

Press release

COVID-19

An International Study on Social Relations in the Time of COVID-19

Lausanne, 16 April 2020 – Researchers in psychology launch the international study "Love in the Time of COVID" and look at our social relationships in these times of confinement. How are our social relationships - couple, family, friends - changing and can they help us cope in times of crisis? Who are the most vulnerable individuals? Dr. Anik Debrot, Lecturer at the National Centre of Competence in Research LIVES - *Overcoming Vulnerability: A Life Course Perspective* at the University of Lausanne, is part of the team for this longitudinal research, which aims to make comparisons between countries and cultures.

Already available in 8 languages (French, English, German, Italian, Spanish, Turkish, Dutch and Indonesian) and soon also in Thai and Chinese, the international study "Love in the Time of COVID" is launched by the University of Georgia (UGA) in the United States by prof. Richard Slatcher and looks at the uniqueness of this pandemic period. "Confinement has important psychological and relational effects. In order to help future generations to cope with similar situations, we have a duty to document. We have a duty to document," says Dr. Anik Debrot, Lecturer of Clinical Psychology and Psychopathology.

A longitudinal and international study

Respondents, who are volunteers, adults and anonymous, complete an [online questionnaire](#) every two weeks during and shortly after the COVID-19 pandemic, lasting 15-20 minutes. The researchers' goal is to gather as many responses from as many countries as possible in order to make national and cultural comparisons.

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For more information: [study website "Love in the Time of COVID"](#)

Since 2011, the National Centre of Competence in Research LIVES - Overcoming Vulnerability: A Life-Course Perspective studies the effects of the economy and society on the evolution of situations of vulnerability through longitudinal and comparative studies. It aims to gain a better understanding of the emergence and evolution of vulnerability and the means of overcoming it in order to foster the emergence of innovative socio-political measures. When its funding by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) ends in 2022, it will be replaced by the LIVES Centre, which will resume its research activities.