

institution in Japan impedes the revitalization of civil society and trust relationship between state and society, brought negative impact on the disease prevention and control measures.

Governing The Pandemic City: How Temporalities Of Covid-19 Responses Influence Public Values And Responsibilities Within Decision-Making

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This paper describes the results of an anthropological study of decision-making within the Covid-19 crisis, in one 'safety region' – the (state) organisation responsible for crises and disaster control – in an urban region in the Netherlands. The first author conducted non-participatory observations of crisis-meetings starting March 2020 and proceeding to this day, as well as interviews with key actors. Being fully embedded gives us the unique opportunity to see how the Covid-19 crisis management unfolds.

We highlight that in regional state governance of the Covid-19 crisis different temporalities are at play. We identify a dominant flash time-logic which is the logic of firefighting, of acting now with limited knowledge. In addition, a holistic time-logic in which there is space for nuance and validation of knowledge plays a marginal role. These different temporalities have important consequences for the public values that feature in decision-making. We show how the dominant temporality of a flash time-logic prioritises safety as the most important value, moving other values such as (public) accountability, democracy and social-economic values to the background. Moreover, the time logics also impact the way responsibility is shared within the layered governance arrangement in which the security region operates. The dominant use of a flash time-logic makes different public values seem irreconcilable and prevents an intelligent sharing of responsibility. As Covid-19 is here to stay with us for a longer time we propose a shift towards the holistic time logic in order to move towards adaptive governance with room for balancing different public values.

The impact of Covid-19 on Cross-border Cooperation. The Case of Two Twin Towns in Central Europe

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The Covid-19 pandemic has sparked numerous social and political consequences, especially in border regions, as many European states decided to temporarily close their borders. This decision has had a tremendous effect not only the work of the various actors in border towns, but also on the life of borderlanders whose daily practices are embedded in cross-border spaces. By applying a strategic-relational approach (Jessop 2001), our paper aims to explore the impact of the pandemic on institutional structures and the agency of various actors involved in cross-border cooperation in two selected twin towns – Frankfurt/Oder-Stubice and Cieszyn-Český Těšín. Based on both expert, semi-structured interviews with representatives of the above-mentioned towns and a document analysis, we will analyse the coping strategies deployed to counteract the challenges caused by the border closure, the factors impacting cross-border cooperation, as well as the similarities and differences between the selected cases.

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COVID-19 and Freedom of Information: The Return of the Leviathan

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This paper aims to shed light on the right to information and the freedom of the media in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak. Infection disease outbreaks are invariably characterized by myths and rumors, boosted by social media accounts, that media often pick up and circulate. Under the justification to avoid panic and confusion, and to combat "fake news" during the COVID-

19 pandemic, some governments took emergency measures that curtail the freedom of information. The lack of a legal definition of the term “fake news” leaves room for arbitrary and broad interpretations.

Decrees issued during the state of emergency – including the practice of detaining journalists for their work and the abuse of pre-trial detention and Internet censorship – sound like measures adopted to restrict the freedom of expression and the freedom of the media, and to shout down dissenting voices. Any kind of pressure against journalists has an immediate consequence, not only on them but also on the public’s right to be informed. Media play a key role in providing important information to the public, and a pluralistic and vibrant media landscape is indispensable to any democratic society. Access to information and a free working environment are therefore essential and need to be ensured at all times, even under state of emergency. Authorities cannot invoke the state of emergency or national security as a motivation to suspend or limit fundamental human rights. The fight against COVID-19 can be a pretext for restricting civil liberties.

Exempting the State and Responsibilizing Individuals during Pandemic Governance: Analyzing the Health Minister’s Responses to the Covid-19 Pandemic in Turkey

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The COVID-19 pandemic pushed the governments of the world to implement public health responses composed of different regulative and protective measures. Although these measures required serious re-considerations of social organization and public health strategies, they were still grounded on pre-existing contexts of countries’ health systems. The ‘new model of health’ is premised primarily around individual responsibility in managing infection-related risks, largely absolving the state’s responsibility in public health. Turkey’s neoliberal health reforms since 2003 coincide with the principles of this model. Yet, Turkey signifies a unique example due to its still on-going process of transformations that have produced a type of pandemic governance with varying degrees of flexibility, informality, and authoritativeness. Utilizing the tweets of the Turkish Health Minister

between March 13th and October 1st 2020, we conducted a thematic qualitative analysis in MaxQda investigating the Turkish state’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our analysis revealed that state responsibility was framed overwhelmingly around rendering efficiency to the healthcare market — such as building new pandemic hospitals and increasing the supply of related medical equipment and medication. Conversely, his tweets assigned Turkish individuals an active role in shaping pandemic outcomes through their ‘informed’ and ‘empowered’ agency. Defined as the sum of individual actions, ‘togetherness’ is coined as an indispensable goal, obscuring any potential structural interventions. The Minister’s tweets regarding the pandemic reflect Turkey’s mixed and unique form of governance, given the relatively imposing and swift response of the centralized power while maintaining its primary focus on responsibilized individuals’ collective actions.

What Roles Do Studies On The Psychosocial Situation Of The Population Play In Pandemic Crisis Management In Germany?

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In Germany, political decisions on measures dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic so far have been primarily dominated by virological and epidemiological statements. However, more and more studies indicate negative psychosocial consequences of such measures (e.g., fear, worry, and pandemic fatigue) within society. Against this background, measuring the negative outcomes on the psychosocial state increases political decision-makers’ pressure to consider the available results when implementing new measures.

For this reason, it can be assumed that, in addition to scientific findings on the virus, scientific insights on the psychosocial situation are increasingly being discussed when new measures are implemented. To the best of the author’s knowledge, no studies investigate whether and how studies on the psychosocial state are taken into account in political decision-making processes in Germany.

To fill this knowledge gap, we will present preliminary results from qualitative interviews we conducted with politicians, official representatives, and members of corona crisis staff at the federal and state levels in

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