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FASSIN *(Continued from page 9)*

wealth. This is a historic moment, at the height of what I have called biolegitimacy, namely the recognition of the mere fact of being alive as supreme good, in Walter Benjamin's words. The fact that everyone has experienced the sense of being potentially threatened by the epidemic has definitely contributed to this major development.

Even so, it is obvious that not all lives are equal. In this respect, one cannot forget that France occupies the third place in Europe with regard to premature mortality, in other words, deaths occurring before 65 years of age, and sadly, the first place with regard to avoidable deaths, in other words, those occurring prior to age 65 that could be avoided. And we also cannot ignore the thirteen years of

**Recommended Viewing:** To watch Didier Fassin's inaugural lecture at the Collège de France, "The Inequality of Lives," visit [www.ias.edu/fassin-inequality-lives](http://www.ias.edu/fassin-inequality-lives).

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life expectancy difference at birth that separate the richest 5% from the poorest 5%. The celebration of life that the coronavirus has induced does not have the same meaning for everyone, and it is even likely that this epidemic will increase mortality inequalities, not only due to the consequences of the disease, but also, more importantly, due to the effects of the economic recession. ■