Iterations of the COVID-19 Pandemic: Themes and Problem Spaces in Turkey, Iran and Germany

The spread of SARS-CoV-2 took place along the arteries and capillaries of globalization. Hardest hit were thus major nodal points of such global flows, centres of commerce, travel and tourism like New York, Paris, London, but also Istanbul. Places of pilgrimage like Mashhad and Qom in Iran have counted among the global COVID-19 hotspots as well. Officials around the world have been faced with the analogous task of managing the spread of the virus to prevent the collapse of national health care systems and large numbers of fatalities. Consequently, formulating and implementing hygiene protocols and social distancing measures have formed the cornerstones of public health interventions nearly everywhere. However, local contexts circumscribed by past experiences with disease, socio-cultural specificities, demographics, communication infrastructures, knowledge landscapes, legal frameworks, political cultures, etc. present highly varied topographies shaping how the pandemic is perceived by both officials and local populations as well as the kinds of interventions pursued and their effects. This online workshop brings together on-going research conducted in major pandemic centers in Iran, Turkey and Germany, aiming to map common themes and problem spaces emerging from the specific challenges faced in each of these countries.

Hosted by

Max Weber Stiftung

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
Opening and Welcome
09:00 (CEST) / 10:00 (TRT) / 11:30 (IRDT)
Welcome remarks and introduction
Raoul Motika, Orient-Institut Istanbul
Katja Rieck, Orient-Institut Istanbul

Religion and COVID-19:
Reconciling Bodily and 'Spiritual' Health
09:30 (CEST) / 10:30 (TRT) / 12:00 (IRDT)
Exploring the lived experience of restriction on pilgrimage in COVID-19 crisis: The Iranian Shi’a perspective
Somayeh Varshovi, ACECR Research Institute of Tourism
Neda Razavizadeh, ACECR Research Institute of Tourism

09:50 (CEST) / 10:50 (TRT) / 12:20 (IRDT)
Spatial dynamics of religion in the COVID-19 pandemic: The case of the Imam Reza Shrine in Mashhad, Iran
Rasool Akbari, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad

10:10 (CEST) / 11:10 (TRT) / 12:40 (IRDT)
Discussion

Social Constructions of a Pandemic
10:40 (CEST) / 11:40 (TRT) / 13:10 (IRDT)
Me, my family or others? A cross-cultural study on COVID-19 risk perception
Ayşe Öncüler, ESSEC Business School
Emine Öncüler Yeyalar, Bilkent University

11:00 (CEST) / 12:00 (TRT) / 13:30 (IRDT)
Conceptualization of the Coronavirus pandemic by refugees in Turkey
İhsan Çetin, Namık Kemal University

11:20 (CEST) / 12:20 (TRT) / 13:50 (IRDT)
Discussion

11:40 (CEST) / 12:40 (TRT) / 14:10 (IRDT)
Lunch break

Living and Dying with COVID-19
13:30 (CEST) / 14:30 (TRT) / 16:00 (IRDT)
Life in the lock down: The lived experiences of the elderly people in Iran
Azam Naghavi, University of Isfahan

13:50 (CEST) / 14:50 (TRT) / 16:20 (IRDT)
Complicated grief during the Corona epidemic in Iran
Mehrdad Arabestani, University of Tehran

14:10 (CEST) / 15:10 (TRT) / 16:40 (IRDT)
Discussion

14:40 (CEST) / 15:40 (TRT) / 17:10 (IRDT)
Break

Dynamics of (Dis)information in the Context of Public Health Interventions
14:50 (CEST) / 15:50 (TRT) / 17:20 (IRDT)
Changing dynamics of disinformation during the Pandemic
Erkan Saka, Bilgi University

15:20 (CEST) / 16:20 (TRT) / 17:50 (IRDT)
How to deal with a multilingual society in an officially monolingual state? Information strategies during the coronavirus pandemic in the Republic of Turkey
Ruth Bartholomä, Orient-Institut Istanbul

15:40 (CEST) / 16:40 (TRT) / 18:10 (IRDT)
(Dis)information and the legitimation of new technologies in the fight against COVID-19 – ethical, legal and social implications (ELSI) with a focus on a health justice perspective
Martina Baumann, Institute for Technology Assessment and Systems, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT-ITAS)

16:00 (CEST) / 17:00 (TRT) / 18:30 (IRDT)
Discussion

Legal Aspects of COVID-19 Public Health Interventions
16:20 (CEST) / 17:20 (TRT) / 18:50 (IRDT)
Measures of state of emergency without proclamation of a state of emergency in Turkey: The constitutionality of the corona measures and their effect on the constitutional order
Gottfried Plagemann, Orient-Institut Istanbul

16:40 (CEST) / 17:40 (TRT) / 19:10 (IRDT)
Discussion and closing discussion

17:15 (CEST) / 18:15 (TRT) / 19:45 (IRDT)

Participants
in order of author's last name