

## *Why Morality Can't Cure Covid-19: A View from Social Systems Theory*

**Hans-Georg Moeller** (University of Macau)

World society consists of multiple, functionally differentiated, social systems. Each system reacts in its own ways to the “irritation” by the pandemic—an event in the biological environment of society. A highly complex social dynamics evolves: Media communication of the pandemic effects virus politics which effects Corona legislation which effects a pandemic economy which effects the funding of academic research which effects the medical system in endless mutual feedback mechanisms. Involved in “cybernetic circles,” none of the systems is really in control of the pandemic. Morality intensifies communication in social systems: it helps politicians to “profile” themselves in opposition to others; it helps media to generate attention; it makes medical communication urgent; and legal measures more “just.” In all cases, moral distinctions amplify divisions and indicate conflicts. Accordingly, moralizing Covid-19 makes the coordination of social responses to Covid-19 even less possible.