

PRESENTATION

The last eighteen months have marked a critical point in our humanity. The worldwide Covid-19 pandemic has led us to profound questioning about the type of societies we have been constructing. Among other factors, this pandemic has highlighted the deep inequality that exists in different corners of the planet, and it has also exposed the systematic damage we are inflicting on the environment in which we live. Therefore, we speak of a political-health crisis that affects us as humanity.

The impacts on various sectors of the population are just beginning to be studied and understood. In particular, we focus on the contributions that the social and educational sciences are making to comprehend this phenomenon, its effects, and the opportunities that arise for the younger generations. Therefore, we called for submissions several months ago to present works that would account for research findings, essays, and other formats capturing ongoing developments and providing key insights into this critical context. With the selected works, we have compiled two special issues (56 and 57), which are being published in this spring of 2021 as a contribution to this reflective task.

In this issue of the magazine, we have organized the material into four sections. The first section presents works related to "Strategies for Confronting the Pandemic." From Argentina, Mariana Patricia Acevedo offers a set of theoretical, methodological, and political reflections on situated research as social intervention, emphasizing the strategies and access circuits that marginalized youth in Córdoba deploy in times of restrictions. From Mendoza, Argentina, Emiliana Segatore and María Victoria Seca provide results from research on the experiences of young women engaged in unpaid childcare work during this context, highlighting the intensification of gender inequalities during confinement. Bruno Colombari, Líbera Guzzi, and Lucila Kida analyze the effects of Covid-19 on young people in the province of Tierra del Fuego, Argentina, identifying educational, labor-related, health, and time-use consequences. Closing this section, the contribution of Minor Mora Salas and Gustavo Urbina Cortés examines the behavior of marginalized youth sectors in response to preventive measures implemented in Mexico City during the pandemic, showing that there is little difference between young people and adults in their response to these measures.

The second section addresses "Education in Pandemic Times" with two works from Chile. In the first one, Herman Pezo Hoces, Claudia Castilla García, Paulina Castillo, Yadira Palenzuela Fundora, Carolina Álvarez, Camila Araya, Yuliet Cruz Martínez, Pablo Martínez Castro, and Sebastián Escobar González present ongoing research that reflects on the challenges faced by the educational system in the context of the Chilean political and health crisis. The second work, by Carolina Álvarez Valdés and Leandro Sepúlveda Valenzuela, focuses on highly selective universities to analyze the complex effects that the pandemic has had on their academic experiences, involving various adjustments considering their socioeducational trajectories. Based on this, they suggest complementary policy initiatives in the new socioeducational scenario.

The third section deals with "Expressiveness on Social Media During Lockdown" and features a work from Chile by Sandra Iturrieta Olivares and Jonathan Franco Araya. They analyze memes as a means of expressing youth emotions, particularly those related to uncertainty, fear of the future,

and existential distress.

The fourth section, which concludes this issue, focuses on the "Labor World." It includes an article that examines the situation of youth employment in Chile as a crisis intertwined with the October social uprising and the Covid-19 pandemic. Paula Cristi Latife, Leonardo Alarcón Valdebenito, José Manzano Pavez, Carolina Martínez Yáñez, Catalina Gortaris Núñez, and Gonzalo Donoso Concha reflect on the pursuit of family independence, the meanings of work, and the intensification of domestic labor, especially for young women.

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