“The Gamma variant was maliciously created in Manaus by Bolsonaro’s herd immunity policy”

Brazilian researcher Lucas Ferrante testifies on the role of schools in spreading COVID-19

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In this testimony for the Global Workers’ Inquest into the COVID-19 Pandemic, Brazilian researcher Lucas Ferrante, of the National Institute for Amazonian Research (INPA), discusses the role of the reopening of schools in Manaus, the capital of Amazonas, in the emergence of the Gamma variant during Brazil’s second wave of the pandemic in late 2020. This variant was responsible for two-thirds of all COVID-19 deaths in Brazil and spread throughout Latin America and internationally.

Ferrante also presents his record of public warnings about new outbreaks of the pandemic in Amazonas, predicted by his studies on epidemiological models. These warnings were systematically ignored by the local governments pursuing a herd immunity strategy in unity with President Jair Bolsonaro’s fascistic administration.

Below the video are some of the articles Ferrante uses and mentions in his presentation for the Inquest.


Mehring Books, the publishing arm of the Socialist Equality Party (US), is proud to announce the publication in epub format of Volume 1 of COVID, Capitalism, and Class War: A Social and Political Chronology of the Pandemic, a compilation of the World Socialist Web Site’s coverage of this global crisis.


Read also the previous WSWS interviews with Ferrante:

- As child cases soar, Brazilian scientist warns of “creating a generation” with long-term COVID effects (17 September 2021)
- “Return of in-person classes will be catastrophic,” warns Brazilian scientist Lucas Ferrante (27 January
Bolsonaro’s “herd immunity” led to Manaus health care collapse, mass infection of indigenous populations, says Brazilian scientist Lucas Ferrante (28 January 2022)