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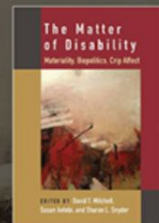
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1 INTRODUCTION

Explaining Pandemic Response

Scott L. Greer, Elizabeth J. King, and Elize Massard da Fonseca

The COVID-19 pandemic created unprecedented and turbulent mixtures of political, social, economic, and epidemiological forces. It has caused the world to pause and think about how and why some countries have fared worse than other countries in addressing the threat of SARS-CoV-2, and in many cases fared far worse than expected. In putting many different political systems to the test, it has caused many to ask why different countries did what they did.

A novel coronavirus was recognized as an emerging public health threat in Wuhan, China, in late 2019, but the year 2020 will be remembered for the shock that the virus administered to essentially every political system in the world. By spring 2020, COVID-19 had governments around the world scrambling to address a virus for which much remained unknown scientifically, but which was ravaging through the inequities in societies and exposing gaps in public health systems and social policy structures. Higher-income countries were not immune, and in fact many appeared to be the least prepared (or willing) to respond to the pandemic.

Many countries did take decisive and abrupt action, sometimes unsurprising and sometimes quite out of character. Governments put their

entire economies into the equivalent of a medically induced coma, shutting businesses, schools, and social lives and sometimes keeping them alive with unorthodox social policy measures. The response varied worldwide. Although we may not know the long-term effects of these varying responses, a comparative analysis of the public health and social policies can tell us a lot about how and why governments respond the way that they do.

As of this writing, the pandemic is far from over. Many lessons have been drawn; some might be learned. Nonetheless, the politics of COVID-19 during the “first wave” of the pandemic warrant a multidisciplinary and multinational analysis. This knowledge can be useful as the world continues to fight COVID-19 and is equally important for thinking about other ongoing and future infectious disease pandemics.

This book is about what governments did to respond to COVID-19 and why they did it. It covers the first ten months of the pandemic, the first wave that struck the globe between December 2019 and September 2020. We conceptualized the Page 4 —idea for this book in February 2020, aiming to bring together regional experts to try to identify what approaches to controlling the COVID-19 pandemic were being implemented and to explain the differences among countries’ responses. As the pandemic continued to expand, so did the number of experts ready to contribute to this comparative analysis of the public health and social policy response to COVID-19. The book is organized according to how COVID-19 and the responses unfolded. After an overview of the role that the World Health Organization (WHO) has played and a comparative analysis of global response there are a series of country case studies. We start with Asia and conclude with Africa, following roughly the order in which the pandemic hit.



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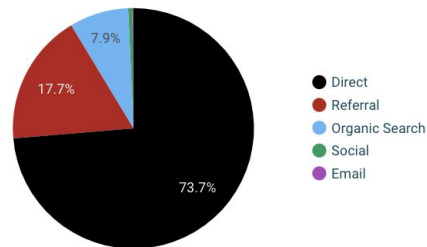
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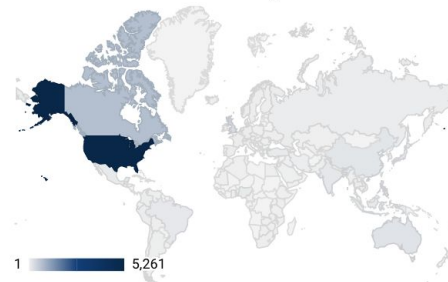


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Editors:	Andre Peralta-Santos, Elizabeth King, Elize Massard da Fonseca, Scott L Greer		

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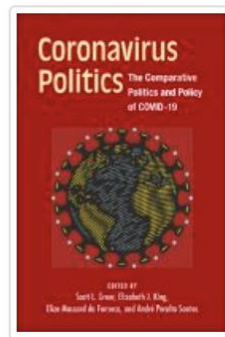
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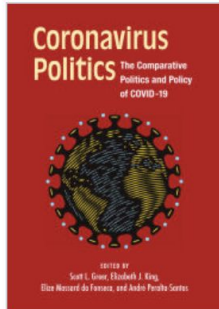
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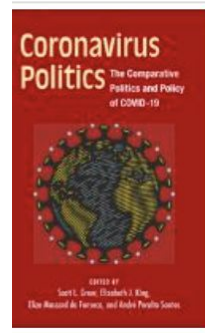
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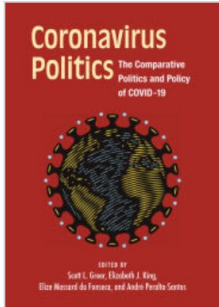


