

Summaries

Jean Segata, Caetano Sordi, Juliara Borges Segata & Bernardo Lewgoy: Unhealthy Ecologies, Precarious Labour, and the COVID-19 Pandemic in the Global Meat-Processing Industry in Southern Brazil. The high incidence of COVID-19 among workers in southern Brazilian slaughterhouses comprises a new facet in the long list of problems facing the global meat processing industry. Known problems include occupational accidents, repetitive strain injury syndrome, working with contaminated waste, and immunological and psychiatric disorders. In addition, the industry is characterised by precarious work, racism, speciesism, and the production of unhealthy ecologies that contribute to emerging pathogens and constitute a scenario of chronic destruction and exploitation that makes people, animals, and environments sick. In this article, we examine how the current situation, caused by the sinister activities of agribusiness, synthesizes central themes in the debate on the Anthropocene and reflects on new configurations in the devastating historical, social, sanitary, and ecological conditions that have affected Brazil since colonial times.

Alexander Brand & Hannah Sofie Schöninger: Vaccine Diplomacy as an Instance of Global Solidarity? Cooperation in the International Fight against the COVID-19 Pandemic between Selfishness and Equity. As an effect of global efforts to address the COVID-19 pandemic, notions of “vaccine diplomacy” have attained a newfound popularity in academic, policy, and media discourses. Focusing on this domain, this article assesses to what extent the practices of states are contributing to more vaccine equity, i.e. a fairer distribution of and access to vaccines. Such equity could be interpreted as resulting from strengthened solidarity. Vaccine diplomacy encompasses efforts of states, such as China, Russia, India, or the United States, as well as the European Union as a collective actor, in procuring vaccines on behalf of, and lending financial support for vaccination campaigns to, countries in need. Diplomatic initiatives aimed at the establishment of global mechanisms to fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, most notably COVAX, have also been subsumed under this rubric. This article discusses the different motivations behind vaccine diplomacy and their impact on global vaccine distribution so far. The analysis reveals that geopolitical, reputational, and commercial goals have had an ambiguous effect on vaccine equity. Moreover, with, at times rampant, vaccine nationalism, and the COVAX-initiative so far lagging behind its ambitions, global structural asymmetries have been reinforced rather than mitigated.

Ralph Marenga & Job Shipululo Amupanda: The Coronavirus and Social Justice in Namibia. Over the past 30 years, the successive regimes of the *South West Africa People's Organisation* (SWAPO) that have governed Namibia have always followed a neoliberal policy path. Co-existing with neoliberal elites are thousands of Namibians living in squalor in a country that has been declared one of the most unequal in the world. Over the years, social justice activists have never given up

the fight for a more just and equitable society, calling for better shelter, housing, economic equality, land, water and sanitation, free tertiary education, and income grants to cushion the poor. Yet, the successive SWAPO regimes have been indifferent. Interestingly, however, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the government has implemented many of the social justice policies that have consistently been rejected. This article explores the history of several social justice struggles over the years and demonstrates how these were implemented by government as a COVID-19 response in 2020. It thus argues that social justice is possible and the state has demonstrated its capacity in implementing these programmes. It then calls on social justice activists to use the COVID-19 currency to ensure that social justice becomes central in a post-COVID-19 economic order.