

# CONTENT WARNING

***This presentation engages with sensitive material, including examples of racism and stories of physical violence.***

***Your discretion is advised and encouraged.***



Guardian News/YouTube (June 20, 2020)





# President Donald Trump slammed for using offensive, 'racist' remarks at Tulsa rally

Fritze, Subramanian, Wu and Jackson/USA TODAY (June 21, 2020)



**Donald J. Trump** @realDonaldTrump · Mar 18  
I will be having a news conference today to discuss very important news from the FDA concerning the **Chinese Virus!**

(2020)



**Donald J. Trump** @realDonaldTrump · May 25  
Great reviews on our handling of Covid 19, sometimes referred to as the **China Virus**. Ventilators, Testing, Medical Supply Distribution, we made a lot of Governors look very good - And got no credit for so doing. Most importantly, we helped a lot of great people!



# Trump called the coronavirus a 'foreign virus,' part of a clear strategy to blame the pandemic on other places like China and Europe

Porter/Business Insider (March 12, 2020)

**Secretary Pompeo** @SecPompeo  
US government account

Disinformation is not only coming from random actors around the world - but also from the Chinese Communist Party, Russia, and the Iranian regime. We must not permit these efforts to undermine our democracy, our freedom, and how we're responding to the Wuhan Virus.



0:25 1.2M views

4:53 PM · Mar 20, 2020 · Hootsuite Inc.



**In this module, we will:**

- 1. Explore how pandemics have been racialized throughout history**
- 2. Examine the different ways in which COVID-19 was racialized online as the pandemic unfolded**
- 3. Analyze efforts to counter this online hate by social media platforms, institutions, and grassroots activists**

