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#### **Authors**

Callizo-Romero, Carmen

Casasanto, Daniel

Chahboun, Sobh

et al.

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# **Deus ex Machina: The Influence of COVID-19 Pandemic on the Young Adults' Religiosity, Temporal Values, and Time Spatialization across Cultures**

**Carmen Callizo-Romero**

University of Granada, Granada, Spain

**Daniel Casasanto**

Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, United States

**Sobh Chahboun**

Queen Maud University College, Trondheim, Trøndelag, Norway

**Tilbe Göksun**

Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey

**Yan Gu**

UCL, London, United Kingdom

**Alexander Kranjec**

Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, United States

**Marc Ouellet**

University of Granada, Granada, Spain

**Slavica Tutnjević**

University of Banja-Luka, Banja-Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Julio Santiago**

University of Granada, Granada, Spain

## **Abstract**

We investigated the influence of the COVID-19 pandemic on young people's value temporal focus, religiosity, and time spatialization. Samples of young participants from eight cultures (Americans, Spaniards, Serbs, Bosniaks, Croats, Moroccans, Turks, and Chinese) collected before the pandemic ( $N = 497$ , mean age = 21.09) were matched with samples collected during the first confinement period ( $N = 497$ , mean age = 20.96). Our results in study 1 showed that during the pandemic, young adults were less religious, more future-focused, and placed the future in front of them in a greater extent. In study 2, using the whole sample collected during the pandemic ( $N = 893$ , mean age = 21.94), we observed that the more affected the participants were by the pandemic, the greater their future focus, the lower their religiosity, and the greater their tendency to locate the future in front. These pattern of results held in most cultures.