

## **EDITORIAL**

The rise of a global pandemic has always resulted in radical, extensive, and long-ranging consequences all over the planet. Clearly, the ongoing COVID-19 crisis makes no difference, though the long-term effects – like they were for example documented and analyzed for the last pandemic of the Spanish flu in the early 20th century – have not yet been capaciously investigated. A lot of outcomes are still to be discovered or under analytical surveillance while most of the world is desperately trying to keep the humanitarian demolition under control and while all other ‘regular’ menaces won’t be having a break in the meanwhile.

Since the second half of the 20th-century information technologies and all their aftereffects define new ways of communication, of social togetherness, of information acquisition, and of ways to interpret the respective relations and hazards while this whole process is accelerating faster and faster. But like during every severe crisis, the ones that suffer the most are still the socially disadvantaged, the minorities, the poor, the ones who have already been fighting before and who should and in most cases will be the ones to focus on, while establishing sustainable plans to cope with the inevitable threats. The macro-level of all this is mounted on a highly interdisciplinary blend of approaches, always led by the scheme of analyzing certain conditions to understand their causes, whereabouts, and possible consequences in order to soften or in the best case even prevent the respective implications.

This issue presents four studies that conduct analyses on the interactions of people with each other or with their environment in times of uncertainty and waiver. And though only two of them have a major focus on COVID-19 all of them deal with changes. Changes in living standards, changes of motion, changes of dependencies, and changes of indirect influences. The dimensions in all of these studies can be interpreted and used in manyfold ways, but all of them have one thing in common: They shine a light on a particular section of the population, illustrate their personal threats, and try to explain how and where to find a possible explanation, while some of them even try to provide possible solution approaches.

The 21st century might never have seen a humanitarian crisis like this and with this editorial in the framework of EMI I am glad to introduce you to four studies that help understand certain (and many-sided) kinds of relationships, of which we might be confronted with more and more often in the not so far future.

Stay healthy, stay safe and take care of one another.

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