COMMUNICATION & SOCIETY

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How are Communication and Media Studies Scholars Writing about COVID-19? A Meta-analysis of Communication and Media-Focused Covid-19 Literature

Abstract

According to the selective exposure hypothesis, media with the arrival of COVID-19, the output of communication and media-focused peer-review articles have increased frenetically. As a result, this study examines the communication and media aspects, methodological characteristics and guiding theories, the geographic landscape of content, and the dominant publication avenue of peer-reviewed articles in high-impact journals (n=576). Findings show that mass communication and social media are the leading media types, while Twitter is the leading platform. The quantitative research method, survey and grounded theory are the leading methodology, research technique and guiding theory, respectively. Countries in the Global North and China dominated the geographic content of this emergent area, while the *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships and Health Communication* were primary publication outlets. Within communication and media-focused communications research, 'covid,' '2020,' 'media,' and 'social' are the most popular words.

Keywords
Covid 19, communication, media, bibliometric analysis, content analysis.

1. Introduction

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) identified in Wuhan in late 2019 has significantly marked academic and clinical research both in the short term and, from all indications, in the distant future too. One of the noticeable pieces of evidence concerning its impact is the remarkable influx of publications we have witnessed in the last four years, in what is now fondly called the "paperdemic" (Valencise *et al.*, 2022 p. 1). Not only we are witnessing peer-reviewed publications in journals, but we are also noticing an overwhelming increase in preprint servers, such as arXiv, bioRxiv, and medRxiv. As of July 2020, over 20,000 academic papers had been published, a good many of them in reputable publication outlets (Harper *et al.*, 2020).

This incredible output of publications has not only appeared in medical and public health sciences, but we are also completely swamped by covid 19-focused publications beyond the health sector, in areas such as psychology, sociology, engineering, architecture, and in communication and media studies, which is the focus of this study. As of April 2021, over 200 articles had been published in the top 40 communication and media journals (Lin & Nan, 2022)

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not including editorial, bibliography, interview reflection and other non-peer reviewed academic works.

The concentration of communication and media-focused COVID-19 studies has, once again, demonstrated to our world that indeed, no communication equals no society. In general, the media has played a part since 2019 when COVID-19 was identified. Traditional news sources such as newspapers, radio and TV has become a crucial resource for individuals and collectives around the world, as well as digital and social media, both of which have rapidly become significant tools for the creation of related information (Tsao *et al.*, 2021), disseminating of diagnosis, treatment, novel findings, newly revised guidelines, as well as a tool for comparing and contrasting transnational approaches and developments (González-Padilla & Tortolero-Blanco, 2020).

While evidence has shown a tremendous publication record of COVID-19 in the field of communication and media studies in a short span, no study has carried out a comprehensive systematic literature review of COVID-19 research in the field, especially regarding all leading journals in the world. Be that as it may, this study aims to know how communication and media studies scholars write about COVID-19. The objective is to ascertain a collective estimate closest to the unknown as it pertains to the dominant areas within this fairly new area. Given that scoping reviews provide insights and also help "identify the process of scientific production and define academic gaps as well as future directions for research" (Günther & Domahidi, 2017, p. 4815). As a result, this study examines leading communication and media aspects, methodological characteristics and guiding theories, the geographic landscape of content, and the dominant publication avenue of communication and media-focused research.

Given that this study aims to provide a snapshot, identify the sources of variability and, in general, inquire into what communication and media scholars are writing about Covid, the extent to which this study covers all areas of communication and media studies, i.e., public relations, advertising, digital media, journalism, broadcasting, film and cinema, and visual communication. As a result, this study is significant in the sense that it is the pioneer of comprehensive COVID-focused communications research of published high-impact communication journals, hence it would provide insights into the areas within this emergent area of health communication.

2. Communication and Media-Focused COVID-19 Research

2.1. *Levels of Communication*

Studies on what we now refer to as communication and media focused covid 19 research have spanned a wide array of topics ranging from the importance of the media in knowledge dissemination during the pandemic (Chan *et al.*, 2020; Dkhar *et al.*, 2020), to the role of the media (Anwar *et al.*, 2020; Sahni & Sharma, 2020), and media effects (van Aelst *et al.*, 2021; Eisele *et al.*, 2022). Studies have explored perception, media trust and misperception of covid 19 as orchestrated by varying media outlets, such as the persuasive effect of conservative news sources during the COVID-19 pandemic (Simonov *et al.*, 2020), media trust during the COVID-19 pandemic in the West (Zhao *et al.*, 2020), as well as other generic media informed COVID-19 misperceptions inquiries (Bridgman *et al.*, 2020). Another area that has gained massive attention is misinformation, rumours, fact-checking and fake news (Ahmed & Rasul, 2022; Freiling *et al.*, 2023).

