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*Alter*nation call for Papers 2020

**Public Policy Responses in the Time of Pandemic**

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The World Health Organisation defines a pandemic as the worldwide spread of a new disease. The first case of COVID-19 can be traced back to a diagnosis made on 17 November 2019 in Wuhan, China. Fast forward to 5 March 2020, the South African National Institute for Communicable Diseases confirmed that a suspected case of COVID-19 had tested positive (NICD 2020). By this time the disease had manifested in multiple countries globally, with exponential daily growth in numbers of infections and multiple deaths reported (Mail and Guardian 2020, Daily Maverick 2020). On 11 March 2020, merely six days after the first reported case in South Africa, the WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic.

Governments across the world have responded in various ways to COVID-19, by the introduction of policies aimed at responding to the challenges presented by the pandemic, and as a means of curbing the impact and spread of the disease. Some of these include calls for social distancing, lock downs, closing of schools and universities, cancellation of celebrations and all mass gatherings. Some of these have proven to be difficult to implement and sustain, where citizens are accustomed to personal freedom, whilst in some countries draconian mechanisms of population control have been introduced.

In addition to the control over the movement of people, governments have introduced policies to respond to the health services challenges brought about by the pandemic, while at the same time introducing safety nets for the poor and impoverished, the working poor and large and small businesses. Some governments have sought to protect their economy by the introduction of measures to boost the economy. The effects of the loss of income has become more visible in Italy where there has been an extended period of lock down, and numerous deaths, requiring a new set of responses by that government to respond to the emerging socio-economic circumstances.

There is no doubt that the COVID 19 pandemic has changed the way in which people live, and the ways in which they seek to survive in climates of poor economic growth. These effects must be considered in line with a growing recognition that increased global travel and integration, urbanization, changes in land use, and the ways in which the natural environment are abused will no doubt raise the potential of other pandemics after COVID 19 (Jones and others 2008; Morse 1995). The challenge for governments is to create an enabling environment to manage the current pandemic whilst ensuring good governance, and to set the foundation for effective and efficient response strategies for the longer term. The critical question is thus whether the current responses are sufficient, and to identify which case studies offer opportunity for learning. The aim of this edition is to identify the various mechanisms used by governments to respond to these challenges as a means of developing comparative case studies.

Themes to be considered include, among others,

- Public trust
- Leadership
- Local government
- Food security
- Health services
- Legal consequences
- Comparative case studies
- Socio-economic development
- Supply chain management

The overarching aim is to identify distinguished and acclaimed researchers, academics and scholars to develop pedagogical and epistemological orientations which will inform new curricula within a multidimensional and sectoral lens.

Please submit the proposed titles of your articles, as well as a brief abstract of between 250 - 400 words, to Dr Cheryl Mohamed Sayeed (Mohamed-Sayeedc@ukzn.ac.za)

**Submission dates:**

1. Abstract of 250 – 400 words 8 May 2020
2. A short bio of contributors by 8 May 2020
3. Title and Abstract acceptance notification: 18 May 2020
4. Full article due: 26 June 2020
5. Projected publication date September 2020

Please submit your abstract in the following format:

Author
Affiliation
Title
Theme
Abstract
Keywords

### *ALTER*NATION

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### ACADEMIC MERIT

Please note that the academic merit of the abstracts and articles will be the primary value in terms of which submissions are reviewed and considered.

As such, each article is expected to contribute to the <u>excellence and quality of research</u> published in *Alter*nation. Cf. http://alternation.ukzn.ac.za/archive.aspx

All submissions will be strictly reviewed and assessed according to <u>DHET protocols and requirements</u>.

*Alter*nation has over more than 25 years, become <u>a vital and essential transdisciplinary knowledge production resource</u> to researchers and students in both the Humanities and Sciences.

We want to sincerely thank you for making a constructive and contextually-relevant knowledge production contribution via *Alter*nation, during these challenging times of COVID-19.

## Guidelines for Contributors

Full author guidelines are available at: http://alternation.ukzn.ac.za/submissions.aspx