



Foucauldian perspectives on Covid-19 and their geographical relevance

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The Covid-19 pandemic affected not just health, the quality of life or the health care system – it had complex effects on the wider political, economic and social processes as well. Power relations and mechanisms have outstanding significance in this regard: these are interrelated with the perception and management of the pandemic – and with the spatial differences of them. The paper aims to present a social theory framework in order to gain a better understanding of these issues. The analysis uses the Foucauldian concepts of biopolitics and governmentality as starting points to understand how various forms of power were manifested and shaped throughout the pandemic. Furthermore, through a multiscale approach we also analyse the governmental measures and interpret them through the above mentioned concepts, presenting how power was retained and used. The reframing of responses of decision-makers to the pandemic and highlighting the spatial aspects of power and its use during Covid-19 emphasise the need for theoretical approaches that can contribute to a critical understanding of crises and their effects. In addition, the analysis also demonstrates the necessity of social theories in geographical research and that space, scale and place all have outstanding relevance in social processes.