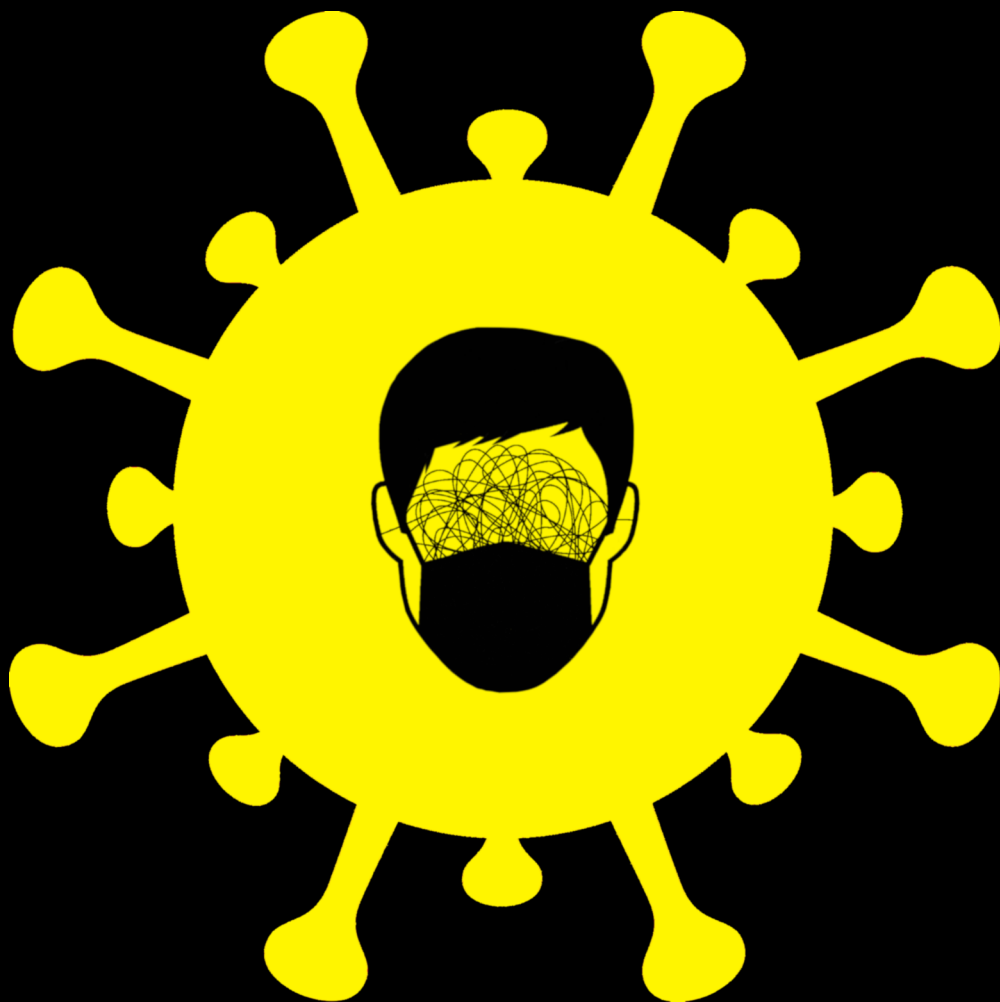


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Pandemic Perspectives: Reflections on a Post-Covid World



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Pandemic Perspectives: Reflections on the Post-Covid World: Acknowledgements and Contributors

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Acknowledgements

Between people buying groceries for their elderly, ill, or otherwise self-isolating neighbours, the British public applauding the NHS on Thursday evenings throughout 2020, and the increased popularity of quizzes taking place on digital platforms such as Zoom, the Covid-19 pandemic has continually highlighted the importance of community to individuals' wellbeing and day-to-day activity. As such, the editors thought it fitting to give their thanks to the community that has made this edited collection possible.

First, our thanks go to the University of Edinburgh's School of History, Classics and Archaeology and the Arts and Humanity Research Council's Midlands4Cities Doctoral Training Partnership. Without the generous support of their Student-Led Initiative Fund and Cohort Development Fund, respectively, our April 2021 conference and this subsequent publication would not have been possible. Our thanks also extend to Dr Kira Hopkins of Ubiquity Press, whose publishing expertise has made compiling an edited collection a much smoother process. On editorial matters, we would also like to thank the extensive team of peer-reviewers for their efforts in providing feedback to draft versions of the papers contained in this collection. Their supportive and laser-sharp critique helped to polish what was already exemplary research. We offer our sincere thanks to Ben Davies, Flora Perara, Emrah Atasoy, Jade Hinchliffe, Ben Horn, Josie Lilley-Byrne, Tim Elliot, Tamsin Parnell, Dr Alex Harper, Dr Rhodri

Davies, Dr Jin Yi, Bill Hodgson, Germaine Koh, Sara Ameri, Lorna Giltrow-Shaw, Dave Korn, Ellen Addis, Georgia (Yolanda) Panou and Guy Webster, as well as Dr Christopher Horn and Isabella JiangCheng who aided in their recruitment.

