The COVID-19 pandemic has brought about unprecedented societal and economic changes, unsettling societies all over the world. Now, more than a year after COVID-19 spread rapidly across the globe, it has become increasingly clear that different communities, groups, regions, and countries experienced the pandemic and its repercussions drastically different. From divergencies in the adaptation of COVID-19 policies, to rising health inequalities and new technologies of surveillance, the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed established patterns of social differentiation and vulnerability. The social sciences and sociology have played an active role in enriching our understanding of how different individuals, organizations, and cultures are impacted differently by the same biological threat.

In Denmark, emergency fundings had been granted to numerous projects studying a wide range of issues of the pandemic crisis as it unfolded, providing an unique insight into its social dynamics. The virtual conference “Pandemic Societies: a comparative perspective” aims to facilitate dialogue and discussion about this rich body of research and its (preliminary) results. The focus will be on comparative aspects, between cases, groups or in an international context.
Program:

09:00 - 09:15
Welcome and Introduction - Anna Ilsøe

09:15 - 10:00
Keynote: The Pandemic Society’ and Mobilities in Times of CoVid-19 - Ole B. Jensen og Nikolaj Schultz*
Discussant: Pelle Korsbæk Sørensen

10:00 - 10:15
Break

10:15 - 11:30
Work and employment (Chair: Anna Ilsøe)
Social relations at the retail store in pandemic times - Claus D. Hansen
Virtual management during the corona-crisis - Steen E. Navrbjerg
The trying experience of unemployment during the Covid-19 crisis in Denmark - Magnus Paulsen Hansen and Sabina Pultz
Nordic COVID19 relief packages – when inclusive measures fragment - Trine P. Larsen

Welfare and civil society (Chair: Barbara Fersch)
Coping with COVID-19 in Nordic Municipal Eldercare - Morten Balle Hansen
Voluntary help in Covid-19: The role of online communities and the biased gender distribution of care work - Hjalmar Bang Carlsen and Jonas Toubøl
School reopenings and parental well-being during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic - Jan Paul Heisig et.al.
Trusting, prioritising, or resisting: How parents navigated health risks during the first reopening of schools in the COVID-19 pandemic in Denmark - Barbara Fersch

11:45 - 13:00
Everyday life and behaviour (Chair: Pelle Korsbæk Sørensen)
How certain can we draw conclusions? Comparing responses in COVID-19 surveys between countries as well as between repeated cross-sectional and panel studies - Ingo Zettler
The power of the mask: how data predictions became tools of power and Danes reacted during the COVID-19 pandemic - Klaus Hoeyer and Sofie a Rogvi
The Pandemic city- Mikkel Bille and Mikkel Thelle
Well-being and crisis during the Covid-19 crisis in Denmark - Peter B. Andersen

Politics and the public sphere (Chair: Søren Lund Frandsen)
The Dynamics of Political Discourse and Attention during the COVID-19 outbreak - Anders Blok and Thyge Enggaard
How can the Covid19-crisis strengthen the green transition in Denmark? A survey of the Danish cultural middle class - Stefan Gaarsmand Jacobsen and Frederik Møller Henriksen
Plans in Action: Dominant Ideas and Expert Perceptions of Pandemic Preparedness in Denmark, Norway and Sweden - Jakob Laage-Thomsen and Søren Lund Frandsen

*It will be possible to purchase the book “Det epidemiske samfund” with 25% discount after the conference. Sign up to get the link.