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## Global Dialogue Lecture Series

### The COVID Blues: Solitude and its Consequences

[Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 1 pm EST](#)

Lockdowns, social distancing, travel restrictions... It is unsurprising that measures to contain and reduce the spread of COVID-19 infection have affected social interactions, bred new anxieties and limited human contact. There's only so much that video calls can make up for. How have societies and individuals suffered this year? How has solitude and suspicion changed us individually and collectively? What may be the long-term consequences on our wellness and mental health? Let's discuss.

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**Thomas Barnay** is a Full Professor in Economics at Université Paris-Est Créteil (France). Since 2018, he has led the only economic research unit (ERUDITE - Equipe de Recherche sur l'Utilisation des Données Individuelles en lien avec la Théorie Economique) in Paris-Est area, which is composed by about 60 researchers. He has supervised research contracts and many Ph.D. students. In addition, Thomas has created and led two Masters Programs in Health Management (2009-2011) (Apprenticeship training) and in Health Economics (2011-2018). As a researcher, he is expert in following topics: Health and the Labor Market, the ageing population and access to care with a focus on public health policy. He currently leads the Health Economics and Public Health Pillar of LIFE (Life trajectories and health Vulnerability) Graduate School after obtaining a prestigious grant from the Research Ministry. Finally, he will be a Harkness Fellow in Health Care Policy and Practice of the Commonwealth Fund at Harvard University, Harvard Medical School, Boston, USA during the 2021-2022 academic year.

**Amy Kleine** holds a Master's in Counseling Psychology from Seton Hall University. She is a certified mental health counselor in Italy through the Assocounseling association at the level of Supervisor Counselor. Currently, Amy works at Syracuse University in Florence as the Assistant Director for Health and Wellness. Along with her work at Syracuse, she has taught courses on Carl Rogers and counseling skills at the professional counseling school Komide' in Pesaro, Italy and has supervised counseling interns at the school. She is a long-standing member of the American Psychological Association, the American Counseling Association, the American College Counseling Association and has had a private practice seeing both American and Italian clients. Through her extensive experience working with American college students and with Italian counselors, she has developed an increasingly humanistic theoretical approach towards the expression of pain, of trying to make sense of life and most recently, due to the COVID-19 outbreak, has studied for and obtained numerous certificates in stress reduction and coping during this pandemic.