



Masterarbeit:

Geographies of the Corona Pandemic

The pandemic of COVID-19 is affecting the social, economic and political life worldwide in unprecedented ways. In many countries, public life has become severely restricted. Some countries have imposed a complete lockdown, if not for the whole country, then for most affected regions. "Social distancing" has become the moral imperative of this moment. Most governments impose measures based on emergency rule and justify their measures based on virological expertise. This situation raises a number of questions: How do governments and their administrations justify measures they are implementing and what is the rationale behind those measures? How do governments, public officials, journalists, social media frame questions of moral responsibility and obligation to abide by these measures? How do people respond to these restrictions in their everyday lives and how do they frame discourses about appropriate behavior, moral responsibilities and social obligations in social media? How are these "moralities" resisted in social media or in everyday practices (e.g. "Corona parties")? The master thesis will select some of these questions and conduct a discourse analysis in the media, in social media and other publicly available sources (e.g. government documents, press releases), and potentially some other methods, such as online survey, interviews. The aim of the thesis is not to question the validity of any of these claims or measures, but to understand how these claims to appropriate moralities in times of a pandemic are mobilized, justified and contested.

Language: German or English

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