

Call for the creation of a research network: POSOC-19.

The POSOC-19 network (POuvoirs et SOcietes face la Crise du covid-19) is French-speaking and aims to bring together colleagues from different countries, mainly political scientists and lawyers contacted during this confinement period. The network is open and flexible; it is a collaborative network that is not intended to replace or encroach on other pre-existing groups and institutions. It aims to create links and unite energies.

1. Presentation of the problem

The health crisis the world is going through is arguably the first contemporary "global crisis" that threatens the world with widespread anomy as well as its new economic option, i. e. globalization.

It has hit China, moved to Europe and hit the United States considerably and is advancing rapidly on other continents. We are targeting unimaginable political situations a few weeks ago.

The same problem to be managed, in a reduced time frame by different states, rich, emerging or poor, poses fascinating questions to the social and political sciences. To understand, you have to compare. It is not a question of studying health policies of which we are not specialists or of measuring the effects of the various measures taken.

The aim is to understand the effects of this crisis on each political system and each legal system, inseparability being their reality. How the action was taken, how it was received, approved or challenged. Understand their content and meaning. How do different national political cultures adapt to new situations? What does this tell us about each society, each political regime and, ultimately, the function of the state in contemporary societies? How the legal instrument is one of the means of crisis management; how its technicality and consistency erases or maintained in the context of the health emergency? What are the other levers of public action implemented? What do these levers tell us about the metamorphoses of the contemporary state in times of unprecedented health crises?

The research issue concerns the governance of the health crisis in its political and legal aspects: how does the fight against Covid-19 affect the governance of societies at local, national and global level?

2. The political and legal challenges of the pandemic: the methodological framework.

A. There is no shortage of classic questions in political science. Several lines of thought could be proposed:

- *The return of the state, national sovereignty, borders, the role of international organizations.*

- *The evolution of democratic regimes and the possible convergence between democracy and authoritarianism.*
- *Another line of thought could focus on political cultures (civics, oppositions, etc.) and the political attitudes associated with them.*
- *Fighting against each other versus fighting together*

B. Legal issues are also numerous.

Social distancing measures and health geolocation: their impacts on fundamental freedoms; The general legal and institutional framework: what upheaval in relation to common law? The relationship between political decision and scientific expertise; How are accountability mechanisms mobilized: and what is a responsible action? Law as an answer to economic collapse.

3. Our academic action

We suggest we get to work now. Concretely, a flexible network of French-speaking researchers in social, legal and political sciences deserves to be created to decide on common problems by using the same methodologies and the same data collection devices. Ultimately, it should allow publications, conferences, workshops in major international conferences in the discipline.

In a first step, we build the network by finding colleagues who are open, curious and interested in a comparative process. It has to go fast and it can be done in a few days. In a second step, we are trying to find a moment when as many members as possible can get together to prioritize topics and see which easily accessible exchange platform we can use to build a first agenda. Then we can formalize, communicate, find funding, etc.

For any additional information related to this project or to express your interest in joining the network, please write to:

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