

Impact of the pandemic on people and societies from a qualitative as well as quantitative perspective

(Social Transfer)

Project leads

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Abstract

The Corona crisis has fundamentally changed everyday life in many countries, including Austria. Though the crisis concerns everybody, people are affected in different ways. To examine the impact of the pandemic on people and societies in a comprehensive way, new two studies have been launched. They are methodologically different, which is why their results complement each other, and as such form a fruitful basis for Third Mission activities.

The quantitative study Austrian Corona Panel Project (ACPP) investigates how information, attitudes, and behaviours are distributed across the population, and how these develop in the course of the crisis. The study is based on a panel survey with a sample of 1500 respondents, which represents the sociodemographic structure of the Austrian population. The questionnaire is addressing questions such as: How do people perceive the new health and economic threats? How do Austrians feel about the political measures taken during the crisis? How do they view the democratic challenges and the role of the media?

Our multinational, comparative, qualitative study “Solidarity in times of a pandemic. What do people do and why?” (SolPan) examines diverse questions regarding the pandemic situation in different European as well as non-European countries. By means of in-depth qualitative interviews with residents in these countries, we explore questions concerning, for example, the importance of digital practices such as home office working, the meaning of specific policy measures, the role of citizens in managing the crisis, but also the proliferation of contact tracing applications as a policy instrument in tackling the COVID-19 pandemic.

Keywords

solidarity, pandemics, surveys, interviews

Aims of the Third Mission activity

Provide a scientific evidence base to policy and public discourses; offer evidence-based interpretations for social and political phenomena in the context of COVID-19.

Cooperation partners outside the university sector National and international media (especially 'Der Standard'), Austrian Bioethics Commission, European Group on Ethics, etc.

Cooperation partners from the scientific/research field Too many to mention.

Faculty Faculty of Social Sciences

SolPan: Department of Political Science and Research Platform Governance of Digital Practices

ACPP: Vienna Center for Electoral Research

Timeframe 01/03/2020 - tbc

Funding Partly (WWTF, FWF, and self-funded).

Research basis It is almost entirely based on our research.

Social/economic relevance It draws directly on social science data and suggests policy instruments with immediate social and economic relevance.

Integration into academic teaching/the curriculum n/a

Impact Lots of media coverage, and uptake of our work at the EU level: various references to our work in the expert report of the European Commission "Improving pandemic preparedness and management"; I am co-author of this Opinion, and also had input in the framing of the problems and solutions described here.

Transfer aspect of the activity I am a member of several national and supranational advisory bodies. And I talk to the media a lot.

Future orientation & sustainability Virtually all our third-mission work is future oriented and seeks long term sustainable impacts.

Achievement of objectives I cannot 'verify' to what extent our media engagements and our policy advice have had effects. I can see, however, that politicians are using the frames and phrases we suggest, discuss solutions that we suggested, and that our work is cited in policy papers etc.

Measures to sustain this activity over the long term/expand it We would like to implement them, but we have not secured funding to continue with these projects yet (the Austrian part SolPan project is entirely unfunded, while colleagues in partner countries have used our grant proposal to successfully acquire funding with other agencies).

Visibility Media coverage, policy papers - and we also archive them and make them available on our websites.

Links/ Publications Regularly updated archives with study results:
ACPP: <https://viecer.univie.ac.at/coronapanel/corona-blog/>
SolPan: <https://digigov.univie.ac.at/solidarity-in-times-of-a-pandemic-solpan/solpan-publications/>

Selection of our media work:

- <https://www.derstandard.at/story/2000127232146/evidenz-und-emotion-was-zahlen-der-politik-raten-koennen>
- <https://www.wienerzeitung.at/nachrichten/politik/oesterreich/2106492-Impfbereitschaft-nimmt-weiter-zu.html>
- https://www.zeit.de/2021/23/corona-impfung-oesterreich-impfstoff-impfbereitschaft-sebastian-kurz?utm_referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com
- <https://www.derstandard.de/story/2000126083382/sozialwissenschaftlerin-prainsack-die-menschen-wollen-kuenftig-kuerzer-arbeiten>
- <https://www.zeit.de/2021/14/corona-massnahmen-oesterreich-pandemie-bekaempfung>
- <https://www.sn.at/politik/innenpolitik/wie-uns-das-corona-virus-spaltet-101479597>
- <https://oe1.orf.at/programm/20210310/633745/Radiokolleg-Leben-im-Ungewissen>
- <https://www.falter.at/falter/radio/994c7712-abee-496a-83e4-8a1f39cf65dd/es-geht-allen-die-luft-aus-472>
- <https://www.falter.at/zeitung/20210224/nur-noch-ein-drittel-findet-die-massnahmen-angemessen/ f615a45246>
- <https://www.zeit.de/2021/08/corona-strategie-lockdown-stufenplan-wissenschaftler-lockerungen?>
- <https://www.w24.at/News/2021/1/Corona-Wie-stehts-mit-der-Impfbereitschaft>
- <https://www.frankfurt-live.com/die-krise-als-chance-128090.html>