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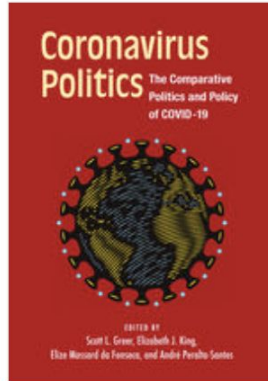
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Scott L. Greer
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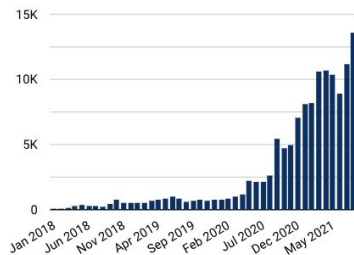
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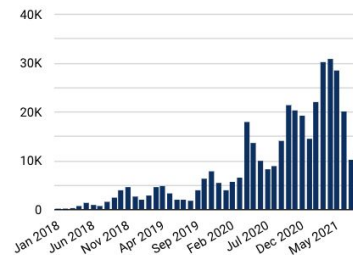
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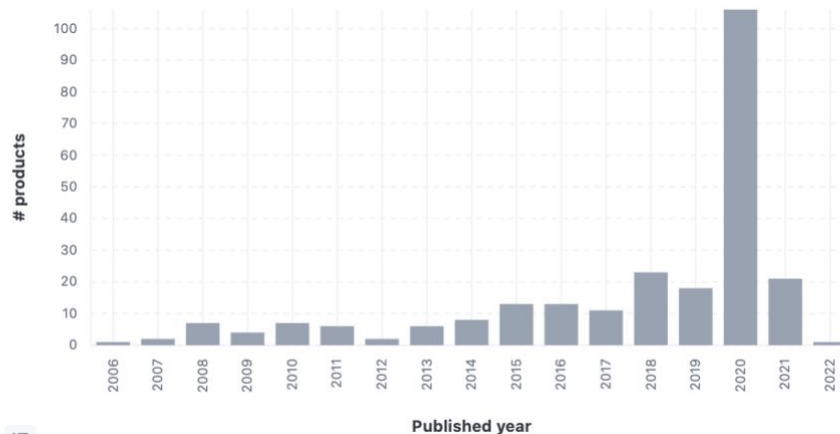
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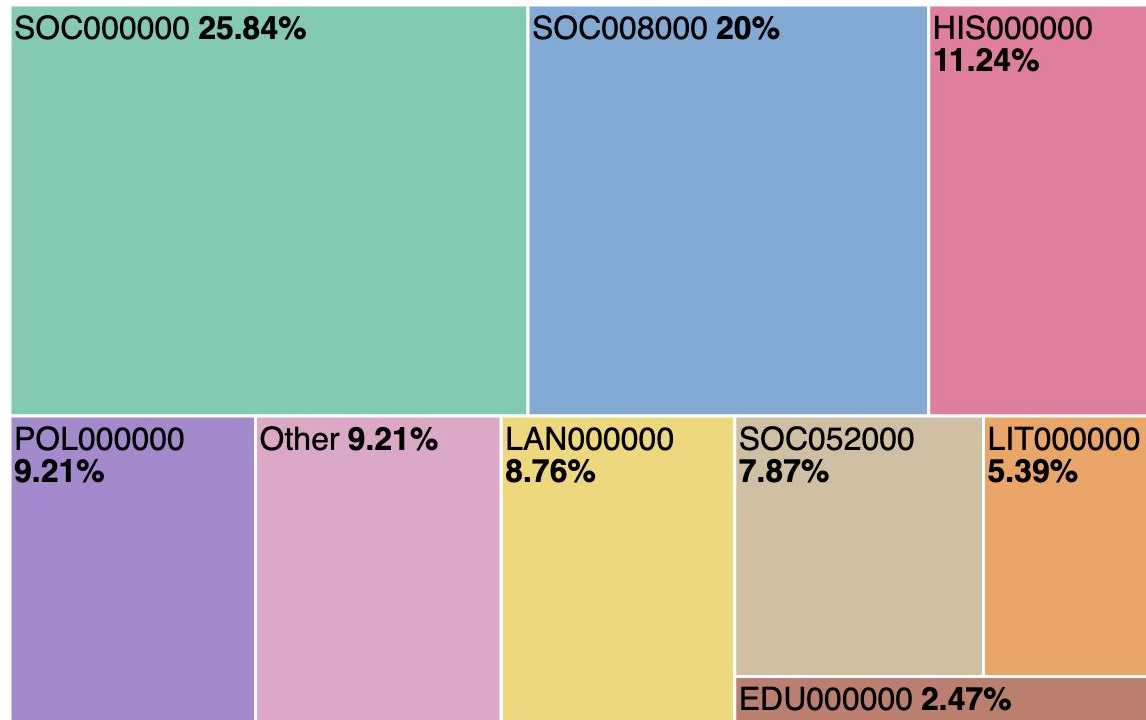