# Racialized Outbreaks Throughout History

Persecution of Jews during the Black Death

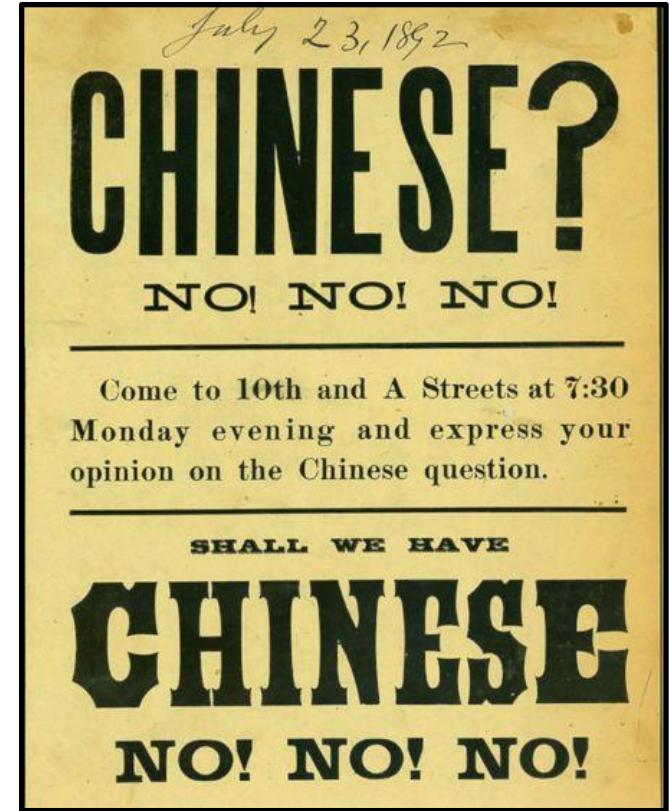


Wikimedia

“Yellow Peril” and the Chinese Exclusion Act

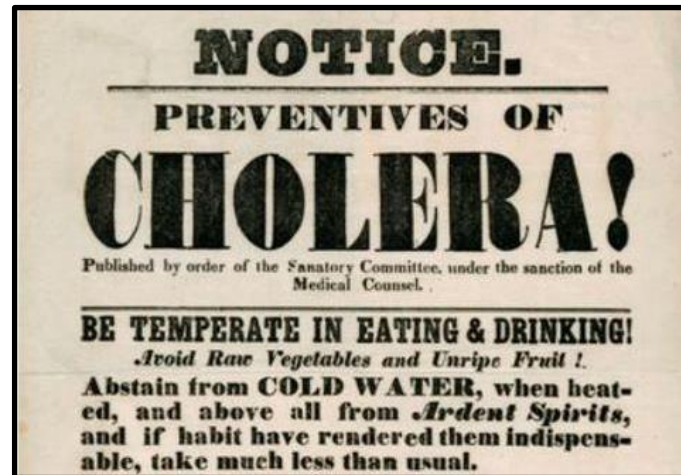


Chinese Hospital, San Francisco  
Source: Trauner/*California History* 1978



Washington State Historical Society

Irish Catholics blamed for  
1832 cholera outbreak



Wikimedia

# Racialized Outbreaks in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century



Pittsburgh Tribune-Review (April 26, 2003)

Source: "The Politics of SARS" (Ho-fung Hung/Asian Perspective 2004)

TIME

## Ebola Brings Another Fear: Xenophobia

BY JOSH SANBURN OCTOBER 29, 2014 3:46 PM EDT



ERIN CRUZ FOR CONGRESS (CA-36)  @RealErinCruz

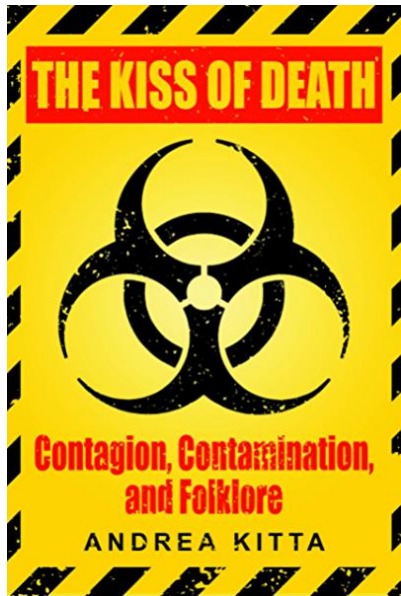
 US House candidate, CA-36

Replying to @ChipGates1

[#Obola](#) is a terrorist. He allowed a volatile virus into the Republic & encourages illegals w/disease 2 enter. [#ISIS](#)

[@ChipGates1](#) [@Philsctx](#)

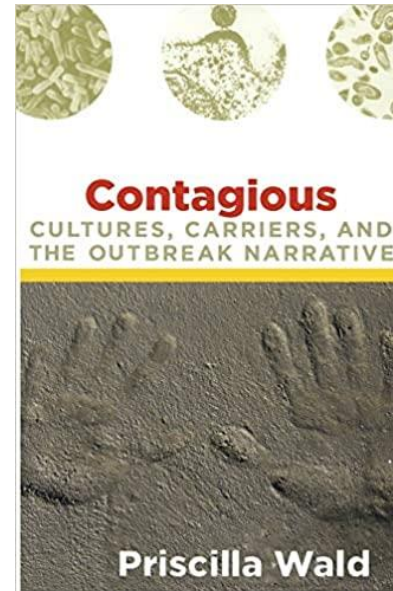
7:17 AM · Oct 7, 2014



“disease is a **social issue**, not just a medical one”

*The Kiss of Death* (Kitka 2019, 134-135)

Utah State University Press (2019)



The stories we tell about disease have the power to “**promote or mitigate the stigmatizing of individuals, groups, populations, locales (regional and global), behaviors, and lifestyles**”

*Contagious* (Wald 2008, 3)