Within this emergent scholarship, a handful of scholars have made efforts to map the trends and themes evident within communication and media-focused COVID-19 scholar-ships. Unsurprisingly, most scholars have taken a piecemeal approach where they've only inquired into a specific aspect of communication and media aspects of the COVID-19 ph-enomenon. For example, Tsao *et al.* (2021) focused on social media in their analysis of 81 peer-

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reviewed articles published between November 1ˢᵗ, 2019 to November 4ᵗʰ 2020, and they identified Twitter and Sina Weibo as the leading social networking platforms. Similarly, Marciano *et al.* (2022) conducted a systematic literature review of thirty peer-reviewed articles published in eight databases, namely *Communication & Mass Media Complete*, *Pubmed*, *Web of Science*, *Psychology and Behavioral Sciences Collection*, *PsycINFO*, *CINAHL*, *Eric* and *Proquest Sociology*, to ascertain Digital Media use during the pandemic.

Given this background, this study poses the following research question:

RQ1. What are the prominent levels of communication within the comprehensive communication and media-focused research published in high-impact journals?

2.2. *Media types and Platforms*

Over the past recent decades, media scholars have also been curious about the most used media types and platforms studied within mass communication research areas. Hence scholars such as Wasike (2017) have inquired about the prominent media types and they found that digital media, social media and broadcast media were almost closely distributed as the dominant media types. Comfort and Park (2018), in their inquiry into media types in 529 communication and media focused, found that print media was the dominant media type. Within the field of health communication, results have also varied, for instance, Manganello and Blake, (2010) two-decade-long systematic literature review found that magazines are the most used media type, closely followed by television and newspapers. More recently, health-focused communication and media systematic literature reviews, such as Lin and Nan (2022), found that traditional media types were the dominant. The dominant platform was television, etc.

RQ2. What are the most common media types and platforms within communication and media-focused research published in high-impact journals?

2.3. *Methodological Characteristics*

By peripherally exploring existing communication and media aspects within Covid-focused research, we found diverse methodological paradigms and guiding theories which are crucial to emergent scholarship because theories, whether multidisciplinary or within the field or methods, whether qualitative, quantitative or mixed, "provides a better framework for systematic analysis of phenomena from the problem definition stage to the analysis and interpretation stage" (Wasike, 2017, p. 213).

In the larger context of traditional communication and media analysis, two findings have been established with respect to theoretical approaches adopted in varying fields and subfields. The first is that a variety of guiding theories were found within the scholarship. The second is the overwhelming lack of guiding theories especially when exploring emergent scholarship (Edeani, 1995; Wasike 2017).

RQ3. What are the common methodological characteristics of communication and media-focused Covid research published in High-Impact Journals?

2.4. *Guiding Theories*

"The volume, scope, and quality of research and theory development in any academic discipline are among the important yardsticks for the assessment of the status of the discipline" (Edeani, 1995, p. 26). While it is clear that communication and media-related research have adopted various methodological approaches and guiding theories to understand the complex phenomenon of communication and media aspects of Covid 19, no comprehensive study has mapped the findings hence the second research question.

RQ4. What are the guiding theories of communication and media-focused Covid research published in high-impact journals?

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2.5. *Geospatial Distribution*

The impact of Covid 19 has been felt in Oceania, Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas –literally every region of the world. While many regions were hit hard with thousands of deaths and economic downtimes, others have had a lesser direct and indirect impact. This study's supposition on the geographic landscape of content within Covid-focused communications research is greatly informed by the larger context of mainstream communication and media research, which has shown that studies on similar emergent global phenomena, such as climate change, have had an uneven distribution of research interest. For example, in Schäfer and Schlichting's (2014) meta-analysis of 133 examples of media-focused climate change research, they found the majority of the scholarly interest was from the Global North, specifically Europe. Similarly, media-focused asylum seekers, refugees and immigrants research has also been disproportionate in favour of the Global North, as seen in Seo and Kavakli's (2022) meta-analysis of 119 research articles.

Given that dearth of comprehensive empirical information on the geographic landscape of content within this research, we ask:

RQ5.What is the geographic landscape of content within communication and media-focused research published in high-impact journals?

