Notes on Covid-19 and the contradictions of capital: a call for papers

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In the September issue of *Dialectical Anthropology*, we propose to publish a series of observations on the Covid-19 pandemic. The editorial collective at *Dialectical Anthropology* seeks reflections on local experiences of the crisis in relation to the contradictions of capital as they are manifested regionally, nationally, and internationally. Explanations of the causes and consequences as well as strategies for management and mitigation of the pandemic and their effects on local populations call out for our uniquely Marxist/Political Economy/materialist approach. We are open to any efforts that shed light on, for example, the dilemmas faced by ordinary people in their efforts to get by in different places.

While the governing apparatuses of capitalism appear to have been caught off guard and completely unprepared for a global pandemic, they are always prepared to use any new crisis, economic downturn, war, epidemic, or natural/un-natural/semi-natural disaster to advance their interests and those of their capitalist paymasters. At the same time, we have seen an increase in social struggle in many parts of the world, both before and during the pandemic. We wish to ask what is happening on both sides of this divide in specific places across the planet. Where is this headed? How do responses to the pandemic impact on the balance of class forces around the globe? How are workers around the world who labor at the heights of modern industrial and agricultural production, as well as in low capital sectors, confronting a global “lockdown” that has affected huge and varied populations? That workers around the world have stopped working is no May Day expression of workers’ power, but has appeared largely as a top-down and capital-driven use of state power to address the global pandemic and a potentially disastrous crisis of accumulation that has accompanied it. What outcomes can we imagine as the crisis unfolds?

This is the core of our C-19 call for papers that will be published as Commentaries or Notes from the Field. The papers will be read and vetted by the editorial collective. Submissions can be informal, with or without references, impressionistic, analytical, polemical, point-of-view, working papers, provocations, diaries, or poetic engagements. In this way, we hope to make

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some larger sense of the world, class, labor and work in face of local and regional manifestations of Covid-19, and the contradictions of capital.

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