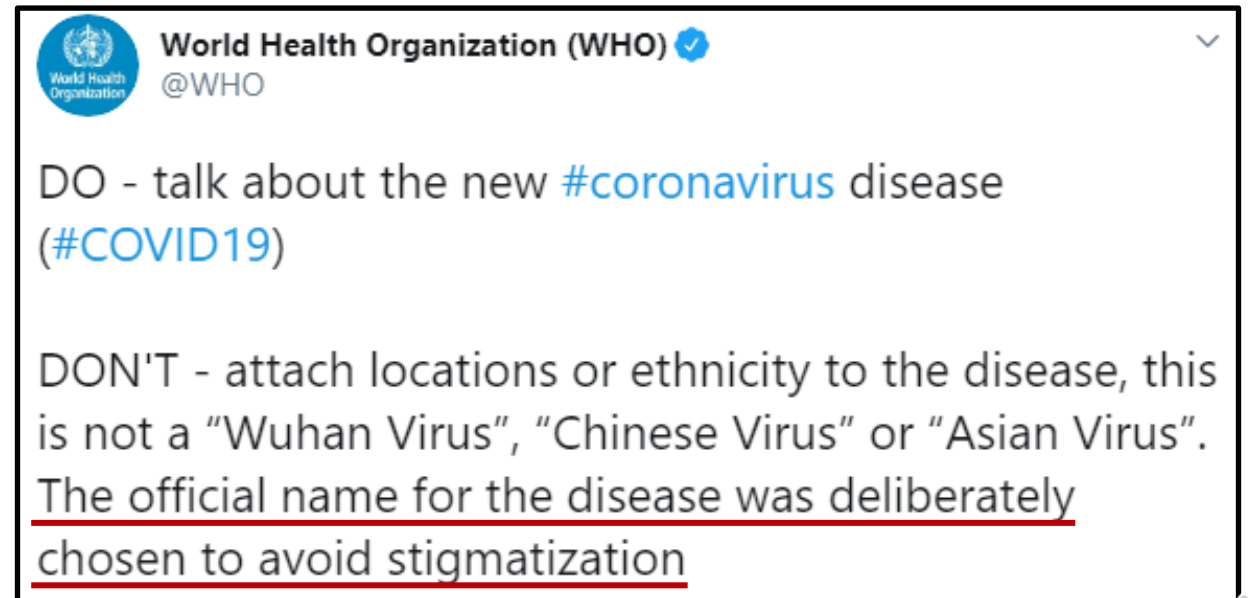
Duke University Press (2008)

## The New York Times

### *NEW HOMOSEXUAL DISORDER WORRIES HEALTH OFFICIALS*

The cause of the disorder is unknown. Researchers call it A.I.D., for acquired immunodeficiency disease, or GRID, for gay-related immunodeficiency. It has been reported in 20

Lawrence K. Altman (May 11, 1982)



(March 2, 2020)

# News outlets contribute to anti-Asian racism with careless stock photos on coronavirus coverage

Walker/Media Matters For America (March 5, 2020)

Alessandra Biaggi  
@SenatorBiaggi

...so then why are you using a photo of an Asian man in Flushing, Queens?

New York Post @nypost

First case of coronavirus confirmed in Manhattan trib.al/bRSIpEy



8:09 PM · Mar 1, 2020

CNN @CNN

As COVID-19 spreads, the lack of universal health care in the US will prove catastrophic, writes one critical care doctor. The case of one man reportedly charged over \$3,000 for testing is the tip of the iceberg. |

@CNNOpinion



Our flawed health system isn't up to the challenge of the coronav...  
Vanessa Kerry writes that the story of Osmel Martinez Azcue, a man charged over \$3,000 for taking responsible action and visiting a ...  
cnn.com

3:41 AM · Mar 4, 2020

The Hill @thehill

JUST IN: Second person dies of coronavirus in US  
[hill.com/c4gKtHX](https://thehill.com/c4gKtHX)



