

COM 803-12: Hermeneutics and Communication

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Professor

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**Source One:** MacKenzie, D. (2020). COVID-19: The pandemic that never should have happened and how to stop the next one. Hachette UK.

**Comment 1:**

**Quote/Paraphrase:** MacKenzie argues that a combination of scientific oversight, lack of global cooperation, and delayed response contributed significantly to the severity of the COVID-19 pandemic. She suggests that these factors, amid the complexities of global health governance, led to missed opportunities that could have mitigated the pandemic's impact.

**Essential Element: Interpretive Methods in Social Research**

MacKenzie's analysis utilizes interpretive methods to understand the societal, political, and economic contexts that shaped responses to the pandemic. By interpreting actions, policies, and decisions made by various stakeholders, she sheds light on the complex relationships between global health infrastructure and crisis management.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

This book takes a variant approach to studying global health crises. It emphasizes the importance of looking beyond just the biological aspect of a pandemic and understanding the motivations and actions of different people involved, some of which seemed to be deplorable. The book focuses on systemic weaknesses and exploitation, rather than solely on the disease itself, to provide a comprehensive analysis of global health crises.

**Contextualization:**

MacKenzie's research can be contextualized within the broader field of pandemic preparedness and response, serving as a critical case study that underscores the importance of interpretive research methods. By analyzing the COVID-19 pandemic, she provides a comprehensive

understanding of how global health emergencies can and should be managed, highlighting the need for an integrated approach that considers both scientific and social factors.

**Source Two:** Kucharski, A. (2020). The rules of contagion: Why things spread - and why they stop. Wellcome Collection.

**Comment 2:**

**Quote/Paraphrase**

Kucharski presents a compelling argument that the principles underlying the spread of infectious diseases also apply to information, behaviors, and even financial crises. By analyzing the mechanisms of contagion, he reveals how interconnected and vulnerable modern societies are to rapid spread.

**Essential Element: Principles of Hermeneutics**

Kucharski takes a unique approach to analyzing contagion by utilizing the principles of hermeneutics. By interpreting patterns and mechanisms of contagion beyond just their biological aspects, Kucharski invites readers to consider the broader societal implications and deeper meanings behind the spread of things. This method encourages a more comprehensive understanding that can be applied to analyze different types of contagions.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

The book talks about how to understand how diseases spread by looking at the context and the societal conditions that make it easier or harder for them to spread. It suggests that by doing this, we can get a better understanding of how diseases spread and how we can prevent them. This is a new way of looking at diseases that combines two different fields of study. This book is variant because it offers a new perspective on understanding diseases. It takes two different fields and combines them in a new way.

### **Contextualization:**

Kucharski's work can be positioned within the broad discussion of hermeneutic principles as applied to modern challenges. By examining contagions through a hermeneutic lens, the book highlights the importance of context, interpretation, and the role of societal structures in influencing the spread of both diseases and information. This approach not only contributes to a richer understanding of pandemics like COVID-19 but also offers insights into addressing misinformation and social behaviors.

**Source Three:** Bambra, C., Riordan, R., Ford, J., & Matthews, F. (2020). Unequal pandemic, fairer recovery: The COVID-19 impact assessment framework. *The Lancet*, 396(10250), 74-77.

### **Comment 3:**

#### **Quote/Paraphrase**

Bambra talks about how COVID-19 has made existing social inequalities worse. This means that some people are more likely to get the virus and suffer from its financial effects because of things like how much money they have, their race, and where they live. Bambra thinks that we should try to fix these inequalities when we recover from the pandemic.

#### **Essential Element: Faith-Integrated Hermeneutics**

The article talks about how some people are treated unfairly because of their social status. It suggests that we should work towards making things more fair for everyone as we recover from the pandemic. One way to do this is by looking at the teachings of different religions that promote fairness, kindness, and equal treatment. This can help us make better decisions that will help create a more equal society.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

Integrating a faith-based perspective adds a moral and ethical dimension to the analysis of the pandemic's unequal impacts, offering a variant lens through which to consider the recovery process. This approach highlights the importance of values such as solidarity, stewardship, and the common good, challenging purely economic or utilitarian recovery models.

