



COVID-19 Online LISTENING POST

Part 1: THE SHARING OF PREOCCUPATIONS & EXPERIENCES, PART 2: IDENTIFICATION OF MAJOR THEMES, PART 3: ANALYSIS & HYPOTHESIS FORMATION

Short report OPUS online Listening Post Utrecht (NL), July 8 2020

10 participants Zooming in from 7 countries (India, Ireland, Italy, The Netherlands, Serbia, United Kingdom, United States of America)

In the context of the Covid-pandemic members of societies are preoccupied with experiences about:

A lot of polarities.

The polarity of rebellion - retreating.

The diversity of protesting against institutions, government, for climate change and BLM. People feel they 'cannot breath'.

How to deal with the complexity is very hard. We have to step away from the safety of the institutions and we are institutionalized ourselves (internal institutionalization). The dismantling of routines and being busy with small tasks gives comfort being in a lockdown.

There seems to be a lot of fear. We are afraid because protesting can put you outside of the society we are afraid to lose our independency, safety, and fear for will we survive as human beings. Both the fear and desire for independence seem to be around. We are socially isolated if we stand out the group.

Black and white presented as polarities.

Blaming and shaming is experienced. Feelings of guilt. It may lead to thinking but when overwhelming it could stop every learning.

Institutions are both good and bad objects. Is there f.i. real concern in governments Covid-measures or are they there to oppress us? How do we know what reality is, there are several perspectives from institutions and governments about reality.

The growing of aggression above and below the surface. We love and despise our local governments.

Emotions about being cut. Brexit cutting Ireland of. But also: how is it possible that the president of the US wants to leave the WHO? And: being cut off from family systems in this lockdown.

In the midst of all these societal polarities (paranoid-schizoid, survival state-of-mind) people feel to be on their own (locked in), to have great responsibility in dealing with all of it themselves, make your own judgments: we have to make up our own minds. As if society is not providing a good enough container these days. Fellow civilians are not to be trusted completely; we watch one another.

convenors: Martha Mens and Martijn van der Spek