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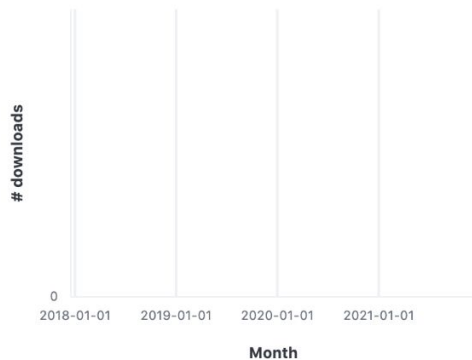
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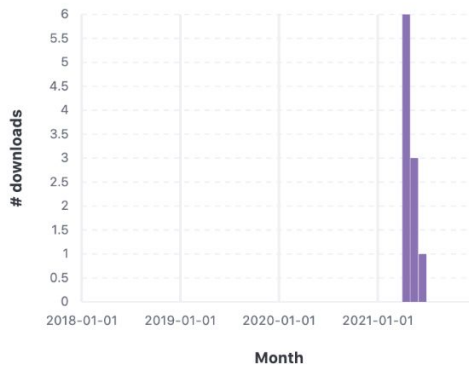
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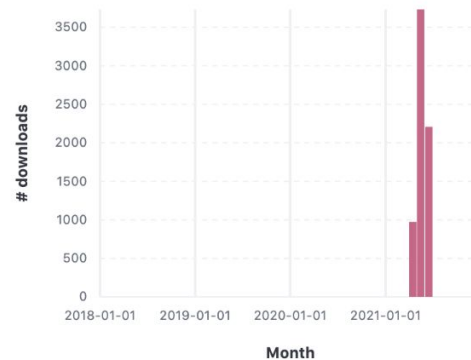
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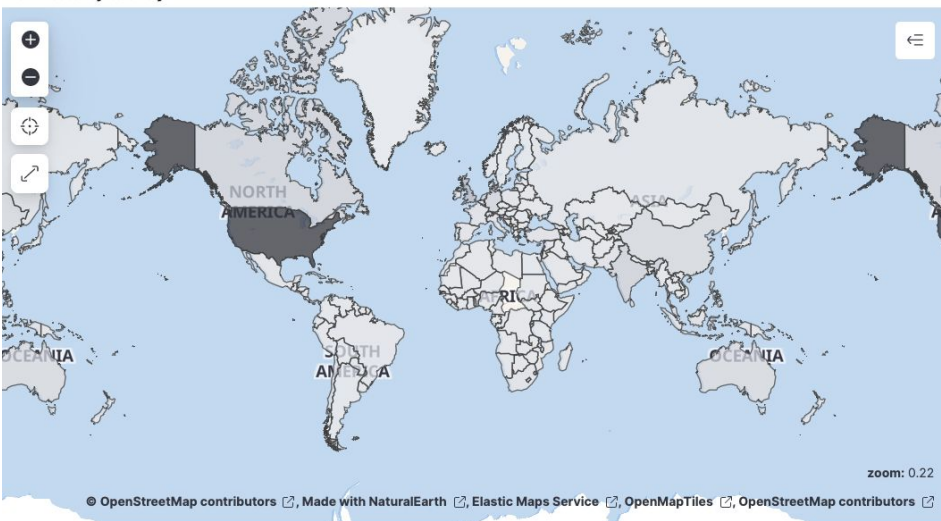
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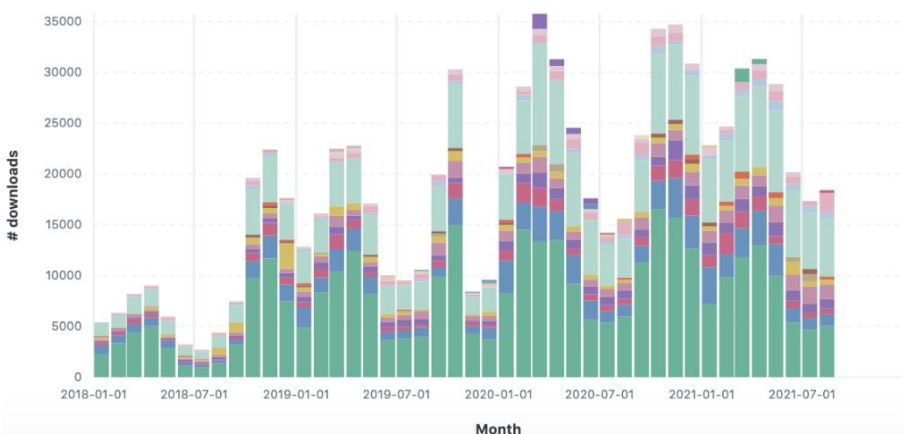
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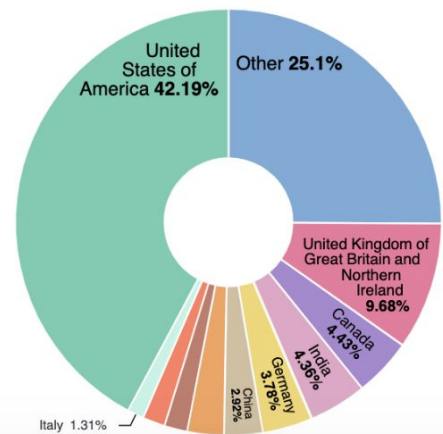
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