6:05 PM · Mar 1, 2020 · SocialFlow



# **Social Media and COVID-19**

**STOP  
AAPI  
HATE**

**Attacks Against AAPI Community Continue to Rise During Pandemic**  
*Over 2,500 Racist Incidents Reported Since March*

*Stop AAPI Hate (August 27, 2020)*

**The Washington Post**

**Twitter bans Zero Hedge account after it doxxed a Chinese researcher over coronavirus**

*Hawkins/The Washington Post (Feb. 1, 2020)*

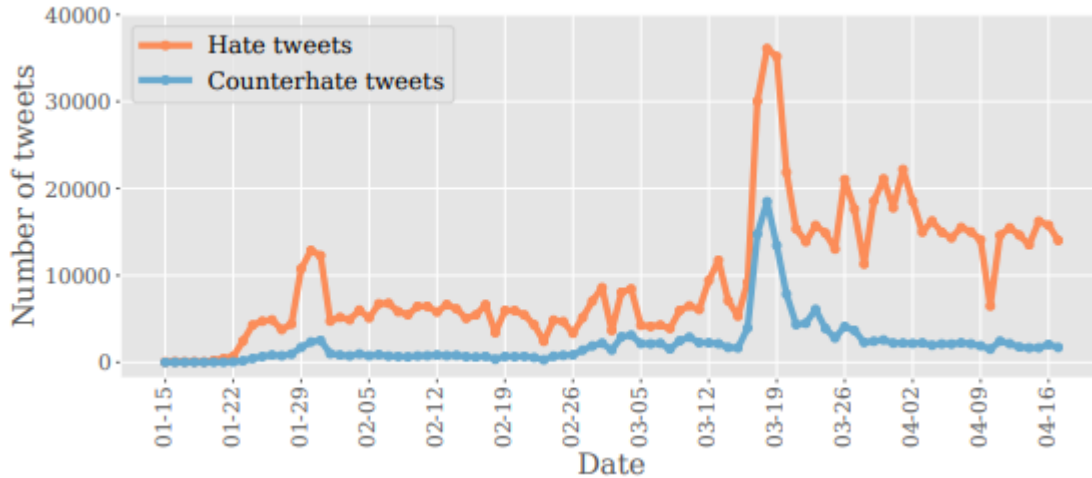
 **ALJAZEERA**

**Anti-Asian hate continues to spread online amid COVID-19 pandemic**

Jing, the Chinese vlogger, says the online abuse she experienced noticeably increased after Trump labelled the new coronavirus the "Chinese virus".

*Macquire/Al Jazeera (April 5, 2020)*

## Racism is a Virus: Anti-Asian Hate and Counterhate in Social Media during the COVID-19 Crisis



Ziems, He, Soni & Kumar/*arXiv* (2020)

## Prejudice Toward Asian Americans in the Covid-19 Pandemic: The Effects of Social Media Use in the United States

Stephen M. Croucher\*, Thao Nguyen and Diyako Rahmani

Three key results emerged from the study. First, the more a social media user believes their most used daily social media is fair, accurate, presents the facts, and is concerned about the public (social media believe), the more likely that user is to believe Chinese pose a realistic and symbolic threat to America. Second, men and women significantly differed on each type of prejudice, with men scoring higher on intergroup anxiety and women higher on symbolic and realistic threat. Third, respondents who do not use social media on a daily basis are less likely than those who use Facebook to perceive Chinese as a symbolic threat.

Croucher et al./*Frontiers in Communication* (2020, 1)



## Rising Levels of Hate Speech & Online Toxicity During This Time of Crisis

### Summary of Findings:

- 900% increase in hate speech on Twitter directed towards China and the Chinese.
- 200% increase in traffic to hate sites and specific posts against Asians.
- 70% increase in hate between kids and teens during online chats.
- 40% increase in toxicity on popular gaming platforms, such as Discord.

L1GHT (2020)



# THE CONVERSATION Zoom-bombings disrupt online events with racist and misogynist attacks

Elmer, Burton & Neville/The Conversation (June 9, 2020)

**abc NEWS** Couple arrested for hate crime in  
Brooklyn, allegedly blaming spread of  
COVID-19 on Jews: Police  
Katersky & Pereira/ABC News (May 11, 2020)



David A. Clarke, Jr.  
@SheriffClarke

Not ONE media outlet has asked  
about George Soros's involvement in  
this FLU panic. He is SOMEWHERE  
involved in this.

