

## **Call for Book Chapter Proposals**

Proposals/ Full Chapter submission deadline: 30 April 2022

### **Book: Conceptualisation: Community Engagement, COVID 19 and Human and Social Sciences**

The Book is edited by

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### **Introduction**

The outbreak of corona virus at the end of 2019 resulted in a global shift regarding the governance of water resources, health and climate change mitigation and adaptation. At the global level institutions such as the United Nations, World Water Council, Global Water Partnerships and others, found new ways of strengthening river basin organisations, global partnerships and introduced new approaches to manage and govern water resources during the outbreak of the corona virus which affected more than 194 countries. Global gatherings such as World Water Forums, Conference of the Parties (COP) on climate change and others, continued under a new approach of virtual meetings. The focus on mitigation and adaptation to climate change continue to be part of the global agenda with emphasis on alterative and renewable energy sources such as solar home systems, solar water heaters, small hydropower, bio-digesters and others as part of strategies adopted to mitigate climate change. COVID 19 sharpened the need for climate justice, investment in alternative sources of energy and use of indigenous knowledge to communicate messages linking corona virus and climate change disasters facing the world at large. The United Nations World Water Development Report of 2020, put more emphasis on the linkages between human right to water, equity and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

At a local level, local authorities contend with service delivery, enhancing livelihoods, food security, whilst ensuring that local economic development is strengthened even more. Informal trade which is a feature in most Third World countries, became the face of socio economic challenges when most of these countries embarked on lockdown

due to the outbreak of the corona virus pandemic. This requires improvement in the management of natural resources whilst balancing that with survival strategies in most local spaces across the globe facing lockdown regulations as part of endeavours to combat the spread of the corona virus. The role of traditional leaders, faith based organisations, civic leaders and local authorities during and after the outbreak of the pandemic are some of the issues that social scientists are contending with. Institutions of higher learning across the globe are expected to adapt to new ways of saving the academic year by embarking on multimodal forms of teaching and learning, community engagement, as well as continuing to produce knowledge that is decolonial in nature. The social and human sciences are playing a leading role in efforts to decolonise higher education through research, community engagement, teaching and learning. The religious organisations such as churches, temples, synagogues and other faith based institutions are also contending with new approaches of worship during the advent of corona virus with associated restrictions on social and religious gatherings imposed by authorities to combat the spread of the pandemic. The significant changes in approaches of worshipping with reduced number of worshippers when lockdown restrictions are lifted, when most countries managed to disseminate corona virus vaccines to billions of front line workers and the population at large, decontamination of places of religion when members of these institutions pass away in numbers, dealing with death of members of various religious bodies, are some of the experiences of all religious institutions and faith based organisations across the globe. Services such as mentorship, coaching, emotional and social intelligence began to take prominence as most people are dealing with the devastating outcomes of COVID 19 within their immediate families and work spaces.

As many countries are rolling out vaccines, global solidarity between the developing and developed countries is essential within the multilateral bodies such as the World Health Organisation of the United Nations, G8, Non Aligned Movement, BRICS and other bodies. Conducting research during the outbreak of the pandemic continued as evidenced in the increase of global citation indexes, Google Scholar, EBSCO host and other citations in social sciences and other disciplines writing about this global pandemic. Students in most developing countries faced challenges such as access to data and dealing with learning without a normal classroom facilitated by academics on a face to face modes, but through various online platforms such as learning management systems, Zoom, Whats' App, Microsoft Teams and other online platforms.

As corona virus is often associated with health impacts, over and above socio-economic impacts, the role of indigenous healers in the treatment of COVID 19, the impact of the pandemic on early childhood development with emphasis on breast feeding and organ transplantation as most of the hospitals put more emphasis on treating patients affected by corona whilst not neglecting other pandemics such as HIV and Aids.

## **Objectives and Scope of the Book**

The aim of the book is to unpack the responses of social scientists and humanists on the challenges faced by societies during the advent of COVID 19 across the globe. The book is divided into 4 sections.

The first section unpacks community engagement initiatives of institutions of higher learning during the spread of the corona virus which limited contacts within the different constituents of the university communities. The chapters need to unpack the scholarship of community engagement, conceptualisation of the meaning and practise of community engagement and its applicability across the globe.

The second section of the book looks into controversies of dealing with social and physical distancing, burials of people who died as a result of corona virus related diseases, how institutions of higher learning adapt to the new modes of teaching, conducting research and embarking on community engagement activities within the constraints of lockdown regulations imposed in most countries across the globe. The management of water resources as part of initiatives to ensure that people wash hands with soap and sanitise regularly as a strategy to combat corona virus, promotion of alternative sources of energy to mitigate and adapt to climate change, realisation of water as a human right and equity issue, are some of the matters which required the attention of the global community, especially when corona virus affected all the continents of the world. The case studies on water resources management and realisation of water as a human right and a social good as well as various types of alternative energy sources to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change are also expected to be part of this section. In this section, case studies on indigenous knowledge systems, the role of local authorities in supporting informal traders, local economic development and local initiatives to enhance food security and sustainable livelihoods, mainstreaming gender equality, and protection of natural resources, are also welcome.

The third section is looking at decolonisation of institutions of higher education, research conducted on COVID 19, how religious organisations deal with corona virus and services such as coaching, mentorship, counselling of those affected and infected by corona virus. Another theme which constitute this section of the book is the challenges faced by institutions of higher learning especially students who are working on work integrated learning projects, conducting research and learning using multi modal approaches during the outbreak of corona virus. Multilateralism and institutional shifts across the globe are some of the thematic areas which form part of this section. In conclusion, case studies looking at breast feeding, organ donor transplants, traditional healing, the role of traditional leaders in promoting resilience in traditional communities are some of the themes expected in this section.

The fourth theme looks at the emergence of methodologies utilised to conduct research during the outbreak of corona virus. The emphasis is on social science approaches on knowledge production where focus group discussions, interviews, ethnography and other data collection strategies were utilised during the outbreak of corona virus which limited social interactions between researchers and study participants. This section looks at epistemologies and ontological approaches that social scientists adopted when conducting research during the lockdown.

## **Target Audience**

The book is targeting policy makers at a global, continental and national level, scholars and students within Social Sciences and Humanities disciplines.

## **Submission Procedure**

Kindly submit the chapter proposal and the chapters to the editors whose details are indicated below. Kindly adhere to the following deadlines:

17 February 2022 -1<sup>st</sup> proposal submission deadline

16 March 2022 -2<sup>nd</sup> proposal submission deadline

30 March 2022 -3<sup>rd</sup> and last call for proposal deadline

30 April 2022 -Full chapter submission

29 May 2022 -Review Results due to the editor

13 June 2022 -Review Results due to authors

10 July 2022- Revisions due from authors

24 August 2022- Final acceptance / rejection notification due to authors

7 September 2022- All final accepted materials due from authors

## **Publisher**

The publisher of the book is Africa Century Editions Press (ACE Press). All chapters submitted will undergo a double blind peer review process.

## **Editorial Advisory Board Members**

The editorial board will be made available on request

All submissions to be forwarded to the following editors

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