2.6. *Publication Avenues*

COVID-19 has been incredibly unpredictable, especially regarding its impact and spread. While it is expected that peer-reviewed journals like *Health Communication,* and other top-ranking health journals that have made decades-long commitments to publishing health-focused communication research, are likely to be leading publication outlets, there is no comprehensive empirical evidence to ascertain such suppositions. We ask:

RQ6. What are the dominant publication avenues of communication and media-focused covid research published in high-impact journals?
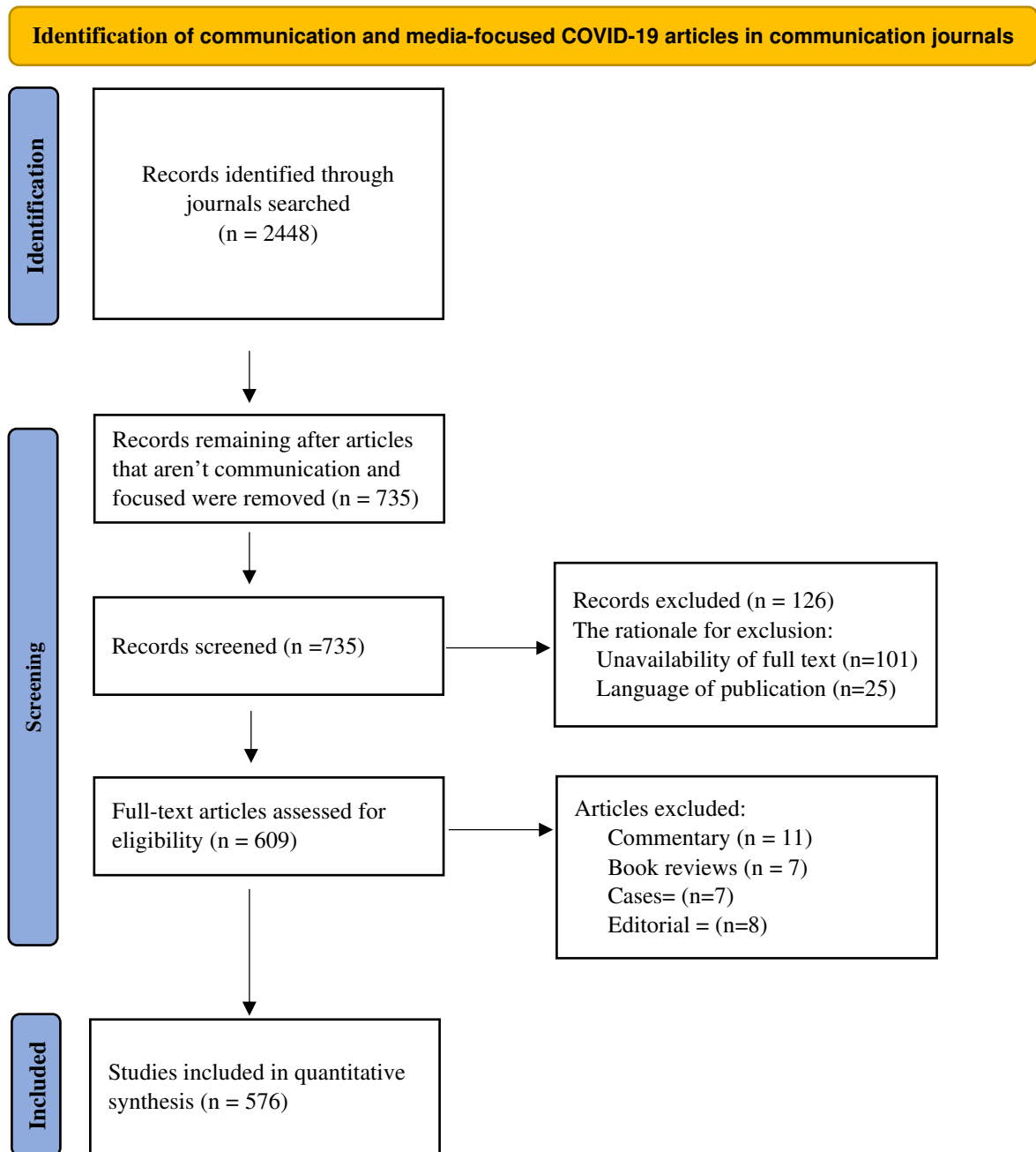
3. Method

This study adopts a quantitative content analysis to examine the communication and media aspects, methodological characteristics guiding theories, the geographic landscape of content, and the dominant publication avenue of COVID-focused communications research published in high-impact journals.