7:43 PM · 3/15/20 · Twitter for iPad

## Neo-Nazis encouraging followers to 'deliberately infect' Jews and Muslims with coronavirus

By Amy Woodyatt, CNN

Updated 11:34 AM ET, Thu July 9, 2020



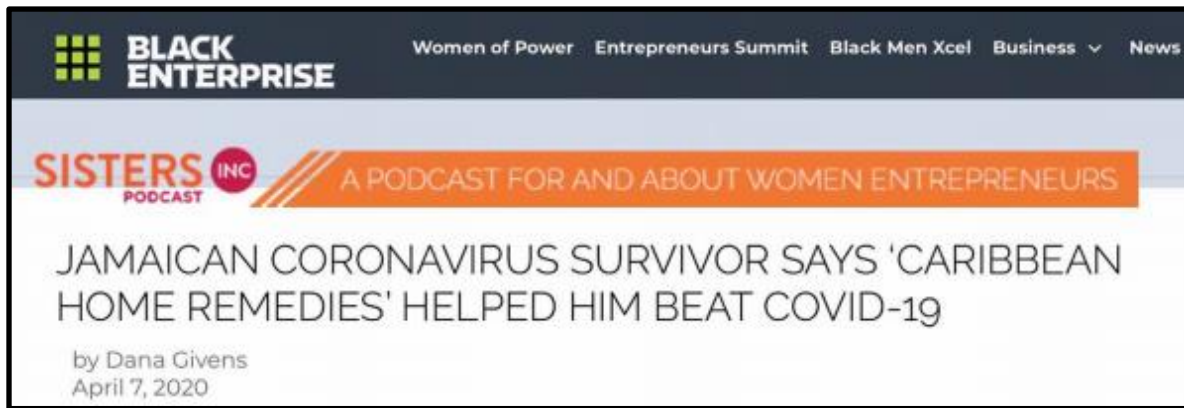
Michelle Maier  
@mma26baer

I believe we are being conditioned  
for something



11:46 AM · 6/20/20 · Twitter for iPhone





“For Black communities, **uncertainty** is driven by a longstanding **distrust** of mainstream media and a history of **trauma** from interactions with powerful institutions, like medicine and government. Whitewashed newsrooms, blanket reporting on Black issues without layered context, and chronic underreporting of Black trauma and success have left a **major gap** that’s made even more clear in times of crisis.”

*Canaries in the Coal Mine* (Collins-Dexter 2020, 18)



## **CANARIES IN THE COAL MINE: COVID-19 MISINFORMATION AND BLACK COMMUNITIES**

By Brandi Collins-Dexter



Cover illustration by Jebb Riley (2020)

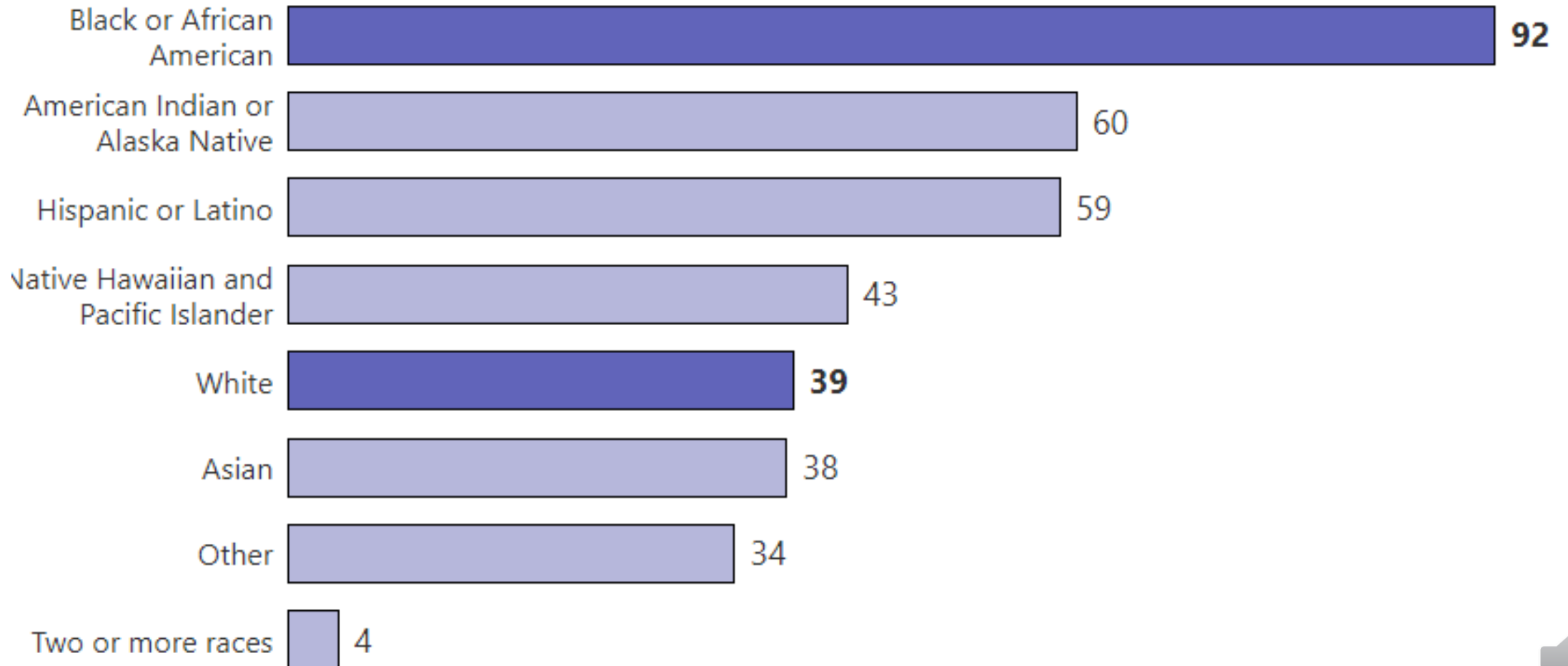
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# Nationwide, Black people are dying at 2.4 times the rate of white people.

