



COMMUNICATING PANDEMICS: COVID-19 IN MASS MEDIA

GUEST EDITOR

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DESCRIPTION

Crisis managers and those involved in researching and managing human health have been predicting the rise of epidemics and pandemics that will gradually grow in scale and frequency. There have been numerous epidemics involving transmittable diseases throughout history, whether the Justinian black plague, the Spanish flu or a series of viruses in the early 21st century as SARS. In the end of the year 2019 another new global health hazard began to emerge. Initially, relatively little attention was paid to the emerging health crisis, which was initially classified as an epidemic, but was very soon upgraded in severity to a pandemic. The result has been widespread disruption to the globalised way of life, affecting human life and the way of commerce in ways recently thought of as being unimaginable.

A crisis is considered to involve three simultaneously occurring elements – a threat to values, presence of unpredictability, and the issue of time constraint to resolve it. However, with every physical crisis there is a crisis of information that accompanies it, which can either dampen or exacerbate the problem and its effects. The information realm shapes and influences the cognitive realm, which makes the role of mass media (including social media) crucial in shaping mass perception and reaction to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the current global mass vaccination campaign.

This edition of *Open Information Science* seeks academics and scholars interested in this issue. We would like to invite them to publish their works on the following topics:

- ▶ Mass media role in informing and influencing audiences perception of the threat
- ▶ Journalists and their role as a fourth estate or amplifying ‘powerful’ interests
- ▶ The informational politics of the ‘science of things’ – the cancelling of knowledge and views
- ▶ Amplifying certain perspectives and personalities and misrepresenting others – are mass media dividing or uniting society
- ▶ Audience and public trust in mass media as a source of reliable information

HOW TO SUBMIT

- ▶ Please send an abstract by **the late April 2022** to the Guest Editor Greg Simons (Greg.Simons@ires.uu.se).
- ▶ Submitted abstracts should be in English. The Guest Editor will evaluate abstracts and will inform authors of acceptance or rejection.
- ▶ Full papers should be submitted by **31st of July 2022**.

- ▶ Authors are kindly invited to register at our paper processing system at: <https://www.editorialmanager.com/opis> and submit their contribution.
- ▶ Every manuscript should be clearly marked as intended for this Special Issue. All papers will go through the *Open Information Science's* high standards, quick, fair and comprehensive peer-review procedure. Instruction for Authors is available here: https://www.degruyter.com/publication/journal_key/OPIS/downloadAsset/OPIS_Instruction%20for%20Authors.pdf. In case of any questions, please contact the Guest Editor (Greg.Simons@ires.uu.se) or the Managing Editor (Wojciech.Nowacki@degruyter.com).
- ▶ All accepted works will be published free of any charge.