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The AGS Conference Team

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The Journal of International Relations, Peace and Development Studies 7th Edition Introduction

The AGS Conference Team

Issue Theme

Governments, economies, health systems and societies have been, and continue to be, significantly impacted by the Covid-19 Pandemic, the largest global crisis since the Second World War. As the world continues to combat the virus, the effects of the pandemic amplify existing and new systemic challenges within international relations, while formulating tools, methods and perspectives with which to carve a new path forward. In efforts to support governments on maneuvering the consequences of the pandemic, the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, launched the UN Response to Covid-19. The goal of the initiative is to address the socioeconomic, humanitarian and human rights aspects of the crisis, as well as proffer a favorable recovery process for all societies. This moment in history offers a unique lens through which to assess the comprehensive balance of risk, while simultaneously considering the range of opportunities which might be leveraged through the pandemic and its aftermath, with the aim of reconstruction, and building a more sustainable, equitable and prosperous world. The Post-Covid World will undoubtedly be a topic of discussion for years to come, not only in international relations, but within a myriad of disciplines throughout the world.

In an attempt to discuss the various impacts, consequences, and potential solutions of the Post-Covid World Dis/order, our 7th annual issue of The Journal of International Relations, Peace Studies & Development, present the following papers for their unique and valuable contribution to the broader discussion. Victoria-H. Bergström's *Shifting Geopolitics: Reimagining Globalization and Spatial Representation in the Post COVID-19 Era* analyze the utilization of maps and their impact on national policy and the reconception of borders during the pandemic. Lise Charles's *Understanding Costa Rica's relatively successful response to the pandemic: Competing Explanations* examines Costa Rica's relatively successful response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Sabah Hussain's *Intersectionality and impact of Covid19: Politics of the Private Sphere and Gender-based violence* uses an intersectionality framework to analyze the impact on Muslim women in India as a result of covid restrictions. Anna María Santiago, Courtney M. Jones, et al in *Making Ends Meet: Differences in Neighborhood Family Care Resources in Detroit's Ethnic-Racial Communities in the Post-COVID Era* looks at access to family care resources and its impact on "women's labor force participation rates" in Detroit, Michigan.

In addition to the theme-based worked listed above, we present three papers that provide innovative and critical political economic analyses in key areas. Aiden Warren and Alek Hillas's *'Xi Jinping Thought': Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems and Military Modernization with Chinese Characteristics* assess the modernization of the Chinese military with respect to Beijing's positions on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems. Matthew Rochat's *Primitive Accumulation and Multinational Corporations: The Evolution of Dispossession and Exploitation in the Rubber Industry* examines corporate exploitation in the rubber industry. Lastly, M'Ballou Yacine Sanogho's *Nestlé and the Right to Water* focuses on the impact of international treaties on Nestlé's policies with respects to the right to water.