Deaths per 100,000 people by race or ethnicity



# Black Lives Matter Protests



Holly Pickett/The Washington Post (2020)



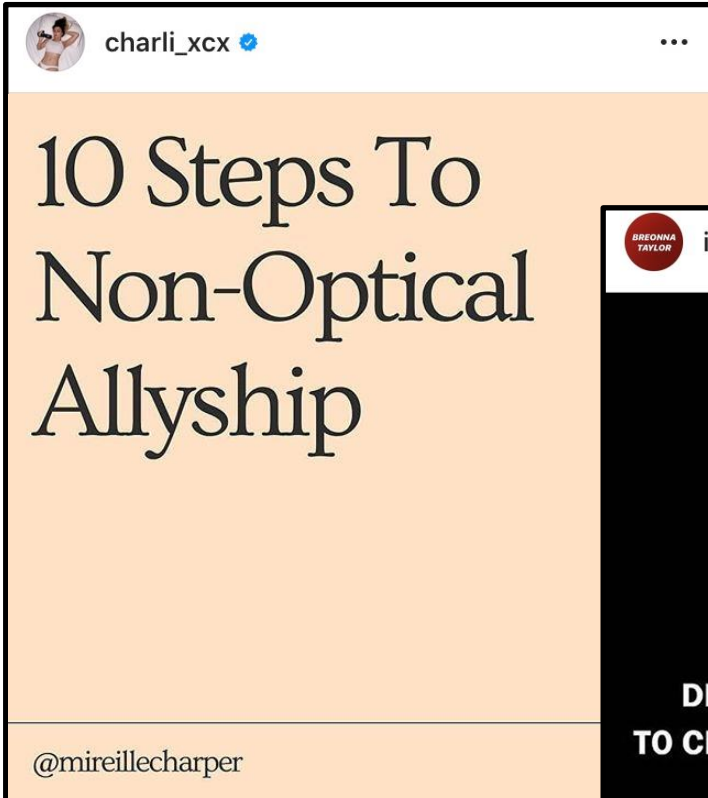
Andrew Harnik/AP (2020)

# Racism: the other pandemic

Godlee/The BMJ (June 11, 2020)

# 'We Are Living in a Racism Pandemic,' Says APA President

American Psychological Association (May 29, 2020)



Charli XCX/Instagram (May 31, 2020)



Cardi B/Instagram (May 28, 2020)



