

## Media and Communication During the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Pandemic

### Guest Editors:

Dr. Wei Sun

Professor Yanick Rice Lamb

The outbreak of COVID-19 (coronavirus) has brought tremendous challenges to public health and our lives. In December 2019, the SARS-like deadly disease was first reported in Wuhan, the capital city of Hubei Province, China. However, in the first few weeks, Wuhan and Hubei government officials concealed the severity of the situation. Wuhan was eventually quarantined on January 23, 2020. Soon, many cities followed with shutdowns to limit human contact and to prevent transmission of the super virus.

More cases rapidly developed around the world. By the end of January 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared a public health emergency for the coronavirus epidemic. In the U.S., the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) first reported that there was a low risk for this virus to spread in the community. However, with more cases confirmed globally and domestically, many states and cities have declared an emergency. On March 13, the U.S. declared a national emergency over the coronavirus pandemic. Cities and regions are closed, people have died, affected individuals are quarantined, conferences and public events are canceled, the stock market crashed, schools are closed or have transitioned to solely online instruction, and people are panicking.



The editors of this Special Issue of the *Howard Journal of Communications* will provide an accessible space for interdisciplinary scholarship and narrative in order to explore and better understand the controversy, rhetoric, human interactions, and media coverage on public health communication in the crisis of coronavirus outbreak. The editors invite scholars and practitioners to explore the following themes or other related issues to the COVID-19 pandemic:

- International and domestic media coverage of the public health threat
- Social media usage in sharing information and creating communities
- Free expression of ideas and information during the pandemic
- Cultural behaviors and health beliefs on coronavirus
- The best practices for prevention of transmitting coronavirus
- Public opinion on governmental decisions and actions
- Online bullying or discrimination or stigmatization of patients
- Experiences of marginalized groups/members in the pandemic
- Communication and coping in quarantined space
- Agenda setting
- Misinformation
- Alternative medicine
- Social and emotional well-being
- The rhetoric of the pandemic
- National boundaries in a pandemic

## Submission Guidelines

ALL submissions must be original work (i.e., not previously published) and must meet the following criteria:

Editors seek quantitative, qualitative and critical academic approaches. Extended abstract submissions should include:

- 1,000-word extended abstract including the background and significance of the topic, research questions/hypothesis, theoretical framework, research method, and selected references in APA format.
- 100-150 word author bio/s
- Submit the abstract and bio as one word document.

All submissions should go through the Howard Journal of Communications' Manuscript Central system, which can be located via <https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/uhjc20>. The authors should indicate that their manuscript is submitted for a Special Issue. On their title, they should include in the title and in parenthesis "Media and Communication During COVID-19."

Submit the extended abstract no later than April 25, 2020. Notifications of acceptance will be sent out by May 10, 2020, and authors of accepted submissions will submit a full paper with a maximum length of 7,000 words by August 1, 2020

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