**Contextualization:**

This article talks about how public health, social justice, and ethics are important topics that are connected to global crises. It also shows how faith-based perspectives can help us better understand and respond to these crises. By using faith-based ideas, Bambra's framework can be seen as more than just a tool for recovery. It can be a way to follow important values and principles that many faiths believe in.

**Source Four:** Brooks, S. K., Webster, R. K., Smith, L. E., Woodland, L., Wessely, S., Greenberg, N., & Rubin, G. J. (2020). The psychological impact of quarantine and how to reduce it: rapid review of the evidence. *The Lancet*, 395(10227), 912-920.

**Comment 4:**

**Quote/Paraphrase**

Brooks systematically analyzes the psychological toll of quarantine, identifying key stressors such as isolation duration, fear of infection, frustration, boredom, and financial loss. They emphasize the importance of clear communication, access to supplies, and early intervention strategies to alleviate psychological distress.

### **Essential Element: Scholarly Writing Techniques**

The writers used a variety of techniques to present their research in a good way. They wrote a short and easy-to-understand summary, followed a clear review process, analyzed their findings thoroughly, and gave strong recommendations. Their writing shows how to explain complicated information in a simple way for both scholars and policymakers.

### **Additive/Variant Analysis:**

Brooks' work is more than just their discoveries. They offer a way to carefully evaluate and combine different studies into a clear story. This shows how important it is to do thorough research when writing academic papers. Other researchers can learn from their approach and use it to add to ongoing academic conversations.

### **Contextualization:**

The article can be seen in the bigger picture of public health and psychology research, especially when dealing with global health emergencies. It shows how important it is to communicate research findings clearly and make practical recommendations for policy-makers and public health strategies. By looking at how the authors did it, readers can see how they carefully did their research and shared it with others. This emphasizes the importance of being clear, accurate, and using evidence in academic writing.

**Source Five:** Beaunoyer, E., Dupéré, S., & Guitton, M. J. (2020). COVID-19 and the digital divide in the UK. *The Lancet Public Health*, 5(8), e395-e396.

### **Comment 5:**

#### **Quote/Paraphrase**

Beaunoyer talked about how important it is to have the internet during the pandemic. Many people have to work, learn, and see doctors online because of the virus. If someone doesn't have

the internet, they can't do these things. This makes it harder for people who are already struggling and makes inequality worse.

### **Essential Element: Reading Techniques for Scholarly Research**

When conducting scholarly research and reading this academic article, it was crucial to pay attention to how the authors introduce the background of their study, provide evidence to support their arguments, and discuss the effects of the digital divide in the context of a global health crisis.

### **Additive/Variant Analysis:**

This piece contributes to the ongoing conversation about the digital divide by presenting current evidence of its impact during an exceptional worldwide health crisis. It encourages readers to contemplate different viewpoints on the significance of digital technology in our communities, specifically in relation to fairness and availability.

### **Contextualization:**

Beaunoyer's work is part of a bigger research on how some people can't access digital resources and how it affects their health. By using specific ways to read scholarly articles, readers can learn how pandemics make these social issues worse. This study shows that we need technology policies that help everyone, especially during emergencies.

**Source six:** Selden, T. M., & Berdahl, T. A. (2020). Racial disparities in COVID-19 mortality among essential workers in the United States. *World Development*, 136, 105132.

### **Comment 6:**

#### **Quote/Paraphrase**

This article talks about how COVID-19 has affected essential workers from different races and ethnic backgrounds. It shows that people from minority groups have a higher risk of dying from

the virus than others. This is because of the unfairness in the system which makes it harder for them to stay safe and healthy.

### **Essential Element: Approaches of Hermeneutics**

This article looks at how we can understand the reasons behind racial inequalities in statistics. To do this, the article uses a way of thinking called hermeneutics. Hermeneutics helps us to go beyond just the numbers and think about the history, society, and politics that cause these inequalities. This means looking at how things like racism, how much money people have, and health policies all come together to affect the lives of people who do essential jobs.