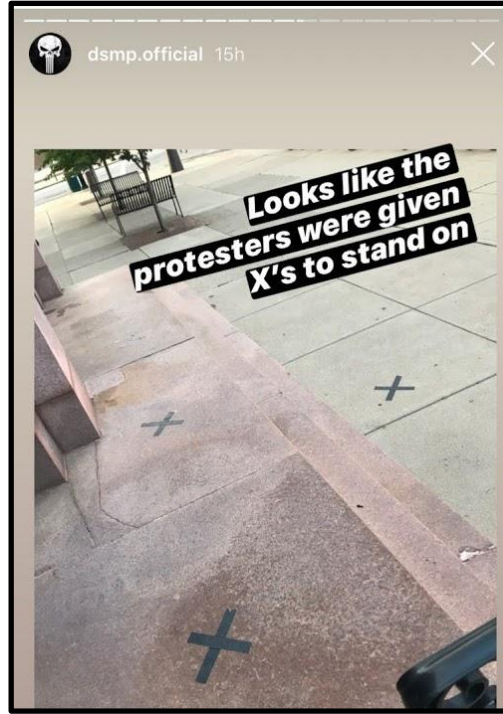
(2020)



# Disinformation about BLM Protests



Dunroamin4ever/Twitter (May 30, 2020)



dsmp.official/Instagram (July 8, 2020)



## CBS NEWS

### Twitter says fake "Antifa" account was run by white supremacists

Kates/CBS News (June 2, 2020)



Raisha Doumbia/TikTok (2020)

**VARIETY**

## TikTok Blames 'Technical Glitch' for Suppressing View Counts on #BlackLivesMatter, #GeorgeFloyd Videos

Spangler/Variety (June 2, 2020)

**ComputerWeekly.com**

## Black Lives Matter activists targeted by cyber attacks

Scroton/Computer Weekly (June 4, 2020)

**Mother Jones**

## Alt-Right Trolls Are Trying to Sabotage Black Lives Matter Chatrooms

Breland/Mother Jones (June 8, 2020)

**GIZMODO**

## St. Louis Mayor Says Sorry for Doxxing Protesters During Livestreamed Q&A

Stanley/Gizmodo (June 27, 2020)



# Strategies to Combat Online Hate



Jia Liang Sun-Wang /Twitter (Feb. 3, 2020)

## FORTUNE

People are getting fired over racist, violent, and insensitive social media posts

