

Anthropological Theory

COVID-19 - EXTRA CREDIT- COVID-19, your experiences and observation, and anthropology

This is a discussion topic for your extra credits for the course (10 points) and a place for you to share your own experiences, observation and thoughts on COVID-19 and various situations, esp. socio-cultural ones - caused by this outbreak? Feel free to post anything. I would also like to discuss what is the role of anthropology and anthropologists in this situation?



COVID-19: Societal Division by Fear

Kennedy Robbins - Mar 31, 2020 12:39 PM

I have way too many thoughts on this pandemic, and not enough space to write it on. I work in a nursing home during one of the most fearful times we may experience in our lifetime. And the things I have seen, experienced, and aided with during the spread of a deadly disease has been nothing but hard. I consider myself blessed to still have a job when millions have lost their already, however it seems that every day gets harder. Just yesterday, I was with two different people who were sent to get tested for the virus. One has died already. The facility is on lockdown, no one can come in or out except for registered nurses or caregivers. Anyone who enters through the door is automatically screened and all residents are required to stay 6 feet apart at all times. I'm sure this is nothing new for anyone, but to witness it personally is incredibly sad. A couple who has been together for years tried to go for a walk outside but were separated and immediately quarantined for one having a high fever and coming in too close of contact. And those who refuse to leave their rooms do nothing but watch the news all day every day, which to me is the epitome of fearsome considering there is no bit of positive news on social networks. Constantly hearing of more deaths and new cases globally, and they continue to ask us questions as if giving the honest truth is easy for us. This is such a scary time. I don't mean to get sappy, but I figured I would share something other than the typical "no toilet paper anywhere" observations that we are all aware of. This is a time we will be telling our kids about one day, and a time where I'm sure many of us are terrified of losing a loved one through. I try so hard to remind people that it is important to be cautious, but not to live in fear. And there are signs of fear everywhere I look. Two caregivers have tested positive as well, and I expect the number will only increase. I spend morning till night caring for these people that I call family, and the effects of this disease really have taken a toll. Residents ask me daily "am I going to die because of this?" or "how come I can't see my family?" I hope no one else has experienced the things that I am daily, and I hope no one here has lost a loved one to this sickening disease. Everyone has already heard the scoop on social distancing, but I can tell you personally how tragic and traumatizing it is to witness victims of those who have not followed it. Stay safe everyone, and tell a family member you're thinking about them in a horrific time like this.