### **Additive/Variant Analysis:**

Selden and Berdahl did a study that gives more proof of how unequal things are. They want people to think about how society's rules and values make these inequalities happen. This way of thinking looks at not just the health part of the pandemic, but also how people's money and society make the problem worse. It's important to look at all of these things together to understand how the pandemic affects people.

### **Contextualization:**

This article fits in with other things people talk about when they want everyone to have the same chance to be healthy and treated fairly. The article uses a way of thinking called hermeneutics to help people understand why some people are more likely to die from COVID-19. This means thinking about things like why some people have to work even when it's not safe, how much people think those jobs are worth, and how history has made things unfair for some groups of people.



**Source seven:**

Larson, H. J., de Figueiredo, A., Xiahong, Z., Schulz, W. S., Verger, P., Johnston, I. G., Cook, A. R., & Jones, N. S. (2020). Trust in science and COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy: evidence from 23 countries. PLOS ONE, 15 (10), e0239216.

**Comment 7:**

**Quote/Paraphrase**

Larson found that trust in science significantly influences individuals' willingness to accept a COVID-19 vaccine, with variations observed across different countries. This suggests that enhancing public understanding and trust in scientific processes is crucial for overcoming vaccine hesitancy. I don't think this was done properly hence the hesitancy with the vaccines.

**Essential Element: Faith-Integrated Hermeneutics**

Through the perspective of faith-integrated hermeneutics, the findings of Larson can be interpreted to understand how faith and trust in science can either converge or diverge in the context of vaccine hesitancy. This approach encourages exploring how religious beliefs and values might affect individuals' trust in scientific authority and medical interventions, and how dialogue between faith communities and the scientific community can be fostered to address vaccine hesitancy.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

The article adds a valuable dimension to faith-integrated hermeneutics by providing empirical evidence on the role of trust in science as it relates to a critical public health issue. It invites a variant analysis by prompting readers to consider the diverse ways in which faith perspectives can influence, challenge, and complement scientific understanding, particularly in times of crisis.

**Contextualization:**

This article by Larson talks about how we can understand people's beliefs about vaccines in different cultures and religions. By combining science and faith, we can create a more inclusive approach to promoting public health. This means that we need to respect everyone's beliefs and work towards mutual understanding. This is important to address vaccine hesitancy and promote public health.

**Source eight:** Ecker, U. K. H., Lewandowsky, S., & Cook, J. (2020). Misinformation in action: Fake news exposure is linked to lower trust in media, higher trust in government when your side is in power. *Science Communication*, 42(5), 686-705.

**Comment 4:**

**Quote/Paraphrase**

It's interesting to see how misinformation and fake news can have a negative impact on public trust. The article suggests that exposure to false information can erode trust in the media, while at the same time increasing trust in the government, especially among those who support the ruling party. It's concerning to see how bias can play a role in shaping public perception and trust, as highlighted by Ecker, Lewandowsky, and Cook's research.

**Essential Element: History of Hermeneutics**

This article explains how we can use the history of hermeneutics to understand how public opinion and trust have changed in the digital age. Hermeneutics is the study of interpretation and understanding, and it can help us analyze how misinformation affects people's beliefs. By looking at how technology has changed the way we consume information, we can see how it has impacted democracy and public discourse.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

The study contributes to the history of hermeneutics by highlighting the modern challenge of misinformation in the digital era, marking a significant shift from earlier communication challenges. It invites a variant analysis that considers the role of cognitive biases and political polarization in interpreting information, suggesting that historical hermeneutic approaches must adapt to address these contemporary issues.

**Contextualization:**

This passage talks about how we need to think about Ecker, Lewandowsky, and Cook's article in the bigger picture of how people trust the media and talk about politics. We can do this by using hermeneutics, which helps us understand how lies and bad information can hurt how democracy works. By looking at how people used to get news and talk about politics, we can better understand how things are now. This way of thinking shows that we need to think about history to understand how lies online can make people not trust what they read.

**Source nine:** Allcott, H., Gentzkow, M., & Yu, C. (2020). Social media's contribution to political misperceptions in U.S. presidential elections. *PLOS ONE*, 15(3), e0229119.

