

# **Making (Sociological & Anthropological) Sense of the Pandemic**

Team-taught by faculty from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology

What are the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic from sociological and anthropological perspectives, and what are the implications for the future? Social inequality, social institutions, and issues of racism, gendered labour, and health opportunities within marginalized communities have always been of concern to sociologists and anthropologists.

Join this diverse team of faculty from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Carleton University, as they share how this global pandemic has impacted social institutions and highlighted already existing inequalities.

The lecturers each offer a lecture coming from their own expertise and will include the following topics: anti-Asian racism, the pandemic in global context (with African examples), criminalization and punishment during the pandemic, stories of care work in residential and institutional settings, the pandemic's long-term effects on work, and how people have collectively clung to and/or adapted seasonal traditions throughout this year of pandemic restrictions.

The faculty will be forwarding their honorarium from this course to the Department of Sociology and Anthropology's scholarship fund for incoming BIPOC students majoring in sociology or anthropology.

## **Anti-Chinese, Anti-Asian racism amid the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Dr. Xiaobei Chen

This lecture focuses on the upsurge of anti-Chinese, anti-Asian racism amid the COVID-19 pandemic, situating it in the context of racialized impact on different communities. Drawing on research data, I discuss (1) Chinese Canadians' experience with racism; (2) how Chinese Canadian communities have understood and responded to the situation.

## **Pandemic on the Global Scale: Broader Themes and African examples**

Dr. Blair Rutherford

This lecture will examine how the COVID-19 pandemic has offered a sharp lens to better understand pre-existing and deepening inequities and tensions in international relations while generating particular social imaginaries of "the global" in different parts of the world. Specific attention will be given to examples across the African continent, including the figuring of "Africa" itself in some of the discussions and initiatives concerning the pandemic.

## **Re-Imagining Care Work**

Dr. Janna Klostermann

This session on "Reimagining Care Work" will critically reflect on how Ontario's long-term residential care sector is organized through the stories of paid care workers, informal/familial carers and people who need care. We'll consider the choices people and communities make about care provision. We'll also experiment with crafting new meanings of "care" through (low-stakes) storytelling and arts activities.

### **The Pandemic and the World of Work**

Dr. Neil Gerlach

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented effect on the experience of work for many people around the world. Since the beginning of the first lockdown in March 2020, commentators have been speculating on what the post-pandemic work landscape will look like. In this session, we will discuss the potential long-term effects of the pandemic on remote work vs. in-person work, work/life balance, management demands and surveillance of employees, the sociality of work, and workplace culture.

### **Covid-19... all year long: A Seasonal Sociology of the Pandemic**

Dr. Tonya Davidson

Quips like "longest March break ever" uttered in July, and predictable pandemic jokes on Groundhog Day reflect how the pandemic has been distorting our perception of time. For many working from home, the consecutive, monotonous days feel slow, while the passing of months, and then a whole year, somehow feel shockingly fast. However, while everything is topsy-turvy, some social phenomena are consistent: the marking of the passage of time with seasonal traditions. In this lecture I explore how and why we collectively clung tighter to some seasonal traditions (trick or treating), were inspired to adapt other traditions (drive-through Santa Claus parades), and may be nostalgic for some of our Covid-era seasonal adaptations in the future.

### **Criminalization and punishment during the pandemic**

Dr. Aaron Doyle

Prison was a terrible place to be during the pandemic, with COVID-19 infection rates more than five times those among the general public. The pandemic was also a time of many social innovations, one being a reduction of the Ontario provincial prison population by more than 30 per cent as a measure to control spread of the coronavirus. With our political leaders promising to build back better after the pandemic, this lecture explores possible lessons learned from the pandemic experience in our prison system. Speakers include members of the Criminalization and Punishment Education Project.