ENDURE: Inequalities, Community Resilience and New Governance Modalities in a Post-Pandemic World

The title of this project, "Endure" is inspired from the Japanese proverb "nana korobi ya oki", which translates to "seven times down, eight times up", pointing out the inner strength and resilience of communities in the aftermath of adversities. This project aims to capture the notion of community resilience (and resistance) which has historically been one of the main drivers of mobilisation and societal transformation. Adversities - either man-made or natural - exacerbate already existing vulnerabilities and reproduce new forms of social inequalities; but they also create the conditions for change. With ENDURE, we aim at studying this duality which has manifested itself evidently during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and provide a novel understanding for the new forms of inequalities and community responses. It is against this background that ENDURE aims to present a new perspective for recovery and renewal that is different from the mainstream top-down approaches which have been represented as the ultimate truth.

This research combines cutting-edge methodologies developed by the team members drawing on historical, sociological, political science, media studies and cultural research **to examine how state-led (de)mobilisation impacts on the drivers of inequality, in order to assess the prospects for greater post-pandemic equity**. ENDURE will develop comparative, transatlantic perspectives on the uneven responses to the Covid-19 crisis and how this has impacted on inequality. Our goal is to examine:

1. How did local, national and global governance actors address the challenge of crisis and implement more or less effective disaster governance?

2. How are groups differentially (de-)mobilized and in-/excluded during and in the wake of Covid-19 and related crises according to societal inequalities and individual vulnerabilities?

3. How did the pandemic affect critical public attitudes on inequity, (il-)liberal values and societal resilience levels, laying the groundwork for recovery or social stress?

4. How, through social media, did communication of the pandemic generate (mis)information flows and networks as an effective basis for policies under the pandemic, and how did popular response form and generate networks shaped by solidarity and affection, or distrust and hate, to mobilize resistance strategies? How can they promote healing and reparation after the pandemic or challenge pandemic recovery?

5. How have societies transformed as a result of the pandemic; what resilience-scapes emerged and how can we ensure their sustainability?

Our goal is to base social, technical and policy innovations for practitioners on a rigorous platform of academic evidence, drawing from experiences that cut across transatlantic national cultures. We will conduct in-depth case studies of the coping strategies of groups most affected by the reconfiguration of inequalities. ENDURE will conduct research in Brazil, Germany, Colombia, UK, Canada, Finland, US, Croatia, Poland, Ukraine, Venezuela and Turkey.

The objectives are allied around three modes: a deconstructive, an interventionist, and a synthesizing mode. In the **deconstructive mode** the project will analyse governance responses and its impact on inequalities in 12 different countries; study public attitudes and resilience, the role/use of social media in the wake of crisis. The project's research and impact aims are interwoven, which links the deconstructive mode with the **interventionist mode** of the project, explained in its dissemination plan. Here, we aim at influencing and co-designing (via ComRes labs) the recovery plans at different levels to contribute to the reshaping of perceptions, opinions, attitudes, and behaviours in and around community resilience. The **third interdisciplinary and synthesizing mode** covers: Knowledge synthesis, where we aim at contributing to the scholarly debate on resilience and study the dynamics of ongoing transformations from a comparative and interdisciplinary perspective.