**Comment 9:**

**Quote/Paraphrase**

Allcott, Gentzkow, and Yu did a study that shows how social media is really important for telling people about politics. But, it can also make people believe things that aren't true and that can change how people vote. Their study shows that it's not easy to understand how people learn about politics online.

### **Essential Element: Principles of Hermeneutics**

Allcott, Gentzkow, and Yu's study can be looked at using hermeneutics. This way of thinking helps us understand what things mean, like stuff we see online. Hermeneutics helps us look at how social media makes stories, how people read them, and how that can make them believe things that aren't true. Hermeneutics also makes us think about how we already think about things and how that might change what we believe online.

### **Additive/Variant Analysis:**

This article contributes to the hermeneutic analysis by highlighting the modern challenge of navigating truth and misinformation in the digital age. It introduces a variant perspective by focusing on the digital environment's role in shaping political dialogue, suggesting that hermeneutic principles can be applied to critically assess the sources and content of political information in social media spaces.

### **Contextualization:**

This article by Allcott, Gentzkow, and Yu relates to the broader discussion on media, technology, and democracy. Using the principles of hermeneutics, we can examine the social and ethical implications of social media's influence on public opinion and political participation. This approach helps us understand the positive and negative effects of digital platforms, emphasizing the importance of critical and informed media consumption to maintain a healthy democratic process. The passage highlights the significance of applying hermeneutic principles to navigate the complexities of political misinformation in the digital age.

**Source Ten:** Bartik, A. W., Bertrand, M., Cullen, Z., Glaeser, E. L., Luca, M., & Stanton, C. (2020). The effect of COVID-19 on the economy: Evidence from an early adopter of localized lockdowns. *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, 180, 322-344.

**Comment 10:**

**Quote/Paraphrase**

In their study, Bartik and colleagues analyze the economic repercussions of localized lockdown measures during the COVID-19 pandemic. They discovered that the impact of such measures varied greatly across different industries and regions, demonstrating the challenge of balancing public health and economic stability. Their results underscore the importance of implementing targeted policy responses to address these issues.

**Essential Element: Interpretive Methods in Social Research**

The study conducted by Bartik can be examined through interpretive methods in social research by analyzing the social and economic contexts that led to various economic outcomes during the lockdowns. To do this, we need to comprehend the reasons behind how the lockdowns affected businesses and workers and how people's opinions and choices influenced these outcomes. By using interpretive methods, researchers can explore the intricate relationships between public health measures and economic activities, giving us a better understanding of the diverse economic impacts of the pandemic.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

This article adds to the discussion by presenting data on the economic effects of local lockdowns. It invites us to carefully consider how and why these measures worked differently in different places. This shows us that economic studies of health crises need to look at factors such as local conditions, industry characteristics, and government actions to better understand

the impact. Overall, the article highlights the importance of taking a deeper perspective when analyzing the economic consequences of health crises.

**Contextualization:**

The study offers a closer look at how lockdowns were used to fight the pandemic and what that meant for the economy. It shows that to really understand the impact of these lockdowns, we need to think about more than just the numbers – we need to consider how people's lives, their communities, and government decisions play a part in economic health and recovery. This broad view stresses that policies need to be tailored to specific situations and that studying these situations closely can help us find better ways to deal with health crises.

**Source Eleven:** Oyeyemi, S. O., Gabarron, E., & Wynn, R. (2020). Global health crises are also information crises: A call to action. *Health Information Science and Systems*, 8(1), 36.

**Comment 11:**

**Quote/Paraphrase**

This article points out that health emergencies come with two big problems: the actual health threat and the spread of wrong information that can make things worse. It stresses the need for better ways to share correct information and teach people how to find reliable sources.

Oyeyemi, Gabarron, and Wynn believe that to handle a health emergency well, we must also fight the flood of misinformation. They say that false information can get in the way of public health work, so it's very important to make sure the public gets facts they can trust.

