

## **Editorial**

The coronavirus pandemic is a global traumatic experience. It can be compared to the greatest cataclysms, although it would certainly be difficult to find an equally “universal” phenomenon, maybe except world wars and climate change, which affected and affects the inhabitants of the Earth to a similar extent. Its effects are experienced by entire nations and individuals. It impacts not only the health and life of billions of people around the world, but also influences their mental condition, social relations, the national and global economy, political systems, international relations, respect for civil and human rights, arts and religion, etc. In this sense, it is an all-embracing phenomenon, the consequences of which can be long-term and may permanently change human behavior, values and attitudes, as well as the political order and the international system. It is a challenge not only for medical sciences, which are looking for an effective drug or vaccine that would prevent subsequent waves of the disease. Representatives of social sciences and humanists must also face it intellectually, drawing up possible scenarios of social and cultural changes. Understanding the social consequences of the pandemic will enable societies to better prepare for life in post-pandemic reality. Hence the idea to prepare a special issue of the *European Journal of Transformation Studies* devoted to various aspects of social life affected by the pandemic. This issue consists of both research or theoretical papers, based on discipline-specific methodology and referring to specialized literature, generally meeting the rigours of scientific texts, as well as essays which, despite their looser form, may also constitute an important voice in the international discourse on the effects of the current pandemic, signaling important social, political and cultural issues that accompany the pandemic or which may arise in post-pandemic reality. They are based on the authors’ intuition. These are not only experienced scholars, but many of them are also active participants of public life and debate in

their countries.

Representatives of various scientific disciplines from various European countries, who perceive the long-term effects of the pandemic on the lives of societies and individuals, were engaged in the preparation of this issue. Therefore, this issue has an exceptionally international, and at the same time multidisciplinary character. In addition to articles and essays devoted to political issues and international relations (professor Andras Bozoki from Central European University in Vienna, Austria, professor Torbjørn L. Knutsen from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim, professor Andrei Taranu from the National School of Political Sciences and Public Administration, Bucharest, Romania, professor Arkadiusz Modrzejewski from the University of Gdansk, Poland), the reader will also find works written by lawyers, including the Polish Ombudsman, professor Adam Bodnar, as well as professor Tomasz Widlak from the University of Gdansk and Matúš Mesarčík, PhD. from Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia, artist, professor Ryszard Minkiewicz, the rector of the Academy of Music in Gdansk, who, together with his wife, Margot Stańczyk-Minkiewicz, Ph.D., from the University of Gdansk, prepared an essay on culture and art in the era of the pandemic, theologian and philosopher, professor Marcin Hinz from the Christian Academy of Theology in Warsaw, a bishop of the Lutheran Church who is considering the influence of the pandemic on religious life, specialist in the field of social geography, professor Daniel LaForest from Federico II University in Naples. Among the authors we will also find philosophers of culture from Lesya Ukrainka Eastern European University in Lutsk (a team of authors led by professor Viktoria Golovei), pedagogue, professor Maria Groenwald from the Univeristy of Gdansk, historian, professor Valentyna Hodlevska from the State Pedagogical University in Vinnytsia, Ukraine, sociologist, professor Urszula Soler from the Catholic University of Lublin, Poland and two Polish economists Joan-

na Furmańczyk, Ph.D., and Jerzy Kaźmierczyk, Ph.D, from the Poznań University of Economics and Business.

We would like this special issue of the *European Journal of Transformation Studies* to become our little contribution to the European and global discussion on pandemic and post-pandemic realities. It is a multidisciplinary multiplicity of voices that we hope will be heard both by our fellow scientists as well as by architects of the political and social order, who face important tasks of rebuilding the institutional order, redefining value systems and reconstructing social relations and public trust violated by the pandemic. Many of the published texts are normative, which emphasizes their practical dimension and usefulness.

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