

# Epidemics and Othering: The Biopolitics of COVID-19 in Historical and Cultural Perspectives

Digital Symposium, Ruhr-University Bochum, October 1-2, 2021  
English Seminar and the Department of History

## Symposium Program

### Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October

- 12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
CEST *Welcome and Opening Remarks*  
**Heike Steinhoff and Rebecca Brückmann**
- 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
CEST **Global History, (Post-)Colonialism, and  
Pandemics**  
**Panel Chair: Rebecca Brückmann, Ruhr-University Bochum**
- “...to care for these poor ones when they don’t understand.”  
Smallpox, Indigenous Populations, and State Power in Late  
18<sup>th</sup> Century New Spain**  
**Martin Gabriel** | University of Klagenfurt
- Civilizing the Natives with Modern Medicine: Ideas and  
Strategies to Implement Public Hygiene in Japan-Ruled  
Taiwan (1895-1945)**  
**Anke Scherer** | Ruhr-University Bochum
- Pandemics and Coloniality: From Chronicles of the Indies  
to Covid-19 Narratives**  
**Romana Radlwimmer** | University of Tübingen
- 2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
CEST *Break*
- 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
CEST **Memorial Culture and the Politics of  
Representation in Pandemics**  
**Panel Chair: Dietmar Meinel, University of Duisburg-Essen**
- Covid-19 and Holocaust Representations in Israeli Media  
and Social Media**  
**Liat Steir-Livny** | Sapir Academic College, The Open University,  
Israel
- “Essentially” Expendable: The Biopolitics of Disability,  
Working in/through Pandemic, and Twitter as a Site of  
Resistance**

**Adrianna Michell** | McMaster University

**Pandemics, Public Art, and Memorials**

**Ingrid Gessner** | Pädagogische Hochschule Vorarlberg

4:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.  
CEST

*Break*

4:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.  
CEST

**(Re-)Reading Literature in Pandemics**

**Panel Chair: Lena Mattheis, University of Duisburg-Essen**

**Reading in a Pandemic: Discovering the Current and Historic Influence of Literature**

**Emily Eaton (Co-Authors: Fiona P. McDonald and Sean Lawrence)** | University of British Columbia

**Surveillance State and Increased “Othering”: Reading José Saramago’s Blindness through the Lens of COVID-19 Pandemic**

**Simran Dhingra** | Jamia Millia Islamia

5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.  
CEST

*Break*

5:45 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.  
CEST

**Re-Negotiating Discourses on HIV/AIDS during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

**Panel Chair: Rebecca Brückmann and Heike Steinhoff, Ruhr-University Bochum**

**COVID-19, Aids, and the Difference of Sexuality**

**Simon Dickel** | Folkwang University Essen

**The Incommensurability of Pandemics: Gay Men, COVID-19 and the Metaphoric Privatisation of the AIDS Crisis**

**Nikolaas Deketelaere** | Catholic University of Paris

**“The Great Work Begins”: Keeping the Memory of AIDS Alive During the Covid-19 Pandemic**

**Florian Zitzelsberger** | University of Passau

**HIV and AIDS Epidemic and Its Afterlives: Intersections with Zimbabwean Mobilities and Learning from the Margins**

**Roselyne Masamha** | University of Hull

**Lennon Mhishi** | University of Liverpool

## Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
CEST

### **Mobilities, Migration, and Spatial Dynamics in Pandemics**

**Panel Chair: Chris Katzenberg, Ruhr-University Bochum**

#### **Borders and Othering at the Fringes of the EU in the Times of COVID-19 Pandemics**

**Marijana Hameršak** | Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research

**Marta Stojić Mitrović** | The Institute of Ethnography SASA

#### **The Viral Exclusion and Discrimination of Undocumented Migrants in Mexico during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

**Michela Venturi** | University of Aalborg

#### ***Back to the Nature: COVID-19, Utopia and Socio-Spatial Dynamics in Brazil***

**Danielle Heberle Viegas** | Munich Centre for Global History – LMU

1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
CEST

*Break*

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
CEST

### **Constructing Bodies and Performing Identities in Pandemics**

**Panel Chair: Heike Steinhoff, Ruhr-University Bochum**

#### **Playing Fat? Digital (Sports) Gaming and Epidemic Imaginaries**

**Martin Lütke** | John-F.-Kennedy-Institute for North American Studies

#### **“Sweet Support”: Donuts, COVID-15 and Anti-Fat Bias in Media Discourses**

**Evangelia Kindinger** | Humboldt University of Berlin

#### **We Against the Virus: Performing Masculinity in the Context of Covid-19**

**Silke Felber** | University of Vienna

3:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.  
CEST

*Break*

3:45 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.  
CEST

## **Conspiracy Narratives and Processes of Othering in Pandemics**

**Panel Chair: Anna Bongers, Ruhr-University Bochum**

### **The Noisome Pestilence: COVID 19 Spiritual Warfare and Conspiracy Theories**

**Abimbola A. Adelokun** | University of Texas at Austin

### **Germes, Needles, and Conspiracy Theories**

**Martin Tschiggerl** | University of Saarland

### **Othering the Other-than-Human: Bats, Contagion, and Vulnerable Populations**

**René Dietrich** | University of Eichstätt

5:15 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
CEST

*Closing Remarks*