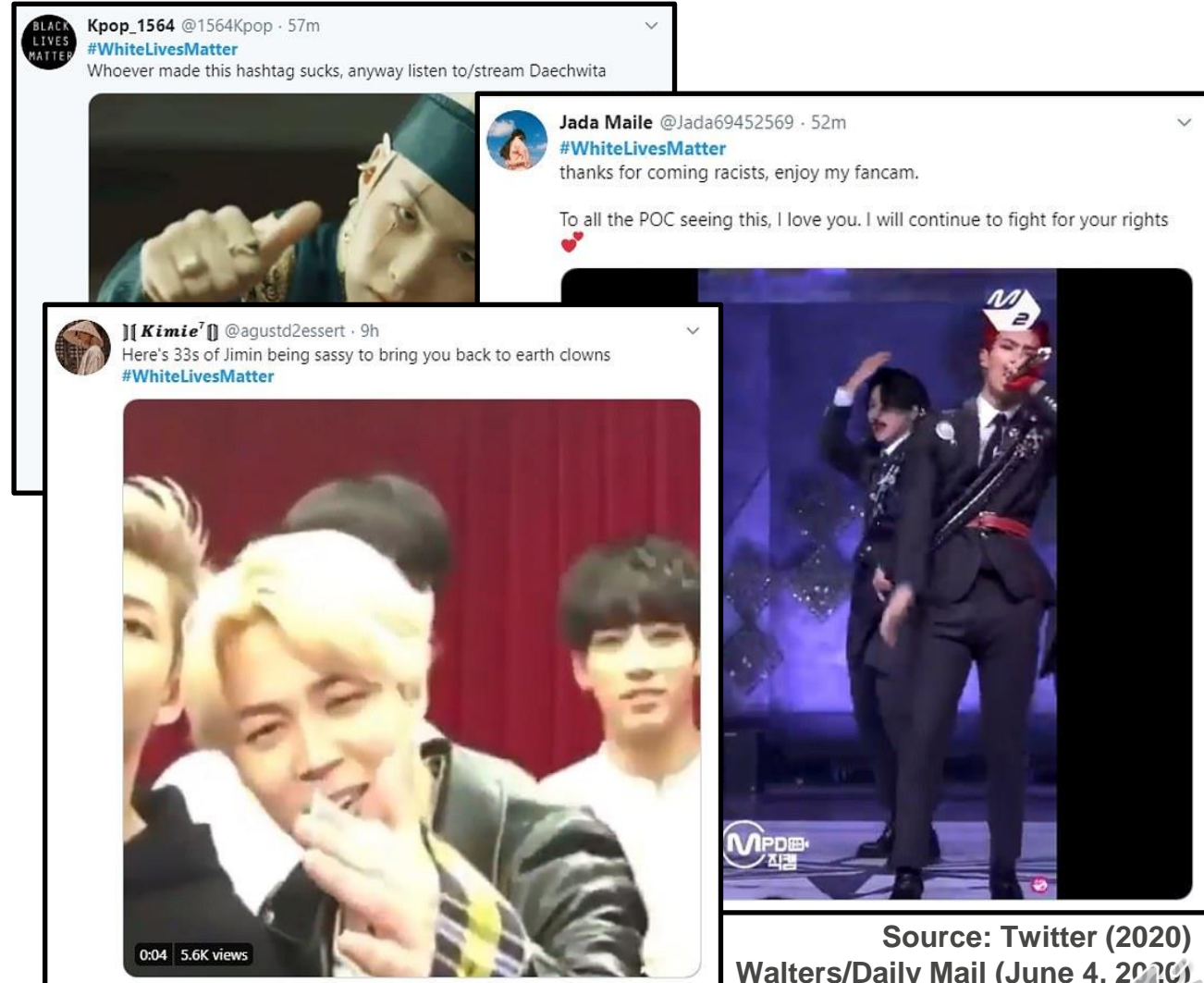
Dalton & The Associated Press/Fortune (June 4, 2020)



(2020)

# THE NEW YORKER K-POP FANS DEFUSE RACIST HASHTAGS

Amanda Petrusich/The New Yorker (June 5, 2020)



Source: Twitter (2020)  
Walters/Daily Mail (June 4, 2020)

**How have our institutions responded to  
cyberhate during the pandemic?**

**How might these responses be improved?**



## Michigan governor signs order calling racism a public health crisis

Johnson/The Hill (August 5, 2020)



## YouTube removes Richard Spencer and David Duke a year after saying it would ban supremacists

Yurieff/CNN Business (June 29, 2020)

### THE VERGE

## Reddit reports 18 percent reduction in hateful content after banning nearly 7,000 subreddits

Vincent/The Verge (August 20, 2020)

### VARIETY

## Donald Trump Suspended From Twitch Over 'Hateful Conduct' Violations

Spangler/Variety (June 29, 2020)

### UNITE.AI

## New Study Attempts to Improve Hate Speech Detection Algorithms

McFarland/Unite.ai (July 12, 2020)



Wikimedia

## THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. Facebook Creates Teams to Study Racial Bias, After Previously Limiting Such Efforts

Seetharaman & Horwitz/Wall Street Journal (July 21, 2020)



# Taking Action



theguardian

## 'It's hitting their pockets': a lead organizer on the biggest corporate boycott in Facebook's history

Kari Paul/The Guardian (July 7, 2020)

“The beauty of anti-racism is that you don't have to pretend to be free of racism to be an anti-racist. Anti-racism is the commitment to fight racism wherever you find it, including in yourself. **And it's the only way forward.**”

Ijeoma Oluo/Twitter (July 14, 2020)



Seal Press (2018)







Yale University Press (2019)

“Epidemics [are] **mirrors** that reflect who we are back upon us.

It’s scary because it means that we see both our darker and our brighter selves.

That does give us hope in one sense: Our destiny is what we are **wise** enough, **collaborative** enough, and **willing** enough to create.”

Snowden interview excerpts from Roge Karma/Vox (April 10, 2020)

