

INTRODUCTION

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Maintaining an academically grounded journal able to provide readers with extensive insight into all different areas of economics and the social sciences at large is an extraordinary challenge in the time of the Covid-19 pandemic. Indeed, we wish to publish academic articles in line with our aims and scope. However, we also intend to host the controversial debate concerning the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and society's prospects in its aftermath, as we see this matter as an unavoidable responsibility. For this reason, in the current issue and the 2021-2022 issues, we present articles that stimulate the discussion on various aspects of the pandemic's impacts. Following our vision, the approach will be interdisciplinary as the pandemic involves economic, social, medical, legal, and political issues that cannot be analysed using a simplified approach.

The stimulating contribution by Zamagni follows this approach and falls within the framework depicted by Pope Francis in his encyclical letter "*Fratelli Tutti*". In particular, his words describing how "*we are a global community, all in the same boat, where one person's problems are the problems of all*" and that the freedom of the market is not sufficient to keep everything secure find clear illustrations in Zamagni's arguments. The concluding remarks are still open-ended, and we hope to add to this discussion with future contributions by scholars from different disciplines. However, it is worth highlighting his reference to the need for the vaccine to become a global common good and how this has failed to materialize.

The paper by Arbia follows a different perspective in that it presents a technical analysis concerning the use of epidemiological models. This approach is highly relevant as it is more important than ever for epidemiologists and economists to cooperate in order to improve the response to the Covid-19 pandemic and, when possible, predict its evolution and effects. As pointed out in recent academic discussions, economists and epidemiologists cannot work alone anymore. Instead, they should combine the two disciplines' strengths to tackle the problems caused by the pandemic.

The work by Leonardi summarises the steps that have enabled the European Commission to take the crucial decision of introducing a truly European support to the unemployed during the pandemic (*Support to mitigate Unemployment Risks in*

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an Emergency (SURE)). This program is an essential first step in building a more general European unemployment insurance scheme that can support general labor incomes, for both employees and the self-employed, and all workers with a low degree of protection legislation.

As previously mentioned, the *Rivista internazionale di scienze sociali (Research in social sciences)*, will focus on the most relevant issues concerning the pandemic's policy implications, and in particular, the European response. Thus, the following number will deal with Italy's regional divide, leaving recovery plan analyses to later issues.