

Editorial

When the World Health Organization classified the spread of the coronavirus called SARS-CoV-2 as a pandemic in March 2020, the Curare editorial team sent out a call for (auto-)ethnographic diaries via various mailing lists (see full call in the Introduction to this Special Issue). We hoped for a handful of “correspondents” who would write diaries in the strict Malinowskian sense of the word to record the unfolding pandemic times on a daily basis. The number of participants exceeded by far our expectations. Having been overwhelmed by the large response, we were unable to edit the dozens of diary entries we received daily. The large quantity and variable length of the entries led us to decide to publish all the diaries of those authors who agreed to it on boasblogs.org, where all the diaries are freely available in full length. The 2020 and the 2021 issues of Curare are both devoted to our collective diary project. We asked selected authors to revisit parts of their diaries and to comment on individual aspects from an analytical, anthropological perspective. In this issue, we are grateful to be able to present a collaboratively written text by JULIANA BEECHER, LEE BRANDO, VAIDA NORVILAITE, and SONIA YUHUI ZHANG from New York.

In a fictional dialogue in the forum of this issue, ERHARD SCHÜTTPELZ and EHLER VOSS reflect on the horror scenario of the imminent triage in German hospitals that has been repeatedly envisioned during this pandemic. EHLER VOSS then reports in detail on street protests against the German Corona policy and the counter-demonstrations against the protesters. The reports focus on examples from Leipzig and are supplemented by two in-depth interviews with critics of the Corona policy, who explore the situation against the background of their socialization in the former socialist East Germany. The protests are interpreted as part of a conspiracy culture that already existed before Corona and are analyzed in terms of the accompanying stigmatization processes. We conclude the issue with a continuation of our “Teach-

ing Forum” section, which we started last year and for which we were able to attract 22 authors for 14 contributions so far. We would like to continue this section and look forward to receiving submissions.

Since there was a great need to comment on the subject of Corona with shorter reports and reflections independently of the laborious work of diary writing, we launched the blog “Witnessing Corona” in collaboration with the Working Group Medical Anthropology of the German Anthropological Association and the Global South Studies Center in Cologne. There we called for submissions of short, unique contributions that reflect on the current situation from a social science and medical anthropological perspective. The contributions are published simultaneously on boasblogs.org and medizinethnologie.net.

There is good news regarding the plan to digitize all previously published issues of Curare. The application to the German Research Foundation (DFG), which we submitted together with the Specialised Information Service Social and Cultural Anthropology (FID), was successful and all issues will now be scanned and made freely available to the public at digi.evifa.de by the Humboldt University of Berlin in the near future. We are very grateful to all involved people and institutions.

Currently we are still in the midst of the pandemic, but in the meantime formerly new habits like mask wearing, regular testing, and social distancing have already become familiar elements of many people’s everyday lives in Germany and beyond. The editorial team hopes that presenting a diverse set of Covid-19-related contributions, and particularly the commented diaries from New York, will hold for our readership surprising moments between memory and forgetting that will help make sense of what we have experienced so far.

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