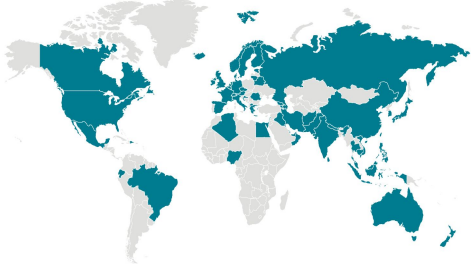


COVID-19, better known as the CoronaVirus, is a current global pandemic, infecting over 4.5 million people with 307 thousand deaths and growing. The current source of the virus is still unconfirmed. Still, many officials state that they believe the source of the infection came from a rare meat and seafood market located in Wuhan, China. They also think that these animals became infected after escaping or eating escaping animals from a nearby Chinese testing center who was experimenting with the SARS virus and other strains of COVID-19.

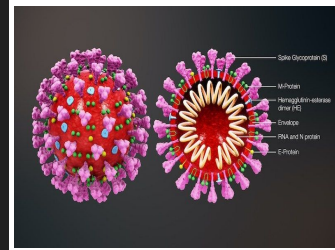
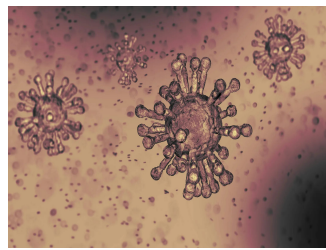
Since the major outbreak in China, many countries have had to react quickly to prevent further outbreaks within their own countries. Some measures have worked, such as South Korea's mandatory testing curbing the virus at its source. Meanwhile, Countries like Iran have had severe setbacks regarding the virus as the People of Iran have little trust in their Government and its ability to adequately protect them, which in the end has to lead to a massive jump in deaths and overall infection within the country.



COVID-19 is an Upper Respiratory Disease which causes symptoms such as Fever, Cough, and Shortness of Breath. As a result, this disease can be spread rapidly from person to person, posing a very high risk of infection to anyone in the vicinity. There is, however, a wide range of severity when considering the Coronavirus, a vast majority of people will only experience mild symptoms, and recover with some assistance from medical professionals. However, as people progress into the more severe stages of the disease, people with compromised immune systems such as pregnant women and older people face the risk of death as the Corona Virus weakens the immune system, further allowing the significantly deadly disease to enter the body.

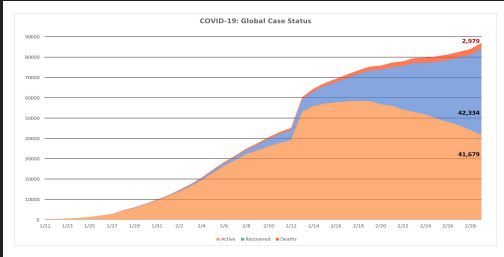
The Outbreak of Disease: Perspectives on the Interaction between Narratives of Fear and Public Policy.

With many modern viruses and bacteria becoming increasingly more deadly, how countries react to disease outbreaks becomes more crucial than ever. With the recent Coronavirus epidemic beginning in Wuhan, China, spreading across the globe, we can watch first-hand how modern industrialized societies react to massive viral outbreaks. In this research project, we examine how countries such as China, the United States of America, and Germany respond to a massive viral outbreak and how what they do to protect their citizens from these deadly diseases interacts with existing narratives of prejudice against certain countries or segments of their population. Examining and evaluating public policy and news media in China, Germany, and the USA, we find that large-scale outbreaks can affect the public's perspective on the perceived 'Other' while pushing narratives of fear promoting confusion and misunderstanding. A country can take a number of precautions from only warning the public and suggesting enhanced hygiene practices to quarantining large segments of its population in an effort to prevent a more significant outbreak. Which measures are taken affects public opinion and could save or stifle the efforts to contain the disease. Our research ultimately contributes to ongoing efforts of overcoming narratives of prejudice and fear, which and thus, promotes progress in the prevention of disease.



The Outbreak in Wuhan China happened because of the consumption of traded and sold wild game. Since then purchasing wild game has become banned. Even so the tradition has been taken apart by people trying to find something or someone to blame for the outbreak.

Like Ebola in Africa because of the consumption of "bushmeat", racism has stemmed from the perpetuation of the chinese people as unclean and barbaric and all while making the US seem clean and "pure" in comparison. When in reality this is far from the truth. Regardless of how the virus was transferred to humans. The fact that it did is the problem and according to W.H.O this form of the Coronavirus is just one of many that could be transferred to humans. Common civilians are confusing the friend with the enemy. This is NOT a chinese against the rest of the world scenario. If anything it should be the world against the Coronavirus.



From opinion pieces by the Guardian, NY Times and Washington Post, to FOX and CNN news, all the way out to the BBC and other foreign articles, the pieces might seem different but the fear has remained the same. Because this virus has become a pandemic and an international health emergency, the gall of journalists has risen worldwide. Xenophobia has skyrocketed and people have found ways to practice fear mongering and spread hateful misconceptions about asians as a whole. From Chinese-Americans being kicked off of public transportation in the American south to French headlines calling the virus the "New Yellow Peril," the jarring truth of our society has come out of the shadows and is rearing its ugly head. As was done with Zika, Ebola, and many others, prejudice and discrimination towards East Asians have become the norm. Spreading like the virus itself, journalists and everyday people have become predatory towards the East Asian public, and with COVID-19, mortality rates, increasing fear, and prejudice aren't very far behind. Many East Asians have given similar responses to this separate pandemic. Responses highlighting feelings of isolation and fear for their families, neighbors or their own lives due to threats all because of ignorance or people believing in fake/misinformation news.