#STAYHOME OR STAY HUNGRY? INEQUALITY IS THE GREATEST PANDEMIC LATIN AMERICA HAS EVER Faced

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Research Question

How does the COVID-19 pandemic affect different social classes in Brazil and Mexico?

Methodology and Methods

Exploratory case study
Narrative analysis
MAXQDA software

Before you start

• By August 2020, Brazil held the second while Mexico held the 6th position in the world regarding the total number of identified Coronavirus cases.
• Brazil and Mexico hold the second and third higher numbers of deaths in the world (WHO, 2020).
• Both Bolsonaro and AMLO, the Brazilian and Mexican presidents accordingly, have constantly downplayed the magnitude of the problem, which has been widely covered by the media.

The narratives

• The participants were asked to answer an open question: "How has been your experience dealing with the pandemic?"
• The narratives collected cover a wide variety of topics people focused on three main aspects: their feelings, financial life, and changes in their routine

Findings

• Narratives from the different social classes were clearly contrasting
• Fear was the prevailing feeling
• Alterations in the routines had wider implications for social and family lives
• Narratives evidenced the unequal access to economic social and cultural rights
• Aspects such as gender, age, occupation, were determinant
• Inequality at the international level became evident too

Wrapping up

Access to social and economic rights (before and during the pandemic)
Necropolitics and COVID-19: The role of the State

Sources

• Narratives from Brazilians and Mexicans that belong to different social classes (written letters & WhatsApp audios)
• Academic articles
• Newspapers

“The authorities of both Brazil and Mexico have not prevented the deadly conditions that the COVID-19 pandemic presented to spread among their populations, mainly the low social classes with limited access to social and economic rights. Social class becomes then the difference between life and death for those who have been historically and structurally in a disadvantaged position”