3.1. *Sample and Data Collection*

The corpus of peer-reviewed articles that formed the sample frame of this article was obtained from The Observatory of International Research's leading communication journals *(N=94).* This ranking is based on a journal's quartile citation count (TQCC) which takes into consideration impact factor, average citations, H4-Index, median citations and the number of published papers.

To ascertain if a paper is a communication and media-focused COVID paper, "COVID-19" was the lone keyword used during the search inquiry within individual journals. To qualify, articles must mention "covid 19" in their title, abstract and keywords. Beyond that, the qualified article must be a communication and media-focused COVID paper. i.e., they should address a communication and/or media-related issue and/or event or both. All articles must be peer-reviewed articles and must be written in the English language. Data collection commenced in July 2022 and ended in September 2022.

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Figure 1. A seven-section hierarchy chart showing the details of the search inquiry process from the initial total number of articles found to the qualified communication and media-focused articles. Summary of the screening process.

Identification of communication and media-focused COVID-19 articles in communication journals

Identification

Records identified through journals searched
(n = 2448)

Screening

Records remaining after articles that aren't communication and focused were removed (n = 735)

Records screened (n =735)

Records excluded (n = 126)
The rationale for exclusion:
  Unavailability of full text (n=101)
  Language of publication (n=25)

Full-text articles assessed for eligibility (n = 609)

Articles excluded:
  Commentary (n = 11)
  Book reviews (n = 7)
  Cases= (n=7)
  Editorial = (n=8)

Included

Studies included in quantitative synthesis (n = 576)

Source: Own elaboration following the PRISMA flow.

3.2. *Content analysis*

3.2.1. Coding scheme

A singular communication and media–focused COVID–19 article is the unit of analysis for this study. To answer all research questions (i.e., leading communication and media aspects, methodological characteristics and guiding theories, the geographic landscape of content, and the dominant publication avenue), the following categories were coded.

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Communication levels: According to Kreps (2001), health communication can be assessed from varying levels of information and knowledge exchange namely, intrapersonal, interpersonal, group, organizational, and societal. Similarly, Bala (2014) shared a similar grouping namely, intrapersonal, interpersonal, group, public and mass communication. Hence to understand the communication levels of communication and media-focused covid 19 research in the last four years, the following categories were coded: 1) Intrapersonal, 2) interpersonal, 3) group, 4) public, 5) Mass communication, 6) Multiple, 7) None.

Media Types: To understand the media types within communication and media-focused covid 19 research, this study adapted Lin and Nan's (2022) media themes which they categorised as traditional mass media, Web 1.0 and Web 2.0. For lucidity, we adopted the following categories: 1) traditional media, 2) digital media, 3) social media, 4) multiple media types, 0) none.

Media platforms: To determine the media platforms used within peer review communication and media-focused covid 19 research between 2019 and 2022, Comfort and Park (2018), Zheng *et al.* (2016) and Wasike's (2017) meta-analysis of communication technology research greatly informed us. We focused on the coding categories adopted from their study because their codded media platforms didn't exclusively enlist mainstream media technologies like most metanalysis. They also focused on Asian media platforms such as Sina Weibo. As the data collection proceeded, we added more categories. In the end, the following categories guided media platforms: 1) Television, 2) Radio, 3) Newspapers, 4) Magazines, 5) Facebook, 6) Twitter, 7) Blogs, 8) Online news websites, 9) Forums, 10) WhatsApp, 11) Websites of traditional media platforms, 12) Multiple media types, 13) Wechat, 14) Zhihu, 15) Zoom, 16) Instagram, 17) The Sina Weibo, 18) Government websites, 19) TikTok, 20) Signage, 21) Open Letters, 22) Recorded video, 23) Technical documents, 24) Press conference, 25) Surveillance apps, 26) YouTube, 27) Dating app, 28) Reddit, 29) E-mail, 30) Video Games, 31) AirBnB, 0) none.

Methodological Characteristics: Three variables were explored within this research inquiry. To understand the dominant methodological characteristics, we coded the following: 1) Qualitative, 2) Quantitative, 3) Mixed. For the data collection methods, this study's coding categories were largely informed by Zheng *et. al* (2016). As a result, the following categories were coded: 1) none, 2) Case study, 3) Content analysis, 4) Document analysis, 5) Experimental, 6) Ethnography, 7) Focus groups, 8) In-depth interviews, 9) Mixed methods, 10) Secondary data, 11) Phenomenology, 12) Review, 13) Rhetoric analysis, 14) Social media analysis, 15) Survey, 16) Textual analysis, 17) Others, 18) Thematic analysis, 19) Conversation analysis, 20) Critical Discourse analysis, 21) Semiotic analysis.

