The Historical Trends of Global Health Crisis Framing: Rise of Hate Crimes and Marginalization

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Background

Historically, some political parties and religious leaders utilized discourse and narratives as the underlying cause of health crises that have generated friction and mutual misunderstandings in communities, such as

❖ Pure vs. Not Pure
❖ Healthy vs. Not Healthy
❖ Us vs. Them
❖ Local vs. Immigrants

WE ARE ALL IMMIGRANTS

Political Rhetoric of COVID-19: Xenophobia and Discrimination

The current COVID-19 health crisis and the associated rhetoric have fueled xenophobia and discrimination toward Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) populations. Healthcare professionals and community development activists constantly urge the U.S. Congress to be more race sensitive and implement laws to combat racial resentment and hate crimes.

Figure 1. Anti-Asian hate crimes reported in New York City.

Anti-Asian Hate Crimes Reported Per Month in NYC
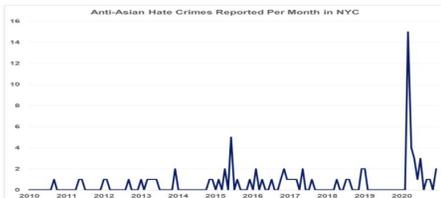
Source: Lawfare, 3/23/2021

Table 1. The Classification and Socio-Political Rhetoric of Selected 20th-century Global Health Crises

Period	Name of the Health Crisis	Category/Origin	Total Cases/Deaths Worldwide (Approximately)	Biased Labeling (Led to Xenophobia, Discrimination, and Racism)
1918-1920	Influenza (Patterson & Pyle, 1991)	Pandemic (Worldwide)	30 to 100 million deaths	**"Spanish Flu"** (Led to xenophobic perception against Spanish Community)
1957-1958	Influenza (Saunders-Hastings & Krewski, 2016)	Pandemic (Worldwide)	1 to 2 million deaths	**"Asian Flu"** (Led to xenophobic perception against Asian Community)
1968-1970	Influenza (Saunders-Hastings & Krewski, 2016)	Pandemic (Worldwide)	0.5 to 1 million deaths	**"Hong-kong Flu"** (Led to renewed xenophobic perception against Asian Community)
1960 – ongoing	HIV/AIDS (Zhu et al., 1998)	Epidemic (region-specific)	35 million deaths	**"Gay Plague"** (Led to heightened homophobic sentiments towards LGBTQA+ Community)
1961- 1975	Cholera (C. Rivers et al., 2019)	Pandemic (Started in Indonesia)	1.4 to 4 million annual cases	**"Oriental Cholera"** (Led to heightened negative sentiments towards Asian Community)
1974	Smallpox (Times, 1974)	Epidemic	130000 cases and 26 k deaths	**"Indian Smallpox"** (Led to heightened negative sentiments towards Indian Community and Culture)
1994	Plague (CDC, 1994)	Outbreak (Originated in Surat, India)	700 cases and 70 deaths	**"Surat Plague"** (Led to heightened xenophobic sentiments towards global Indian migrant workers)
2002-2003	SARS (Pralle, 2003)	Epidemic (Originated in China and spread through travel)	9000 cases and 700 deaths	**"Chinese SARS"** (Led to heightened negative sentiments towards Asian Community)
2009	Influenza (Carroll & Tuckman, 2009)	Pandemic (worldwide)	284000 deaths	**"Mexican Flu"** (Led to racial biases against Mexican and Latin Community)
2014-2016	Ebola (Campante et al., 2020)	Epidemic (West African region)	29000 cases and 12000 deaths	**"Black Disease"** (Led to heightened racial biases against Black African Community)
2015 -2016	Zika Virus (Carter, 2016)	Epidemic (Originated in Brazil later spread around north and south Americas)	Unknown	Unknown
2019-Ongoing	COVID-19 (Economist, 2020, The New York Times 2021)	Worldwide (Originated in Wuhan, China and now spread worldwide)	173 million confirmed cases and 3.72 million confirmed death (as of June 6, 2021)	**"Wuhan/ Kungfu/China Virus"** (Led to increased xenophobic attacks against AAPI Community)

We Collaborate Our Future!

❝ Racism is not stupidity — racism is hate. Racists constantly find excuses to expound their hatred — and in this current backdrop of the coronavirus, they've found yet another excuse. ❞

❖ Listen, accept, and celebrate each other cultures
❖ Call out hate speech and misinformation with facts and data
❖ Teach younger generation about collaboration and accepting each other
❖ Stand-up for each other and offer support
❖ Appropriate use of personal and collective social media to share correct information
❖ Organize and participate in open dialogues, workshops, and seminars
❖ Collective effort to humanize, accept, and empower each other

Vice President Kamala Harris @VP
⚑ United States government official

Today, @POTUS signed the COVID-19 Hate Crimes bill into law. It will expedite the review of hate crimes and expand efforts to make reporting more accessible. Thank you to Senator @MazieHirono and @RepGraceMeng for your leadership and to all members who helped pass this bill.

6:36 PM · May 20, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

2,150 Retweets   95 Quote Tweets   17K Likes

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