

**Guest Editors:**

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# Call for Papers

## Special Collection: A Global Pandemic: Sociotechnical Perspectives on COVID-19



### Aims & Scope

The spread of the potentially deadly coronavirus (COVID-19) across 170 countries in just four months, December 2019 to March 2020, initiated a global pandemic. With no tested vaccine nor proven means of prevention, cases of infection escalated exponentially, with cascading consequences for the economy, social services, physical and mental well-being of whole nations. The threat continues to ravage an interdependent global economy and society with devastating effects.

In response to the unseen threat of COVID-19, whole countries, states, and cities have placed their residents under 'stay-at-home' or 'shelter-in-place' orders to slow the spread of infection. In a radically altered social environment, individuals, organizations, and institutions have turned to electronic means of communication and virtual connections to continue economic and social activity. This shift in interactions from direct, face-to-face conversations to indirect, electronic means of communication is occurring on a scale that has no precedent. It has the practical effect of enabling people to communicate with one another across geographic distance and time zones, share and update information, and monitor an escalating crisis in real-time. But the capacity to do so depends on the technical infrastructure that supports wireless communication in ways that had been envisaged, but not tested in volume and scale of current demands in real time. To what extent has this sociotechnical infrastructure increased or decreased the capacity to build collective cognition of risk, and consequently, collective action to reduce the risk?

The proposed special collection seeks research that assesses the degree to which technical infrastructure to support interactive communication across multiple scales of decision making increases or decreases social capacity for collective action to reduce the threat of COVID-19 on a global scale.

Papers are invited that address, but are not limited to, the following topics:

1. Characterization of different types of access to information/communication among different groups within societies, using measurable indicators
2. Methods of monitoring information flow in practice at the intersection of technical and social information infrastructures
3. Case studies of communities, states, countries or regions that identify threshold points of change in collective cognition based on technical means of communication, information search and exchange

*continued on reverse*

# Natural Hazards Review

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4. Long-term impact on schools, universities that shifted to online education to meet short-term needs
5. Models that measure the rate of change in collective cognition of a shared risk or that reveal points of difference that inhibit collective action
6. Comparison of costs for investment in technical infrastructure, e.g. broadband strategies, vs. costs of delayed or dysfunctional communication among social groups

## Submission Guidelines

We invite short discussion papers as Forum articles, Technical Notes to present research in progress, and full Technical Papers and Case Studies. Article type descriptions (including length limits) and preparation guidelines can be found in "Publishing in ASCE Journals: A Guide for Authors" (<https://ascelibrary.org/doi/book/10.1061/9780784479018>).

Authors should follow the guidelines for ASCE journal submission and submit manuscripts electronically through the journal's Editorial Manager website: <https://www.editorialmanager.com/jrnhheng/Default.aspx>

When submitting, authors should indicate in the submission questions that the paper is being submitted in response to this call for papers ("SC COVID-19") and the Guest Editors' names.

Please note that this is an invitation to submit papers for peer review and does not imply acceptance for publication. Acceptance of submitted papers depends on the results of the normal refereed peer review process of the journal. We will make every effort for a rapid review process.

All accepted papers submitted through this solicitation will be published in regular issues of the journal as they are accepted, and they will be added to a special online collection (which is similar to a print version of a special issue) and will be indexed for citations like other regular journal papers).