
Ignorance and Pandemic: A case study of agnotology practices in El Salvador and Costa Rica responses to COVID19.

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Ignorance and Pandemic: A case study of agnotology practices in El Salvador and Costa Rica responses to COVID19.

Dissertation title and abstract

Ignorance and Pandemic: in between secrets, irrelevance and misinformation. A case study of El Salvador and Costa Rica responses to COVID19

- Sociology

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Chetan Bhatt

Has El Salvador and Costa Rica engaged in agnotology (deliberate action to promote ignorance) practices in the context of their responses to the Covid19 pandemic? If they have, in what ways such practices impact human rights?

To answer those questions, I will conduct a mixed method project utilising qualitative (critical content analysis, coding-thematic analysis using NVIVO) on the data gathered from social media, news databases (Factiva and others) and newspaper. All with the anthropologic perspective that can only be giving by being immersed in one of the countries, which is object of the study.

Data collection

- Data
 - The gathering of the data includes:
 - an unplanned trip to Costa Rica, as a indirect consequence of the pandemic, but that allowed to immerse into the country that is object of my research.
 - Data obtained from news databases such as Factiva and Latin News, which I have access thaks to LSE Library.
 - Online newspaper articles that I have found interesting during the period under research.
 - And by the compilation of social media (Facebook and Twitter) posts of the "verified"/authentic public accounts from: Minister of Health (both countries), Presidential house (both countries), The president public fan pages/twitter account (both countries).

Therefore, the dissertation has been carried out online, but to the fact I returned to Costa Rica, I have been able to immerse into the Country's reality and through the day-to-day interaction with different persons from diverse backgrounds (I have lived in San José and in Talamanca region), I heard from first-hand, how the governmental regulations affected them, which helped me form a better notion of how this pandemic impacts different people.

Further, it is important to say that as part of my research, I organized a webinar on the topic of "Human Rights and Covid19: in Central America".

- Sources
 - Primary: Anthropologic experience
 - Digital: collection of social media publications.
 - Databases: Factiva, Latin News
- Content
 - All publications from social media during the timeframe selected.
 - While the publications from databases are only those which are around matters of covid19.
- Coverage
 - Period: March 1, 2020-July 1,2020
- Cost
 - Subscription to Twittonomy: \$10 approx.
 - Suscription to Nvivo: \$80 approx. On this matter, I have to say that the LSE credentials there were given (in 3 occasions) did not worked.
- Availability
 - All data will be available as annexes of the final dissertation work.
 - Further, all data will be imported to the NVivo file, that is part of my export.
- Terms of Use

Informed consent and anonymisation of primary research data

Observation involves living the day to day life in two cities of Costa Rica: San José and Puerto Viejo (coastal rural self). Including a mandatory 14

day extreme quarantine of not leaving the house (March 26); and the rest of the days having a rigid quarantine that involves going out only once a day, for exercise or shopping. That routine changed significantly since June 14, that I moved to the coastal side; but since 2 weeks ago, I have started to implement it, as a consequence of the rise of covid19 cases.

The observation process is created in a way that allows me to immerse in the conditions of those with restricted movement conditions, set up by the governments. The observation processes also comprehends the interaction with locals, phone/video calls with friends and family where we have exchanged views of the situation.

Another primary data created, related to the investigation, was the webinar I coordinated with human rights defenders to address the critical human rights conditions that certain countries in Central America are going through.

The names of the persons will not be revealed and their interactions have just been helpful to the formation of my own criteria.

Research ethics

- Yes

Storage and back-up

The data is stored in three different settings: my hard drive, LSE data storage system and on my private email server.

Both dropbox and email server have a double step verification security token to access. While my computers hard drive is protected by BitDefender anti-virus software.

The data is considerable large, however, NVIVO software allows me to handle it.