

# QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

## COVID-19 AND CULTURE

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#### Abstract

The COVID-19 outbreak has caused an unprecedented global crisis. As the pandemic progresses, a wide variation can be seen in its spread and mortality – both spatially and temporally. The United States has been particularly hard hit by the pandemic. However, compliance with non-pharmaceutical interventions such as the public use of face masks and staying-at-home orders have been difficult to implement and have become a politically and socially contentious issue across the country. This raises the question of why have some regions responded better to the pandemic than others? This essay hypothesizes that the disparity in responsiveness in different regions can be attributed to the effect of Individualism. The paper aims to examine the role of the individualism-collectivism dichotomy in explaining the variation in the spread of the COVID-19 infection across United States counties.

#### Proceedings

Duration	Session
5 mins	Chair Welcome & Introduction of Panel
30-45mins	Presentation by Student
15 mins	Q&A (by audience – faculty / students)
Break	Audience to leave the meeting
30 mins	Q&A by Panel
15 mins	Chairperson to ask candidate to leave the meeting Private Panel Discussion and Decision on the Qualifying Examination
15 mins	Candidate invited back by Chairperson Feedback and Outcome of Qualifying Examination

Tuesday  
22 Sep 2020

1130 am

Venue:  
TEAMS Meeting

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WELCOME!

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