga-region Russia. Her research interests include the Sociology of Language, Heritage Languages, and Language Variation.

Melissa A. Milkie is Professor & Graduate Chair of Sociology at the University of Toronto. An author of *Changing Rhythms of American Family Life*, her research centers on links among gender, work-family strains and well-being. With a unique focus on gendered culture, she identifies forces linked to mothering and fathering across time and region. Current projects include analyzing 1) paradoxes within families' time use; 2) trends, ethnic variations, and cross-cultural patterns of parents' paid and unpaid labor, and leisure time; 3) multi-level buffers of work-life conflicts, and 4) parental strains among Syrian refugee mothers. Her research has been supported by SSHRC-Canada and the U.S.-NIH.

Amy C. Miller is an Instructor in the Sociology Program at Florida Gulf Coast University. She earned her Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Oregon. Her teaching and research interests include intersections of race, class, gender, and sexuality, reproductive justice, and qualitative approaches. She is interested in investigating how intersecting inequalities shape reproductive health outcomes with a particular focus on community-based midwifery as a strategy for reducing health care disparities among marginalized groups.

Monita H. Mungo, PhD, is an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and the Associate Director of the First in the Family Center at the University of Toledo. Her research seeks to unearth and disperse the myriad of ways society marginalizes, oppresses, distorts, ignores, silences, destroys, appropriates, and commodifies the voices of people of color generally, and black folks specifically. Her research interests focus on the inequities of access and success in higher education as well as teaching and learning policies and practices; racial inequality, critical race theory, and roots of social conflict.

Anthony V. Nicola is the G. Caroline Engle Professor of Infectious Diseases in the Department of Veterinary Microbiology and Pathology at Washington State University. Originally from Brooklyn, New York, he received a B.A. in Biology from Drew University and a Ph.D. in Microbiology from the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Nicola is a trained virologist and has authored more than 50 peer-reviewed journal articles. His research program on herpes viruses has been funded continuously for 25 years by the National Institutes of Health. He lives in Pullman, Washington with his partner and co-author.

Ryan Parsons is a PhD candidate in sociology and social policy at Princeton University with interests in race and ethnicity, stratification, and rural sociology. Originally from south Mississippi, he is currently conducting fieldwork in the Mississippi Delta as part of a multi-year ethnographic study of barriers to upward mobility in persistently poor rural communities. Prior to arriving at Princeton he worked in community development in Mississippi and southwest China.

JoEllen Pederson, associate professor of sociology, has been teaching at Longwood University since 2013. She received a B.A. in sociology from Berea College in 2007, and a master's degree (2010) and Ph.D. (2013) from Florida State University. Her research interests include cross-national welfare state comparisons, health care, and aging. In addition to research, Dr. Pederson works with interdisciplinary groups of faculty and students to improve project-based learning with a service-learning focus resulting in multiple publications. She is presently engaged in a multi-year collaborative project focusing on improving parental involvement, as well as research on the health benefits of volunteering.

Marilyn Plumlee earned a Ph.D. in Linguistics from the University of Hawai'i. She has taught language and linguistics courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels at universities in the USA, South Korea, and Egypt. She is currently a faculty member of the Writing and Communication Studies program at Nazarbayev University in Kazakhstan. Dr. Plumlee served terms as the national president of the professional association of English language teachers in both Korea and Egypt. She has had leadership roles in internationalization projects in both academic institutions and private sector international educational exchange organizations. Her current research interests are in multilingualism, language sociology, and intercultural communication.

Atefeh Ramsari is a Researcher at the Bielefeld Graduate school of History and Sociology in Germany. Her PhD focuses on citizenship and national boundary-making issues in the Middle East. Atefeh is the assistant researcher for a long-term project at Bielefeld University looking at the healthcare access for refugee students in Germany. Meanwhile, she is a mentor in a project for refugee women in the social and psychological constellation centre for women in Bielefeld, Germany. She has engaged in various training and outreach events and presented lectures on citizenship and migration.

J. Michael Ryan, PhD, is an assistant professor of sociology at Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan. He has previously held academic positions in Portugal, Egypt, Ecuador, and the United States of America. Before returning to academia, Dr. Ryan worked as a research methodologist at the National Center for Health Statistics in Washington, DC. He is the editor of multiple volumes, including *COVID-19: Global pandemic, societal responses, ideological solutions* (Routledge 2021), *COVID-19: Social consequences and cultural adaptations* (Routledge 2021), *Trans Lives in a Globalizing World: Rights, Identities, and Politics* (Routledge 2020), *Gender in the Middle East and North Africa: Contemporary Issues and Challenges* (with Helen Rizzo; Lynne-Rienner 2020), and *Core Concepts in Sociology* (Wiley 2019). He is also the series editor of "The COVID-19 Pandemic Series" for Routledge publishers.

Adam G. Sanford, Ph.D. (UC Riverside 2012), is a long-term Lecturer in the Department of Sociology at California State University Dominguez Hills. His research focuses on legitimacy assignment, decision-making, viral ideas, and pedagogical methods. Past research centered on socio-economic status and life expectancy (with Dr. David Swanson), student-athletes' assignments of legitimacy to coach and family demands (with Dr. Dinur Blum), and effective teaching methods. Adam's research interests include the sociology of education, criminology and deviance, pedagogy, social theory, and cognitive studies. He co-hosts the *Learning Made Easier* podcast with Dr. Dinur Blum, and has been interviewed by the Chronicle of Higher Education.