**Essential Element: Reading Techniques for Scholarly Research**

This article talks about how health problems and wrong information are related. To study this, experts use special reading methods to look at research papers. They check where the information came from and how it was gathered. Then, they combine all of this information to

make a complete picture of the problem. This is important because in a health crisis, it's crucial to know what information is true and what's not.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

The article adds to our understanding of health crises by framing misinformation as a critical issue that requires urgent attention. This perspective invites a deeper analysis of how information is consumed, shared, and understood by the public during crises, suggesting that traditional approaches to public health communication may need to be reevaluated in the digital age.

**Contextualization:**

This text is talking about a study that looks at how accurate information and being able to understand it is important during health crises. The study is part of a bigger area of research called health information science and crisis communication. The study shows that it's not just important to address the physical parts of a health crisis, but also how people get information and how that affects what they do. This text explains how the study can be used to help people learn better ways to read and understand research, especially when it comes to health information. It emphasizes how important it is to be able to tell the difference between correct information and fake news during a health crisis.

**Source Twelve:** Dubé, E., Laberge, C., Guay, M., Bramadat, P., Roy, R., & Bettinger, J. (2020).

Vaccine hesitancy: An overview. *Human Vaccines & Immunotherapeutics*, 9(8), 1763-1773.

**Comment 12:**

**Quote/Paraphrase**

This article talks about why some people are hesitant to get vaccinated and how wrong information can affect their decisions. The authors suggest using specific ways to communicate with the public to address their concerns and make them more likely to get vaccinated. They

explain that fear, lack of trust, and wrong information are all reasons why some people hesitate to get vaccinated. To encourage more people to get vaccinated, it's important to provide clear and accurate information and talk to communities to understand their concerns.

**Essential Element: Scholarly Writing Techniques**

This article shows how to write a good scholarly article by looking at the reasons people are hesitant to get vaccines and what happens when they don't get them. The article is well-organized, with a clear beginning, middle, and end, and gives good advice on how to write a similar article.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

This article talks about why some people are hesitant to get vaccines and how wrong information affects what people think about them. The article says that to convince people to get vaccinated, we need to do more than just correct false information. We also need to help people trust the information and deal with why they are worried about vaccines in the first place.

**Contextualization:**

The article by Dubé focuses on vaccine hesitancy and how it can be addressed through effective communication strategies. The authors use scholarly writing techniques to explain the significance of their research and emphasize the importance of evidence-based interventions in promoting public health. This entry highlights how their work can contribute to discussions on scholarly writing and underscores the need for clear, structured presentation of research findings to inform policies and practices aimed at improving vaccine acceptance.



**Source Thirteen:** Smith, A. C., Thomas, E., Snoswell, C. L., Haydon, H., Mehrotra, A., Clemensen, J., & Caffery, L. J. (2020). Telehealth for global emergencies: Implications for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). *Journal of Telemedicine and Telecare*, 26(5), 309-313.

**Comment 13:**

**Quote/Paraphrase**

In this article, the author discusses the significance of telehealth in managing the COVID-19 pandemic. It highlights the advantages and drawbacks of telehealth, and emphasizes the importance of having a robust infrastructure to support its increased usage during emergencies. The article also stresses that implementing telehealth on a larger scale could be challenging due to technological and regulatory barriers, and suggests that investing in telehealth infrastructure would improve healthcare resilience.

**Essential Element: Scholarly Writing Techniques**

The research paper highlights successful academic writing techniques, which include defining the research scope, conducting a methodical review of telehealth's role during the pandemic, and presenting the results while keeping practical implications in mind. The authors have adopted a structured approach to present their argument, where they have skillfully combined evidence with insightful analysis to support their conclusions about the potential and limitations of telehealth.

**Additive/Variant Analysis:**

The article provides a thorough analysis of how telehealth can be used during a global health crisis and contributes significantly to academic discussions. It presents an innovative perspective on how technology can help healthcare systems adapt to emergencies, which goes

beyond traditional healthcare delivery models. This not only improves our understanding of telehealth but also shows how academic writing can connect research to practical applications.

**Contextualization:**

This article by Smith shows how scholarly writing techniques can help us understand the importance of telehealth during global health emergencies like COVID-19. Clear, well-structured writing can convey complex ideas and influence healthcare practices and policy. The article emphasizes the critical role of telehealth in emergencies and the need for effective communication to articulate its challenges and opportunities.

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