Call for contributions for the blog "VIRAL"

www.unil.ch/viral

Even if many of us think about when confinement will totally end, we are still going through an exceptional health crisis. The Federal Council is imagining scenarios for the future, whereas it has been forced to take unprecedented measures to protect the health of the population and the health care system. This crisis highlights the intertwining of many dimensions of our social, health, economic and political systems. It is leading us to fundamentally rethink *what connects individuals in a society*. This crisis also brutally forces us to confront our position as biological beings and to think about *how we relate to our environment*. It raises questions that resonate with us personally (illness, bodies, our life choices and their impacts, family, social circles, work, deprivation or reconfiguration of freedom, inequalities, etc.), but also professionally (reorientation of research questions, new fields, links between research and teaching, and between research and society).

This blog aims to *follow, enlighten and document* the COVID-19 crisis, using the knowledge and methods of science. It proposes to take a *reflexive look at the pandemic* and to use the tools of the social and human sciences to *produce knowledge and shed light on the multiple realities affected*. It thus proposes to give food for thought and invites us to look beyond the crisis, to recognize the uncertainties and to seize them in order to work on them.

This blog is an opportunity to create a link between science and society, to make the wealth and diversity of knowledge available to citizens seeking to *give meaning to this crisis*. It offers citizens, academic communities and journalists easy access to *interdisciplinary* thinking and *interdisciplinary* terrains. It will enable our future readers to :

- **learn from the past**, illuminating the present with knowledge gained from past experiences.
- **document the present**, reporting on experiences
- **think about the future**, imagining the post-COVID-19 period and drawing lessons from the current crisis
- **ask questions** to the academic community and to **initiate common reflections**
- **discover and participate** in research projects related to the crisis.

It thus offers the opportunity to act as a member of the academic community in a time of crisis and collective action. It also hopes to strengthen the ties of the academic community in a period of isolation due to containment, and to create
new spaces of exchange. We know that everyone is busy, that many people have children or elderly relatives to take care of. However, we hope that your creativity will be able to find its place in this space opened to your proposals.

All contributions are welcome, regardless of academic level (student or researcher), academic background or approach of the writer. Contributions can be individual or collective, and could be the result of a dialogue and reflections between non-academic actors and researchers. They can adopt various formats: written, audio, video, or any other creative format.

The crisis reveals how necessary it is to engage and think critically about the current crisis together. For this reason, we are appealing in the broadest possible way to all institutions in French-speaking Switzerland: Universities, Universities of Applied Sciences, Cities and Cantons, Fablabs, or any actor wishing to interact with the academic world.

We are looking forward to your contributions and hope that this approach will be beneficial for the future by allowing new dynamics mixing knowledge, experiences, and reflections to take place.

We look forward to getting in touch with you and pooling our strengths!

With our best regards,
The "VIRAL" working group

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