



## CHARISMA UNIVERSITY Student Affairs Newsletter

Spring | 2020

# OFFICE OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

### Learning during a pandemic

Covid-19 has disrupted our lives and demands us to adjust to new situations. Here are some tips for the online student:

Keep lines of communication open about this change

Maintain a foundation – enough sleep, good hygiene & nutrition, self-care & screen-time breaks

Reach out for support if you need it

Stay connected and informed

### STUDENT NEWS

Charisma has appointed a new Executive Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Dana-Marie Ramjit. Read more about Dr. Ramjit on our website.

Charisma has added to its Library, a COVID-19 information portal powered by EBSCO. This portal provides the latest information on this pandemic around the world.

Student Affairs has launched a COVID-19 Taskforce which provides students with relevant information on the pandemic and counselling services. Contact Student Affairs for more information. You can receive counselling @ [counselling@charisma.edu.eu](mailto:counselling@charisma.edu.eu)



*Did you know that Charisma University is the only university in the Caribbean that is 100% online, serves the globe and is accredited by ACBSP & ACQUIN?*



## ADDRESSING COVID-19

● Turbulence in a COVID-19 world by *Dana-Marie Ramjit, PhD*

COVID-19 brings us to the reality of the turbulent world we live in. Turbulence reflects an environment in which events are variable, inconsistent, unexpected, and unpredictable. Pandemics, like many other global challenges cannot be addressed by states alone but require cooperation between state and nonstate actors. Here are some realities worth considering.

### **Globalization**

First, COVID-19 has recalled the importance of globalization: what was once local is now global. The contemporary political environment is one of global interdependence – we have seen the lines between global and local being blurred during this pandemic

What does this mean? With the erosion of distance, people are torn between what they know and what they are now encountering. Ideologies and identities are being abandoned - traditional structures are losing their influence. The economic world is superconnected and ultrafast.

### **Surge in Technology**

Second, COVID-19 has already created a surge in technology which will further transform our society. People will be more equipped with the information and skills needed to make politically relevant judgements. Individual independence results in a loss of state sovereignty as citizens' loyalties disappear. This leaves many gaps in governance waiting to be filled by criminal organizations vying for authority

We live in an era of bureaucratic disarray and decisional paralysis. The state is no longer influential, people are looking for alternatives.

### **Change**

Third, change is continual, intense, transformative, and dramatic. We are witnessing the reduced capability of states to produce acceptable solutions to this problem. Governments are losing control over their citizenry. Change is occurring with the weakening of the state and the strengthening of subsystems as decentralization is replacing centralization.

In this dialectic, the state is but one focus of identity and loyalty, and as new polities emerge, is becoming illegitimate and alienated. Collaboration with non-state actors is essential.

*Are you a Charisma student doing something important for your community? We want to hear about it. You can also send us your article (350-400 words) to be published in our newsletter. We would love to hear from you.*

*TACKLING THE PANDEMIC AT CHARISMA*



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