Second, we would like to thank the attendees, presenters, and supporters of our April 2021 conference. Organising digital conferences, particularly at such an early stage of the pandemic, was by no means an easy feat, and so we are grateful of anyone who helped to spread word of our endeavours, without which our conference may not have had such an international scope, nor been as well attended. The enthusiasm, kindness, and engagement of our conference attendees is also to be commended, for their thought-provoking questions ensured stimulating discussion. Of course, we are also especially appreciative of our presenters for sharing their fascinating, insightful, and interdisciplinary research with us, a selection of which you find within this collection. Particular thanks also go to Professor Kalypto Nicolaïdis and Dr Marta Arnaldi, our two keynote speakers, for their contributions to the conference. With their humour, grace, and warmth, they encapsulated the tone of the conference wonderfully.

Finally, we would like to express gratitude to the Pandemic Perspectives community at large. As noted in the Introduction to this collection, we have been meeting regularly since April 2020, something which has helped us to combat the isolation enforced by the pandemic. Without the lively discussion of these sessions, neither the conference nor this collection would have happened. As such, we would like to thank our regular members – including Dr Jakub Benes, Phil Cohen, Eleni Eldridge-Tull, Will Gildea, Dr Helen Kingstone, Gah-Kai Leung, Ellen Smith, Marta Starostina, and Carmen Torres – for the chatter, debates, and laughter. Enormous thanks also go to Alastair Gardner and Christopher Griffin, who have not only been central figures to all things Pandemic Perspectives, but have also been constant sources of support and camaraderie.

Editors and Contributors

Sadegh Attari is a Wolfson Scholarship-funded doctoral researcher at the University of Birmingham. His thesis examines the impact of outbreaks of pestilence on understandings and representations of human materiality (inclusive of body and soul) in late fourteenth to early sixteenth century culture, with a particular focus on East Anglia. Prior to this, he completed degrees at Shiraz University, Iran and University of Tehran, Iran and worked in policy research in the Iranian IT sector. In addition to his research output, he has translated an edited selection of entries, all of which centred around the history of medicine, from *The Encyclopaedia of Islam* (Second Edition) into Farsi.

David Christie is an AHRC M4C funded doctoral candidate at the University of Birmingham. His research is on the formulation, implementation and efficacy of New Labour's policies on street homelessness, 1997-2010. It argues for a re-evaluation of Labour's 'third way' approach to governance and the importance of a focus on the delivery of social policy in the writing of political history. His research interests also include the history of squatting and utopian thought. Prior to commencing his PhD he completed degrees in Biology and History at Southampton University and the Open University and a Masters Degree in Modern British Studies at the University of Birmingham. He spent ten years running projects for rough sleepers in London and Bristol and has published a utopian novel, *Sweden*.

Hanan Fara is a doctoral student and Teaching Associate in the School of Philosophy, Theology, and Religion at the University of Birmingham, as well as an academic mentor and a visiting lecturer in the Department of Education at Newman University. Her research specialises in the Sociology of Religion and Education; she explores British Muslim students identity and HEI experiences. She has completed a BA in Theology and Education at Newman University and an MA in Theology at the University of Birmingham.

Niall Gallen is an AHRC funded doctoral candidate in English Literature at the University of Birmingham. In his PhD thesis, Niall traces a cultural genealogy of accelerationism, which is a controversial insistence that the best answer to capitalism is accelerating its “radical” tendencies. His interdisciplinary research involves exploring the connections between writing and art, as well as anti-institutional movements and group formations. He is also a co-director of the Contemporary Theoretical Network (Ctrl Network).

Richard Kendall is a doctoral student in Classics at the University of Edinburgh investigating the role of cultural memory in Post-Getic (1st-3rd centuries AD) Olbia Pontica. His research explores the interplay of nomadic (Sarmatian) and Classical cultures within a reviving Greek urban environment on the northern Black Sea coast through the artistic and archaeological record. He holds degrees in Classical Archaeology from University College London (UCL) and the University of Oxford, and Ancient History from the University of Birmingham.

Liam J. L. Knight is a doctoral researcher in English Literature at the University of Birmingham. His research focuses on the manifestation of what we would today recognise as post-truth strategies within the ‘endotexts’ of twentieth- and twenty-first-century literary dystopias. He argues that these endotexts demonstrate that the genre of dystopian fiction has always been concerned about truth, why it matters, and the perils of allowing it to be abused, distorted, or abandoned. A passionate educator, Liam publishes GCSE revision content and video essays related to his research on his YouTube channel, ‘DystopiaJunkie’.

