

Community Resilience in Times of Pandemics

A dynamic global multi-center study



The COVID-19 pandemic is a historical crisis for humankind that affects our entire planet. Crises such as global climate change, industrial agriculture, racism, social-economic injustice, and gender violence also require attention. While these issues may not seem connected, they are all human made and have global impact. They are likewise an opportunity to transform our thinking.

As the World Health Organization's website states: "now is the time for global solidarity and support, especially with the most vulnerable in our societies, particularly in the emerging and developing world."

Communities all over the globe cope with these situations in a variety of ways. Beyond political and administrative strategies and plans, community resilience and creative ideas are part of the societal DNA needed to solve societal pandemic crises. What can we learn from them?

In a dynamic global multi-center study, community psychologists together with other disciplines could try to identify types of:

- Resilient action performed in pandemic crises
- Communities that handle pandemic crises with success
- Social structure and sense of community needed to cope with the challenges
- Innovative action useful to transform social relationships in communities to cope with crises

Unlike traditional academic studies, a dynamic global multi-center study:

- Uses a data base that evolves in time and scope
- Expands and grows with participants and researchers from different continents, regions, countries, and cultures
- Develops a methodology which is emerging due to dynamic results and needs of participants

Much like a virus jumping to a new host, creativity during times of pandemic becomes viral and spreads. It also presents opportunities to learn. Stories, moments, and practices are being gathered and analyzed by [The New Bank for Community Ideas and Solutions](#), [Community Tool Box](#) and related networks, and collective wisdom from regular meetings of community psychologists across continents.

Identifying and understanding patterns of viral creativity and community resilience during times of pandemic, calls for continued research and reflective action. This requires organization, commitment, and funding. What are you prepared to do?

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