

A timely questionnaire

Name: Nicolas Estrada
Profession: Jeweler
Age: 47
Place: Barcelona
Date: 28 April 2020



Since the end of February 2020, one topic – the coronavirus or COVID-19 – has kept people around the world in check. There is hardly anyone who is not affected by it. People are confronted with drastic measures apparently designed to protect their health. But as these measures are implemented questions arise that go further, for us personally and the world. The situation calls for critical reflections on who we are, what values we consider important and what kind of society we want to live in. The Philosophicum therefore is asking people from different countries to briefly pause and think about the current time, themselves and their society.

You will find the new answers published at regular intervals on our website www.philosophicum.ch.

Participants can answer anonymously should they wish and are invited to add a photo of the view from their window.

1 What has been the biggest change for you lately?

Staying at home, restrictions on mobility, permanent uncertainty

2 What are you thinking about these days?

Everything, sometimes I think this kind of confinement is necessary, some other time that it is too extreme. Sometimes I get very sad, another time desperate, then I feel very happy because I get sun on my terrace from 1 to 2pm. Surreal, feels like a bad dream.

3 What has changed in your everyday life due to the measures relating to the coronavirus pandemic?

Everything, this is a completely new routine. I feel that the city is quiet, most of the times empty. Being forced to stay at home, this is completely new for me.

4 Could the indirect consequences of the coronavirus pandemic have a larger impact on your country than its direct consequences?

Totally, this is going to be worse than chemotherapy for a cancer patient. Things will never be the same again. We will interact with each other in a very different way.

5 Are there any changes in your life caused by the coronavirus pandemic that you wouldn't want to dispense with anymore?

Forced reclusion, uncertainty

6 Which changes do you hope will soon disappear from your life?

Having to stay at home and the fear of the outcome

7 Have you gained any new insights about yourself, your environment or society due to the coronavirus crisis?

I don't know, this is all too weird and surreal

8 What does «being human» mean to you?

No idea

9 In your view, what could be the greatest stupidity of humanity?

Electing the kind of leaders we have right now

10 What are your feelings and thoughts about the future in 30 years?

No idea, I don't even know how things are going to be a week from today