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## Editorial

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It has been 18 months since we first heard of a new coronavirus outbreak identified in Wuhan, China. Migration Letters was among the first academic journals opening pages for discussions and analyses of the pandemic and its relevance to our field of study.<sup>2</sup> This pandemic, like many other crises, has changed -and continue to change- our lives substantially. Dedicating more resources, and in our case, more pages and effort to continue the scholarly debate on COVID-19 is imperative. For many of us, this is not just for the metric appeal of publishing research on a novel topic but, more importantly, for being genuinely interested in understanding and offering informed advice to the public and policy makers in such a difficult time. Since early 2020, we have received dozens of submissions dealing with the pandemic and migration. About 15 of these have been published in the last six issues. We include several more in the current issue and will continue to encourage and foster scholarly exchange on COVID-19 and migration. We encourage and invite colleagues to submit their work on the pandemic and migration nexus and progress this debate because it simply means massive changes in all domains of life with effects on human mobility.

The pandemic did not only change the focus of journals and what we promote as editors, but it has a much deeper and wider impact on human mobility and relevant processes. It is very clear that travelling across the world is ever more difficult and only expected to get harder due to restrictions, varying measures and controls. At the same time, it has become a very expensive activity. Airlines and related industries took a big hit and some already collapsed while others are expected to recoup their losses by raising prices. Excessive controls and restrictions such as compulsory tests, masks, vaccination, and weeks-long quarantines after arrivals are adding up to the cost and making international -and national in some cases- travel a luxury.

This is likely to cause an increase in irregular mobility because the root causes of migration did not disappear but even deepened further, and many would resort to irregular means and ways to escape and change their fortunes. The class selectivity of migration is likely to be boldened in this climate.

This was already expressed in rapid development of what I like to call a “citizenship market” in recent decades. Golden, platinum and whatever else classes of residence permits, visas and

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<sup>2</sup> See: Sirkeci, I., & Yucesahin, M. M. (2020). Coronavirus and migration: Analysis of human mobility and the spread of COVID-19. *Migration Letters*, 17(2), 379-398. <https://doi.org/10.33182/ml.v17i2.935>. Also see: Cohen, J. H. (2021) “Editorial: The social dynamics of remittances and the pandemic”, *Remittances Review*, 6(1), pp. 1–2. doi: 10.33182/rr.v6i1.1571; Sirkeci, I. (2020) “Editorial: Remittances during the Covid-19 Pandemic”, *Remittances Review*, 5(1), pp. 1–2. doi: 10.33182/rr.v5i1.950; Baghdasaryan, L., & Sirkeci, I. (2020). Coronavirus Pandemic and Disruptive Impact on Marketing and Consumers. *Transnational Marketing Journal*, 8(2), 133–134. <https://doi.org/10.33182/tmj.v8i2.1180>.



citizenships had already made the distinction between the “haves” and “have nots”.<sup>3</sup> We should also note that the pandemic may have reversed the advance of global citizenship in favour of nation-states. Decisions on varying travel restrictions and allied measures are taken in an emergency fashion by national governments, and despite calls, there is not much action or intention towards transnational governance of the pandemic. United Kingdom’s withdrawal from the European Union may have an amplified effect on further progress of nation states at the expense of regional unions. The pandemic simply gives a very good excuse to exercise “national” powers which may become permanent.

A final note is that The Migration Conference, the ninth gathering in the series, took place in early July and saw about 500 researchers from around the world presenting their findings. At *Migration Letters* we are proud to be the organiser of this truly global conference and we hope next year, we will be able to meet once again and continue our face-to-face exchanges as well as fun at coffee breaks as it used to be.

I would also like to thank all our authors and reviewers for their contributions. Peer reviewing is a critical institution and or colleagues’ voluntary contribution in this process is priceless.

We do hope you will find articles in this issue intriguing and useful.

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<sup>3</sup> See: Utku, D. E., & Sirkeci, I. (2020). Ethics of commodified (golden) citizenship. *Journal of Economy Culture and Society*, (62), 365-380. <https://doi.org/10.26650/JECS2020-0065>

