

Open Call for Proposals

Journal of Social Issues

A Publication of the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI)

“Psychosocial Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic in the Global South”

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The Corona Virus Pandemic (COVID-19) has significantly caused universal psychosocial impact by causing mass hysteria, negative emotions (e.g., anxiety, depression and indignation) and has generated a plethora of psychiatric manifestations across the different strata of societies (Dubey et al., 2020). Theories such as behavioral immune system theory (John et al., 2013), stress theory (Norris et al., 2002) and perceived risk theory (Slovic, 1987), have indicated that, during health emergencies, people are likely to develop negative emotions (e.g., aversion, anxiety), negative cognitive assessments for self-protection, and avoidant behaviors and obey social norms strictly. These negative emotions may reduce the immune function of people and destroy the balance of their normal physiological mechanisms (Kiecolt-Glaser et al., 2002). Therefore, it is essential to understand the potential psychological changes caused by COVID-19 in a timely manner.

As the pandemic finds its exponential phase in the global south, a term that refers broadly to the regions of Latin America, Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Oceania, it is clear that the pandemic will have profound psychosocial implications for the large majority of households that rely on wages from an informal economy, refugees and people trapped in conflict situations, rural indigenous communities, vulnerable groups, including children, people with disabilities, older adults, women who are pregnant and lactating, people exposed to gender- based violence, people who are immunocompromise and ethnic/cultural groups being targeted with stigma or discrimination. The Journal of Social Issues (JSI) and special issue editor seek proposals for a special issue on “Psychosocial Impact of COVID-19 in the Global South.” This collection will focus on conceptual, theoretical, and empirical work that seeks to push forward scholars’ knowledge about the impacts of COVID-19 on people’s psychosocial wellbeing.

We aim to include contributing articles that apply a range of theoretical frameworks and methodologies. We are especially interested in theoretical and empirical manuscripts that examine the psychosocial impacts of the pandemic and its responses in the global south. Within this issue, the editor welcomes a variety of interdisciplinary scholarly submissions from fields inclusive of psychology, sociology, anthropology, education, and public health. We also welcome papers based on a range of qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-methods studies as well as conceptual or theoretical pieces. All submissions should include some discussion of implications for and applications to social issues.

All potential authors should submit an abstract of no more than 1000 words as a word document to the Issue Editor by email by **December 1, 2020**. All abstracts must include the following:

- the working title of the proposed article
- the corresponding author(s) (with contact information) as well as the name and institutions of anticipated co-authors

- a description of what you intend to cover in your article so that we can anticipate the contents and focus, as well as plan the special issue in terms of topics covered
- a description of the theoretical underpinnings of the work, the methodological approach taken, and implications for social policy should also be considered
- for empirical articles, the abstract should include descriptions of the sample, methods, and primary findings and indicate the steps the researchers took to ensure the safety of their participants during the pandemic.
- qualitative submissions will be strengthened by authors' consideration of COREQ or SRQR guidelines
- for review articles, the abstract should include descriptions of the means by which the work reviewed was chosen (e.g., selective, supportive, exhaustive) and primary conclusions
- All submissions should include some discussion of implications for and applications to social policy.

Note that submissions must reflect on completed or nearly completed work. Proposals based on empirical research in progress (or based on future studies) would not be appropriate. Submitted abstracts will be screened for acceptance by the Issue Editor. Issue editors and the JSI editorial board will provide feedback on accepted abstracts to support development of manuscripts.

Send abstracts to the special issue editor: abrik@hbku.edu.qa

- Manuscripts should be original works and not previously published.
- APA style - References, citations, and general style of abstracts should be prepared in accordance with the APA Publication Manual, 7th ed. Cite in the text by author and date (Smith, 1983) and include an alphabetical list at the end. Number manuscript pages consecutively throughout the paper. Authors should also supply a shortened version of the title suitable for the running head, not exceeding 50 character spaces.
- We anticipate making selection decisions about abstracts and notifying authors by **December 31, 2020**.

Full-length manuscripts will be due no later than **April 1, 2021**. Manuscripts may be submitted early. Manuscripts submitted after this date may not be eligible for inclusion in the issue. Approximately 10 to 15 papers will be selected for the final issue.

References

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- Norris, F. H., Friedman, M. J., & Watson, P. J. (2002). 60,000 disaster victims speak: Part II. Summary and implications of the disaster mental health research. *Psychiatry: Interpersonal and Biological Processes*, *65*(3), 240-260. <https://doi.org/10.1521/psyc.65.3.240.20169>

John, A. T. J., Natalie, J. S., & Michael, A.M. (2013). The behavioral immune system and social conservatism: A meta-analysis. *Evolution and Human Behavior*, 34(2), 99–108.
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Kiecolt-Glaser, J. K., McGuire, L., Robles, T. F., & Glaser, R. (2002). Emotions, morbidity, and mortality: New perspectives from psychoneuroimmunology. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 53, 83–107.
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