Theories: To understand the theories within communication and media focused Covid-19 literature, the following categories are coded: 1) None, 2) Multiple, 3) Grounded, 4) Framing, 5) Relational turbulence, 6) Motivation theory, 7) Wefulness, 8) Uncertainty reduction, 9) Situational crisis communication, 10) Affection exchange, 11) Field, 12) Communication mediation, 13) Mediatization, 14) Unified theory of acceptance, 15) Social capital, 16) Cultivation, 17) Media multiplexity, 18) Interdependence, 19) Attachment, 20) Family systems theory, 21) Multiple goal, 22) Communication theory of resilience, 23) Legitimation, 24) Social identity theory, 25) Social information possessing, 26) Affordance, 27) Complexity, 28) Organizational support, 29) Innovation, 30) Embodiment, 31) Feminist, 32) Script, 33) Expectancy violation, 34) Feeling-as-information theory, 35) Construal level theory, 36) Cognitive load, 37) Theory of planned behavior (TPB), 38) Inoculation, 39) Exemplification, 40) Media system dependency structuration, 41) Situational theory of problem solving (STOPS), 42) Network, 43) Affect, 44) Social scientific, 45) Interdependence theory.

The geographic landscape of content: To identify, the regional focus of the study and first author affiliation, all articles were perused and then accorded to the findings.

Dominant Publication Avenue: To ascertain the distribution of publication outlets, all journals listed in The Observatory of International Research's leading communication journals were coded.

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Table 0. Category Definitions and Coding Parameters.

Categories	Definitions	Coding parameters
Communication levels	This category constitutes a range of human interaction and knowledge dissemination aspects within communication and media focused Covid-19 literature.	Articles under this category must have stated specific aspects of human communication from intrapersonal to mass communication.
Media types	This classification encompasses a wide spectrum of communication and information dissemination channels explored within communication and media-focused COVID-19 literature.	Markers are generic channels of information exchange and information dissemination from traditional media to digital media and social media.
Media platforms	This category presents distinct mediums of communication and information exchange explored within communication and media-focused COVID-19 literature.	Markers are specific channels or a combination of a few that were focused on within the research area.
Methodological Characteristics	This category refers to the distinct approaches and techniques employed to answer research questions and/or support or reject hypotheses within communication and media-focused COVID-19 literature.	The markers are research design, data collection method, findings, etc.
Theories	The theoretical nature focuses on the paradigms, concepts and frameworks that substantiate research within communication and media-focused COVID-19 literature.	Articles that adopted a distinct or a generic theoretical framework.
Regional focus of the study	This category focuses on the geographic and physical aspects of the issue being assessed within communication and media-focused COVID-19 literature.	Markers are regions and countries mostly clearly specified within the methods section of a work.
First author affiliation	This classification constitutes the institution or research organization that the first author is associated with, within communication and media-focused Covid-19 literature.	Markers are mostly contained in the author information section of the articles.

Source: Own elaboration.

3.2.2. Coding

Two researchers in the faculty of communication and media studies, with two trained independent coders, performed the coding. The lone researcher who has the first author accordion was contacted whenever there was any question from the beginning of data coding to the end of data collection. To ensure reliability, 57 articles (i.e., 10% of the sample) were identified for the pretest. Cohen's kappa (κ) quantitative measure of reliability was employed for every two raters. An average was found and the result shows that the inter-rater reliability ranged from 0.74 to 1.0.

4. Results

A total of 576 communication and media-focused COVID-19 articles were identified and analysed to understand what communication and media scholars are writing about COVID-19.

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RQ1. Communication levels within communication and media-focused COVID research

Table 1 shows that mass communication aspects were significantly focused on, more than other forms (n=360; 62.5%). Interpersonal communication followed with sixty-two (10.7%) of articles were communication and media-focused Covid research. Articles that focused on public communication constitute 10.4% (n=60) of the sample frame. Group communication was the focus of 43 (7.4%) articles, while intra-personal communication was identified to be the least form with 3.2% (n=21). Articles that focused on more than one aspect amounted to 3.2% of our sample frame with 11 (1.9%) articles focusing on none of the aspects.

Table 1. Communication Levels.

