

# Expanded abstract

## Vitality Regimes and Social Economy: Collaborative Practices in Global Crisis Contexts

### Objectives

This article aims to analyze and systematize empirical evidence on mutual aid and reciprocity practices developed by social economy organizations during the COVID-19 crisis in Chile. The study seeks to contribute to international debates on collaborative governance and the democratization of production in contexts of social and economic disruption.

### Design / Methodology / Approach

The research adopts a comparative qualitative design, combining digital ethnography, documentary analysis, and semi-structured interviews. A purposive sample of eight organizations engaged in the production and distribution of face shields, masks, and food was examined across three regions (Atacama, Valparaíso, and Metropolitan Santiago). The analysis identifies recurrent variables: collective formation, strategic cooperation, use value, and objectification of positive value, through concordance testing and triangulation of multiple sources.

### Results

Findings show that material practices such as the collaborative production of protective equipment and food distribution not only addressed urgent needs but also fostered collective identities and symbolic frameworks of solidarity. These practices redefined everyday artifacts as common goods and generated positive reciprocity markets, reinforcing the resilience of local communities.

### Limitations / Implications

The study is limited by its reliance on digital documentation, which may not fully capture organizational obstacles and informal practices. Nevertheless, the results highlight the organizational strengths of mutual aid and suggest that vitality regimes can inform municipal and public policy responses in future crises, including those beyond health emergencies.

## Practical Conclusions

Mutual aid organizations created spaces of collective interaction where the use value of goods and sociotechnical knowledge was optimized. These experiences demonstrate the feasibility of collaborative governance models that integrate technical and popular knowledge, offering practical lessons for policymakers and social economy actors seeking to strengthen resilience and inclusivity.

## Original Value

This article contributes two original insights: (1) it operationalizes the concept of vitality regime through comparative case analysis, identifying concrete variables that explain collective responses in crisis contexts; and (2) it shows how use value can serve as a guiding principle for collective action, challenging utilitarian logic and reinforcing solidarity as a foundation for the contemporary social economy.