



Futures
Research

Pandemic, Economic Crisis and Social Unrest: What is the Future?

The RC07 Future Researches invites paper proposals for the forum ‘Pandemic, Economic Crisis and Social Unrest: What is the Future?’ to be published at the ISA website.

Seven months since the new coronavirus outbreak, the pandemic is still far from over. Globally the pandemic is still speeding up. The death toll is close to 700,000 and the number of confirmed infections topped 18 million. Lives, markets, economies, societies, political institutions were thrown into turmoil. Jobs were lost, small businesses went bankrupt, schools are closed, families and social life are not functioning as they did, while an acute growth in inequalities is made visible in parallel with rapid spread of virtual encounters, of remote work, of informal employment and unemployment.

As the coronavirus pandemic continues to ravage millions of lives and paralyze much of the economy, social unrest erupted around the world. Floyd’s death, in May 2020, has been the trigger for a wave of activism for civil rights and against racism and inequality that has spread to more than 50 countries. Far right-wing activists have seized the opportunity to reach out to thousands of potential followers and expand their ranks. Often in alliance with the anti-vaccination movement, they promote rallies around the world brandishing banners against social distancing, denouncing what they call the globalist establishment, while disseminating conspiracy theories about the coronavirus.

This juncture is related to long-term societal impacts. We can foresee an exacerbation of inequality and a growing recognition that governments should play a major role in reducing it. There is also a rise in generational frictions, changes in the nature of work and in the role of technology, both at work and at home. These social dimensions of the crisis are felt by people worldwide and will create substantial societal consequences for the long term. What are such consequences? What are the possible futures? What contribution Sociology can offer to understand it? We invite sociologists to answer these questions.

Papers of 3.000 to 5.000 words should be sent to Emil Sobttka (esobottka@pucri.br) and Soraya Côrtes (cortes.soraya@gmail.com) by **October 31, 2020**. They will be evaluated by an anonymous referee. We welcome creative studies that can promote an insightful debate on the subject.