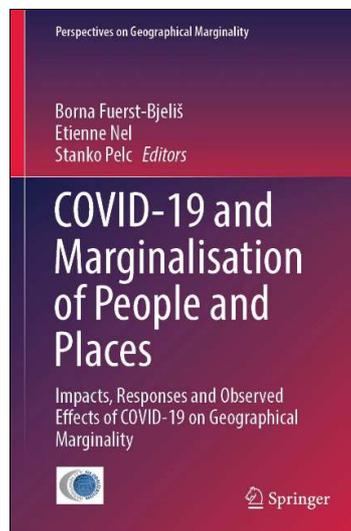


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BORNA, FUERST-BJELIŠ, ETIENNE, NEL, STANKO, PELC (Editors), 2022, *COVID-19 and Marginalisation of People and Places. Impacts, Responses and Observed Effects of COVID-19 on Geographical Marginality*, Springer, Cham, 238 p.



The present volume is part of the “Perspectives on Geographical Marginality” series, stemming from the International Geographical Union, “Commission on Globalization, Marginalization and Regional and Local Response”. It adds to the series a current and relevant topic in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its immediate and long-term implications.

Overlapping the specifics of this IGU commission, the volume offers a vast geographical picture of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. On the one hand, it presents a wide range of individual case studies, referring to countries with very different development trajectories: Switzerland (Chapter 4), Argentina (Chapter 5), Romania (Chapters 6 and 12), Malaysia

(Chapter 7), Mexico (Chapter 8), New Zealand (Chapter 10), Croatia (Chapter 11), Portugal (Chapter 13), Mozambique (Chapter 14), Vietnam (Chapter 15). On the other hand, four contributions deal with international comparisons: Chapter 3, centered on the cultural differentiation of responses to the COVID-19 pandemic between European countries, and chapters 2, 9 and 16 presenting various comparisons on a global scale. Moreover, the geographical scales approached in case studies are also diverse, ranging from local – neighbourhoods, communities or specific tourist destinations (Chapters 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14) and sub-national (Chapters 6, 12) to national approaches (Chapters 7, 15). Even if in some individual chapters the spatial/territorial approach could have been better articulated, the work as a whole has a deep geographical character.

The coverage of a wide range of effects of the pandemic is also remarkable. Thus, the two chapters that open and close the volume (2 and 16) present holistic approaches, discussing the effects of the pandemic on sustainable development at the international level, respectively drawing relevant conclusions and perspectives for the future, starting from the conclusions of the studies collected in the entire volume. The chapters included in the second part fall into themes subsumed into the social sphere. Chapter 3 explains the differences between European states' policy against COVID through the lens of the dominant cultural model in these states. Chapters 4 and 5 – emphasize the unequal effects of the pandemic on the quality of education and the related marginalization processes, through case studies from Switzerland and Argentina respectively. Chapter 7 captures the negative effects on some disadvantaged professional categories in Malaysia (migrant workers and materially deprived population), while chapter 6 (concerning civil society initiatives in Romania aimed at reducing the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic) and chapter 8 (concerning the impact and response of some communities of fishermen from Yucatan, Mexico) present optimistic perspectives, focused on the resilience of communities and the prevention/reduction of marginalization processes induced by the pandemic. Part 4 includes 5 chapters that address the economic impact on the tourism sector. Here, all chapters focus on the difficulties faced by peripheral, marginal tourism destinations, which, as argued in Chapter 9, are the most affected by the pandemic internationally. There is also no lack of approaches highlighting the opportunities that

the pandemic has opened for a reinvention of some peripheral tourist destinations (the case of Croatia, chapter 11 and the case of the city of Porto, chapter 13). Part 4 presents the effects of marginalization in an international geopolitical context, through two case studies that highlight intra-country development inequalities: Mozambique (Chapter 14) and Vietnam (Chapter 15).

Concerning the research design, the chapters also present great diversity. In some chapters, the discourse on the pandemic and marginalization is found in the introduction and conclusions, but it is not convincingly supported by results or a solid argumentation in the main body of the chapter. Also, some methodologies are presented briefly and some statements are not clearly argued from a scientific point of view. Despite these minor methodological shortcomings, the reflections offered in all chapters are pertinent and lead to interesting conclusions, with relevant policy implications both for reducing marginalization processes in general and for preparing the response to future unforeseen events. Moreover, the work can represent a good source of methodological inspiration, especially for young researchers; a wide range of research methods and tools are used in the same volume: descriptive statistics, indexes, interviews, systematic observations, content analysis, questionnaire – used separately or in different combinations that strengthen the scientific approach.

In conclusion, the volume is of maximum interest both to the academic audience and to different stakeholders in the various sectors that are covered, representing an extremely rich and diverse review of the complex and multiple effects of the pandemic on territories.

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