Pandemic Education: Philosophy of Education in the Time of Covid-19
A Knowledge Cultures Call for Papers for a Special Issue (30 March 2020)

The next pandemic will erupt, not from the jungle, but from the disease factories of hospitals, refugee camps and cities. (Wendy Orent, “How Plagues Really Work,” https://aeon.co/essays/the-next-pandemic-will-be-nothing-like-ebola)


There is a literature and philosophy of viruses, of the plague, of the pandemic. Albert Camus’ The Plague is the classic example of the existential philosophical novel. Michel Foucault, Peter Sloterdijk, Timothy Morton, Slavoj Žižek (typically hastily in Pandemic! Covid-19 Shakes the World), and Giorgio Agamben (notoriously in “The Invention of an Epidemic”), among others, have addressed the concept of the virus as emblematic of our age. But the Covid-19 pandemic profoundly affects the lives of humans, more-than-humans and the planet.

The philosophy of pandemic is thus truly a philosophy for all peoples. In the face of the Covid-19 pandemic, it signals not only the human significance of themes like collective responsibility in self-isolation and social distancing, or the ethic of the other in the sacrifice of health workers or others in essential services, both of which exhibit care in an age of care-less capitalism, but also the ecological significance of trans-species viruses like Covid-19 that mark the “intrusion of Gaia” into the Anthropocene. It also serves as a public occasion for collective thought and action by educators and philosophers of education about how people are responding to the pandemic across the globe (central planning and panic-buying; scientific research and conspiracy theories; self-care and care for others, human and more-than-human; fear, anxiety, hope and love; binge-watching and baking).

This special issue asks: How can educators explore and enact a philosophy of education that speaks to the care, critique and collective responsibility demanded by the Covid-19 pandemic? Please send individual or collective contributions of c.500, 1500 or 3000 words to the editors by 31 May 2020. (The articles from the special issue will form the basis of an edited volume to be published later in 2020.)

Themes:
- literature and philosophy of viruses and plagues
- philosophy of pandemic, (public) pedagogy of pandemic
- self-interest and collective responsibility
- ethic of the other, ethic of care
- Anthropocene, “the intrusion of Gaia,” “response-ability”
- conspiracy and science

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