Scott Schaffer is Associate Professor of Sociology and Theory & Criticism at the University of Western Ontario in London, Canada, where he offers courses in classical, contemporary, and global social theory. He is the author of *Resisting Ethics* (Palgrave, 2004), and was the Founding Editor of the *Journal of Mundane Behavior*, which ran from 2000-2004 and was the first public sociology journal to begin to grapple with 9/11 and its after-effects. His current work focuses on social ethics and developing a speculative sociology to aid in staving off looming social problems at the 50 to 100-year-out mark.

Matthew D. Skinta, Ph.D., ABPP, is a board-certified clinical health psychologist and an assistant professor at Roosevelt University. His background is in integrated medical settings, HIV/AIDS-related work, and in supervision and training. Dr. Skinta has specific clinical expertise working with sexual orientation and gender identity, HIV/AIDS, chronic pain, and chronic depression. His research interests are primarily focused on the interpersonal costs of minority stress upon sexual and gender minority (SGM) individuals. Past research has focused on the efficacy of clinical approaches that might promote vulnerability, acceptance, and self-compassion in ways that nurture social connections and promote health.

Ann Emilie-Claire Smith is a faculty member at Michigan School of Psychology since 2009. She shares in the responsibility of maintaining the integrity of the academic programs of the school and teaches several clinical and theoretical courses, including the Psychology of Trauma. Dr. Smith maintains a general private practice in Ferndale, MI and has pursued advanced study and supervision related to trauma and dissociation, eating disorders, attachment theory, and reproductive psychology. In recent years, her clinical and academic work has advocated for women and children with complex trauma in both medical and legal realms.

Stacy L. Smith, Ph.D. (Kansas State University 2017), is a fixed-term Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at Michigan State University. Her research focuses on meaning-making, identity-creation, and social cohesion in marginalized groups. Her research on Deadheads (fans of the Grateful Dead) produced seven mechanisms responsible for social cohesion in that subculture. Currently, she seeks to use qualitative methods to understand the complex interaction between sublimated and realized identity among cosplayers. Her research interests include group behavior (subcultures and social movements), sociology of culture, social psychology, emotion, and pedagogy. Her work has also been featured in *Teaching Sociology*.

Angela H. Sun, MA, completed her B.A. in psychology at U.C. Berkeley and her M.A. in Chinese history at the Regional Studies - East Asia program at Harvard University before moving to and working in China for nine years. Her experiences as a first-generation immigrant to the USA and then as an American expatriate living in China have led her to be interested in identity issues and life transition. She is currently pursuing her doctorate in clinical psychology at Roosevelt University and plans to work with diverse and underserved communities in interdisciplinary healthcare settings in the US and abroad.

Magdalena Szaflarski, Ph.D. is an associate professor of sociology and scientist in medicine and public health at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Her research interests include immigrant health, religion and HIV, and disparities in epilepsy care. Her most recent study examines health professionals' attitudes toward medical cannabis. Dr. Szaflarski's research has been funded by the NIH, state agencies, and private organizations. Dr. Szaflarski teaches graduate seminars in medical sociology, contemporary theory, sociology of mental health, global health, and health care delivery systems, as well as undergraduate courses in the sociology of mental health, globalization, and social change.

Susanna Trnka is an associate professor in anthropology at the University of Auckland. She has over a decade of research experience examining states of emergency, political violence, and trauma in Fiji. More recently, she conducted a cross-cultural comparison of the politics of respiratory health in New Zealand and Central Europe. Her current research focuses on the impact of covid-19 on youth mental health and digital technology use. She is the author or editor of nine books, including: *Traversing: Embodied Lifeworlds in the Czech Republic* (Cornell University Press, 2020); *One Blue Child: Asthma, Responsibility, and the Politics of Global Health* (Stanford University Press, 2017); *Competing Responsibilities: The Politics and Ethics of Contemporary Life* (co-edited with Catherine Trundle, Duke University Press, 2017); *State of Suffering: Political Violence and Community Survival in Fiji* (Cornell University Press, 2008).

Valerie Visanich, PhD, is a Senior lecturer at the Department of Sociology, at the University of Malta. Her latest published work is her monograph entitled *Education, Individualization and Neoliberalism: Youth in Southern Europe* (Bloomsbury). She is a co-editor (with Victoria Alexander and Christopher Mathieu), of the forthcoming book series *The Sociology and Management of the Arts* (Routledge). She is one of the authors of Malta's national Cultural Policy and had occupied the position of a chairperson within the European Sociological Association, Research Network Sociology of Art (RN02) between 2017-2019. Valerie is the co-founder, and current board member of the Malta Sociological Association.



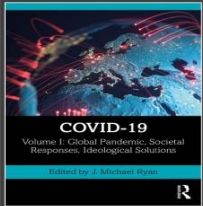
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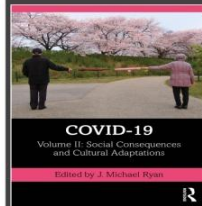
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