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Chain Reaction: Disasters, Social inequalities, and Bioethics

Disasters and Crises are not the same, although they share some similarities. While first are almost unpredictable, sudden, and have their own time frame, crises are more structured issues that may be or tend to become ongoing.

A latent social concern that causes cumulative damage is the intertwining of the terms of crisis and disaster in everyday, public, and scientific speech, which started to spread globally simultaneously with spread of the SARS-CoV2 virus. Such an epistemological inversion of the pandemic is just one of the causes for the chain reaction which provokes accepting new realities which comprehend disaster as omnipresent and constant.

After the virus' outbreak, the world aimed at normalizing the everyday life, or returning to the pre-pandemic state.

However, the general aspiration of returning to normal, which developed during the pandemic, could in fact be a slow disaster, i.e. the pandemic aftermath, as it may involve returning to everyday discrimination, racism, and social and health inequalities. The general wish would, thus, in fact belong to the privileged, rather than marginalized and vulnerable groups.

This inverse nostalgia triggers one of the fundamental questions in Bioethics. What is the primary concern of turning the miserable survival of the most endangered, marginalized, and discriminated groups into something acceptable?

Alternatively, how to prevent firstly the epistemological reductionism and inversions during the pandemics and, secondly, to prevent bioethics from falling into the trap of turning into an omniscient and contingent discipline with aspirations to become a worldview.

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