

Maia Kiladze and Vladimer Luarsabishvili

The Legitimization of Violence

**Individual, Crowd, and Authority during
the Covid-19 Pandemic**



PETER LANG
PROMPT

This book examines the Covid-19 pandemic from a social, cultural and philosophical perspective. In a unique and innovative approach, it addresses its subject by recounting the authors' thoughts during the two long years of the pandemic, from 2020 to 2022. A pandemic reveals numerous tensions in society: forces that remain hidden during prosperous times, such as fear, violence, or the devaluation of human rights, emerge as significant factors during a social crisis. A pandemic is, therefore, useful as a phenomenon for studying human weaknesses and for evaluating the development of humanitarian crises when few people care about appearances, and there is little to hide because life itself is in the balance.

This book will be of interest to students, researchers, and scholars of biomedical and social sciences, as well as those working in the fields of public health and political philosophy.

Maia Kiladze is an Associate Professor in the School of Science and Technology at the University of Georgia. She earned a Ph.D. in Life Sciences from Ilia State University (Tbilisi, Georgia) and has worked at the Department of Experimental Neurophysiology at the University Clinic of Bonn (Germany).

Vladimer Luarsabishvili is a Professor of School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Caucasus University, Tbilisi, Georgia, and a visiting professor at the University of the Frontier, Temuco, Chile. He received a Ph.D. in Literary Theory and Comparative Literature from Madrid Autonomous University, Spain, and went onto postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland. His recent publications include *Ideas and Methodologies in Historical Research* (2022), *Rethinking Mamardashvili: Philosophical Perspectives, Analytical Insights* (2022), *Teoría de la interideidad. Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer y Miguel de Unamuno* (2022), and *Retórica Cultural: Metáfora, Contexto, Traducción. Las Voces de Rubén Darío, Miguel de Unamuno, Gabriel Aresti, Kirmen Uribe y Harkaitz Cano* (2024).

ADVANCE PRAISE FOR
The Legitimization of Violence

“In exceptional circumstances (and the Covid-19 pandemic certainly was such an exceptional circumstance) many of the little balances and equilibria of social life are broken. One can then see how fragile the ethical norms that supposedly hold up our societies are, and on the other hand the fears and violence that are hidden in normal circumstances emerge into the light. That is the theme of this book, as controversial as it is interesting.”

—Prof. Dr. Gerardo López Sastre
Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha, Spain

“The experiences from the Covid-19 pandemic have shown how seriously the freedoms and fundamental rights of individuals are at risk when governments cannot resist the temptation to respond to a health crisis with repressive measures that defy ethical and social norms previously accepted as immutable. The authors of this book express their deep concern about the increasing drift towards totalitarianism, even in democratic societies, under the pressure of mass panic fueled by politics and the media.”

—Prof. Dr. Marco Kunz
Université de Lausanne, Switzerland

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This publication has been peer reviewed.

Dedicated to the memory of the victims of the Covid-19
pandemic