COVID-19 and Human Health Behavior: Impacts and Trends

International Virtual Panel Discussion · 8 June 2021
10:00 – 11:15 Washington D.C. · 11:00 – 12:15 Brasília, Montevideo · 16:00 – 17:15 Berlin

The COVID-19 pandemic has made people behave differently. Suddenly, it was necessary to adhere to special distance and hygiene rules, to wear mouth-and-nose protection and to deal with insecurity, limited freedom of movement, and further restrictions and challenges in daily life. More than one year after the outbreak, the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina and the Brazilian Academy of Sciences organize this virtual panel to scientifically discuss how health-related human behavior has changed during the pandemic, which behavior will outlast this period, and to what extent health-related behavior might change after governmental restrictions have ended. This takes place with consideration of efforts by public and private actors to guide human behavior. The invited speakers are from Brazil, Germany, Uruguay, and the United States, and they will discuss this topic in an interdisciplinary manner. Represented disciplines are the following: cognitive science, health sciences, social sciences, and economics.

Speakers’ profiles

PROFESSOR DR. MARGARETH DALCOLMO
Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (FIOCRUZ), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Margareth Dalcolmo graduated in Medicine at the School of Medicine of the Santa Casa de Misericordia (Emescam, 1979), with a residency in Internal Medicine at the Rafael de Paula Souza Hospital (1981) and a specialization in Tuberculosis at the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz, 1982). She obtained her PhD from the Escola Paulista de Medicina, Federal University of São Paulo (2000). She is a clinical researcher, respiratory physician, and professor. As a senior physician and consultant, her role is basically to assist patients, teach and conduct clinical trials in humans. Her position at the Professor Hélio Fraga Reference Center (Fiocruz) provides her with the conditions to recruit and include patients in clinical trials. She has been participating in international clinical trials with recruitment of active tuberculosis (mainly MDR) patients (like TBTC – CDC tuberculosis Consortium) and Janssen phase II TB trial using Bedaquilline. Currently, she is conducting phase III Global TB Alliance for Tuberculosis, SIMPLIC TB; and BRACE Trial for BCG vaccine to COVID-19 in HCW.
PROFESSOR FERNANDO FILGUEIRA, PHD
United Nations Population Fund (Head of the Uruguay-Office), Montevideo, Uruguay

Fernando Filgueira is the Head of Office of the Uruguay Country Office of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), a position he also took from October 2010 to April 2013. Since then, he has supported and advised LACRO and other UNFPA country offices in the Latin-American and the Caribbean region. He has also worked on Social Protection, Gender Equality and Population studies for different UN Agencies at the country, regional and global level and has advised governments in the region on these areas.

He is also a professor of the Social Science Faculty at the Universidad de la República in Uruguay and acted as senior researcher at CIPPEC (Argentina) and CIRESU (Uruguay). He was Coordinator of the Program on Poverty and Social Exclusion at the Universidad Católica (Uruguay), Director of Policy Evaluation at the Office of Planning and Budget of the Presidency in Uruguay, Social Affairs Officer at ECLAC (Chile) and Vice-Minister of Education in Uruguay. He is also the co-editor of the Oxford Series for Latin America on Social Policy and Public Administration. He received his Ph.D. in sociology from Northwestern University and has written and published extensively on models of socioeconomic development, welfare regimes and social policy in Latin America.

PROFESSOR DR. RALPH HERTWIG
Center for Adaptive Rationality, Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin, Germany

Ralph Hertwig is the Director of the Center of Adaptive Rationality (ARC) at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development in Berlin. Before taking on his role as an MPI director in 2012, Hertwig was a professor for cognitive and decision sciences and later dean at the University of Basel, Psychology Department. Early in his career, he was a researcher at Columbia University, University of Chicago, and the MPI’s Center for Adaptive Behavior and Cognition. He has been awarded several prizes for his research and teaching. His research focuses on models of bounded rationality such as simple heuristics, on decisions from experience, and on deliberated ignorance.

PROFESSOR KATHERINE L. MILKMAN, PHD
Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, USA

Katy Milkman is the James G. Dinan Professor at The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, host of Charles Schwab’s popular behavioral economics podcast Choiceology, and the former president of the international Society for Judgment and Decision Making. She is the co-founder and co-director of the Behavior Change for Good Initiative, a research center with the mission of advancing the science of lasting behavior change. Her research explores ways that insights from economics and psychology can be harnessed to change consequential behaviors for good, such as savings, exercise, vaccination take-up and discrimination. She is the author of the new book, How to Change: The Science of Getting From Where You are to Where You Want to Be and has published dozens
of academic articles in leading social science journals such as Management Science, the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, and The Journal of Finance. She received her undergraduate degree from Princeton University (summa cum laude) in Operations Research and Financial Engineering and her Ph.D. from Harvard University's joint program in Computer Science and Business.

VIVIAN UPMANN - Moderator

Freelance Journalist

Vivian Upmann is a professionally trained TV-Journalist and freelance event moderator, www.vivianupmann.de. She is known for example from German national TV channels like n-tv or RTL aktuell. Vivian has extensive experience as an event presenter in diverse settings ranging from federal ministries, foundations to universities. Vivian has also worked at the German Press Council contributing to maintaining the reputation of the German press. Her main areas of interest are political, digital and scientific topics. Vivian graduated in German Studies, Psychology and Law. She divides her time between the Baltic Sea and Berlin.