Ronan Love is a doctoral researcher in History at the University of Warwick. His research focuses on the politics of government debt during the French Revolution, with a particular focus on the nexus between financial obligation and sovereign power. He completed his BA and MA in Modern History also at the University of Warwick, where he is an active participant in the Early Modern and Eighteenth Century Centre (EMECC).

Amélie Doche is an AHRC M4C funded doctoral researcher at Birmingham City University. Her research, carried out in collaboration with Writing West Midlands, explores the reception of contemporary British literature. Amélie has obtained a BA (2017) and a MRes (2020) in English Linguistics, Literature, and History of Ideas from Université Jean Moulin Lyon 3.

Amanda Grimsbo Roswall has an MA in Comparative Literature from the University of Copenhagen and is the producer and host of the ‘Lockdown Reading Podcast’ in Denmark, as well as a research assistant on the ‘Lockdown Reading’ research project at the University of Copenhagen. She has a

special interest in French and Francophone literary history as well as contemporary Anglo-American literature.

Anindita Shome is a PhD candidate at the UGC Centre for the Study of Indian Diaspora, University of Hyderabad, India. Her research interests lie in the literary and socio-cultural aspects of the South Asian migration and diaspora. She also takes a keen interest in the areas of Youth Studies and Environmental Humanities. She can be reached at anindita1089@gmail.com.

Dr Michael Rimmer is a clinician and specialist registrar specialising in women's health care – obstetrics and gynaecology (O&G). He is currently undertaking doctoral studies at the MRC Centre for Reproductive Health at the University of Edinburgh, investigating the impact chemotherapy has on children's future fertility. He is an active member of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists Academic Board, Scientific Advisory Committee and Trainees Committee. Michael leads the largest O&G specialist trainee organisation for research, service evaluation and audit in women's health care in the UK – the *UK Audit and Research Collaborative in Obstetrics and Gynaecology*. He has previously undertaken research investigating the role of chronic infection and pregnancy loss, the data for which contributed towards funding to run the first randomised control trial of antibiotics in women with a history of miscarriage; to reduce miscarriages and increase live births in these women.

Charlotte 'Lottie' Parkyn completed her PhD in Classics at Kings College London in 2016, and also holds an MA in Ancient Greek Drama and Directing from Royal Holloway, University of London. Her research focuses on ancient Greek theatre fragments and reception studies. Lottie has worked as an academic consultant and dramaturg on a number of theatre productions around the UK, and plays an active role in promoting engagement with the ancient world to non-academic audiences. One of her most recent projects took place at the London Mithraeum and explored the Roman Londoner voice through poetry. Lottie is currently based at the University Notre Dame London Global Gateway as the Director for Research and Partnerships. Alongside teaching the visiting undergraduates and mentoring graduate students, Lottie works on building relationships between The University of Notre Dame and UK academic institutions.

William David Green completed his doctoral work at the University of Birmingham's Shakespeare Institute, for which he examined the role played by the early modern dramatist Thomas Middleton as a posthumous adapter of plays by Shakespeare after the original author's death in 1616. His research interests include textual studies, early modern authorship, and the reception of Shakespeare in twenty-first-century and academic contexts.

Rob Booth is a first-year PhD researcher in Human Geography at the University of Birmingham. His research explores the ways in which actors involved in UK food production and its governance perceive, relate, and enact contested conceptions of the future. His work is rooted in the field of political ecology. As such, it involves a coming together of critical perspectives rooted in radical, Marxian geographies with post-structuralist and new materialist thinking that recognises the hybridity, entanglement, and more-than-human dimensions of contemporary agri-food systems. Rob is particularly interested in social theories of space-time and spatio-temporality, using agriculture and

food as a starting point to unpick the construction and mediation of the rhythms, tempos, and duration of social life.

Victoria Beatrix Fendel completed an MA in Classical Greek and Ancient Near East Studies at the University of Basel before moving to the University of Oxford (Lady Margaret Hall) for her DPhil on language contact between post-classical Greek and Coptic. Subsequently, she undertook an MPhil in Theoretical and Applied Linguistics at the University of Cambridge (Peterhouse) with a focus on French linguistics. She teaches Classical Philology at Cambridge and Classical Literature at Oxford and tutors modern languages. In November 2020, she took up a Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship at the University of Oxford.

Mary Briggs is a PhD student in Religious Studies at the University of Edinburgh holding a Principal's Career Development Scholarship and funding from the School of Divinity. Her thesis examines how Shincheonji, a new Christian-derived sect, unsettles both the South Korean state and South Korean Protestantism using a combination of historic and ethnographic methods and media content analysis. She developed this research project while living in Seoul in 2020 after setting the response to Shincheonji during the outbreak of SARS-coV-2 in South Korea. Her research interests are religion in South Korea, modernity, new religious movements, and the intersections of religion and the nation-state.

Petra Seitz is a PhD student at the Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL. Her dissertation explores commercial office interior design and architecture seen through the lens of labor process theory. She holds a BA in Politics from Oberlin College and an MA in History of Design from the V&A/RCA.