

COVID-19: Mass and individual psychology and psychopathology

Sam Vaknin^{1,2}

¹Southern Federal University, Russia

²Centre for International Advanced and Professional Studies (CIAPS), Nigeria

Abstract

Latest by the authoritative science journal *New Scientist*: COVID-19 (Coronavirus) kills 0.7-1% of those infected. 99% fully recover. 227,000 people had died so far, the majority of them were above age 50 and with pre-existing conditions (such as heart disease, obesity, smoking-related complications, or diabetes). The flu decimated 650,000 people worldwide last year, according to the CDC. The measures adopted by governments, communities, and individuals the world over are far more dangerous and detrimental than this or any other virus can ever be. This mass delusion, psychosis, hysteria, or panic is a first. The only comparable reaction to a pandemic happened in the 14th century with the bubonic plague (Black Death). The Spanish flu killed 50-100,000,000 worldwide. AIDS infected 45,000,000 and millions perished. Swine flu infected 61 million in the USA alone and killed 600,000 globally. SARS (2002-4) had a case fatality rate 10 times higher than COVID-19. There was no hint of panic or hysterical self-isolation. So, what gives? Why now? The answer is an effluent confluence of: (1) Ignorance functional illiteracy is at an all-time high and the education system had crumbled. (2) Social media fake news, rank nonsense, and conspiracy theories are the only pseudo-intellectual diet of most people. (3) Distrust of authority people distrust the government, experts, doctors, pharmaceutical companies, labs, universities, politicians, and the media. Instead, they rely on uninformed word of mouth, charlatans, and con-artists whose trashy wares are purveyed on YouTube and other such online unmitigated garbage dumps. For example: washing hands is good - most masks increase the risk of contracting the virus! (4) Narcissism Infatuation with one's self leads to extreme risk aversion and inordinate measures of pampering, self-medication, and self-protection. People consider their cosmically significant and unprecedentedly unique and treasured lives to be worthy of the utmost efforts at preservation.

Biography:

Sam Vaknin is a visiting professor of Psychology, Southern Federal University, Rostov-on-Don, Russia and professor of Finance and Psychology in CIAPS (Centre for International Advanced and Professional Studies). He is the author of "*Malignant Self-love: Narcissism Revisited*" and other books about personality disorders. His work is cited in hundreds of books and dozens of academic papers. He spent the six years developing a treatment modality for Narcissistic Personality Disorder (NPD).



Speaker Publications:

1. "A Critique of Piketty's 'Capital in the Twenty-first Century'; © 2014 Copyright Narcissus Publications/2014/ <http://samvak.tripod.com/piketty.pdf>
2. "Cold therapy for narcissistic personality disorder and depression"; [J Child Adolesc Behav/ DOI: 10.4172/2375-4494-C1-005/](https://doi.org/10.4172/2375-4494-C1-005) 2018
3. "Managing Investment Portfolios in States of Uncertainty", Limon Publishers, Tel-Aviv, 1988
4. "The Gambling Industry", Limon Publishers, Tel-Aviv, 1990
5. "Requesting My Loved One: Short Stories", Miskal-Yedioth Aharonot, Tel-Aviv, 1997
6. "The Suffering of Being Kafka" (electronic book of Hebrew and English Short Fiction), Prague, 1998-2004
7. "The Macedonian Economy at a Crossroads – On the Way to a Healthier Economy" (dialogues with Nikola Gruevski), Skopje, 1998

[World Congress on Psychiatry and Psychology,](#)

August 17-18, 2020

Abstract Citation:

Sam Vaknin, COVID-19: Mass and individual psychology and psychopathology, [World Congress on Psychiatry and Psychology](#), August 17-18, 2020, Webinar

(<https://psychiatry.psychiatryconferences.com/>)