Forms	F	%
Mass communication	360	62.5
Interpersonal	62	10.7
Public	60	10.4
Group	43	7.4
Intrapersonal	21	3.6
Multiple	19	3.2
None	11	1.9
Total	**576**	**100**

Source: Own elaboration.

RQ2. Media types and platforms within communication and media-focused COVID research

Table 2 displays the output for media types and platforms within communication and media-focused covid 19 research published in high-impact journals. For media types, the result shows that articles focusing on social media are the leading media types within communication and media-focused COVID research (n=191, 33.1%). Articles that didn't focus on any specific media type amount to 24.4% (n=141) of the sample frame. One hundred and twenty-seven (22.0%) articles focused on digital media. Traditional media-focused articles were 13.5% (n=78) of the sample frame. Thirty-nine articles focused on multiple media types (n=39; 6.7%).

Table 2. Media Types and Platforms.

Media Types	f	%
Social media	191	33.1
None	141	24.4
Digital media	127	22.0
Traditional media	78	13.5
Multiple media	39	6.7
Total	576	100
Media Platform	**f**	**%**
None	203	35.24
Multiple media platform	126	21.87
Twitter	53	9.20
Online news websites	52	8.68
Television	23	3.99

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Facebook	21	3.64
Newspapers	21	3.64
Websites of traditional media platforms	14	2.43
Surveillance apps	7	1.21
Forums	6	1.04
Sina Weibo	5	0.86
Government websites	5	0.86
WeChat	5	0.86
WhatsApp	5	0.86
Instagram	4	0.69
video games	4	0.69
Blogs	3	0.52
Radio	2	0.34
Magazines	2	0.34
Zoom	2	0.34
Press Conference	2	0.34
Zhihu	1	0.17
TikTok	1	0.17
Signage	1	0.17
Open Letters	1	0.17
Recorded Video	1	0.17
Technical Documents	1	0.17
YouTube	1	0.17
Dating app	1	0.17
Reddit	1	0.17
E-mail	1	0.17
Airbnb	1	0.17
Total	576	100

Source: Own elaboration.

For media platforms, the majority of the articles didn't focus on a specific media platform (n=203; 35.2%). Articles that focused on multiple media platforms were predominant with 21.8% of the sample frame. Twitter was the most studied platform with 9.2% (n=53) of the sample frame. Similarly distributed are online news websites (n=52; 9.0%). Twenty-three articles concentrated on television (3.9%). The articles that focused on Facebook (n=21; 3.6%) and newspapers (n=21; 3.6%) are equally distributed. The result also shows that fourteen (2.4%) focused on websites of traditional media platforms. Seven (1.2%) of the articles focused on surveillance apps. Six articles (1.0%) focused on forums. Articles that are the focus of Sina Weibo (n=5; n=0.68), Government websites (n=5; n=0.68), WeChat (n=5; n=0.68) and Whats-App (n=5; n=0.68) are equally distributed. Articles that concentrate on Instagram (n=4; 0.6%) and video games (n=4; 0.6%) are evenly distributed. Three articles focused on blogs (0.5%). Articles that are the focus of radio (n=2;0.3%), magazines (n=2;0.3%), zoom (n=2;0.3%) and press conferences (n=2;0.3%) are also equally distributed. Articles that concentrate on Zhihu (n=1;0.1%), TikTok (n=1;0.1%), signage (n=1;0.1%), open letters (n=1;0.1%), recorded video (n=1;0.1%), technical documents (n=1;0.1%), YouTube (n=1;0.1%), Dating app (n=1;0.1%), Reddit (n=1;0.1%), E-mail (n=1;0.1%) and Airbnb (n=1;0.1%) are also presented in equal proportions.

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RQ3. Methodological characteristics and guiding theories within communication and media-focused COVID research

Table 3 shows that quantitative methodology (n=361; 62.6%) was adopted most by the qualified articles. Next was qualitative methods with 21.1% (n=122). The mixed method was adopted least (n=93; 16.1%).

Table 3. Methodology and Techniques.

Method and Techniques	f	%
Quantitative	361	62.6
Survey	199	34.5
Experimental	70	12.1
Review	58	10.06
Content analysis	19	3.29
Social media analysis	12	2.08
Secondary data	3	0.5
Qualitative	122	21.1
Critical discourse analysis	26	4.51
In-depth interviews	22	3.81
Review	22	3.81
Case study	13	2.2
Semiotic analysis	9	1.5
Textual analysis	6	1.04
Ethnography	6	1.04
Document analysis	5	0.86
Focus groups	4	0.69
Thematic analysis	4	0.69
Conversation analysis	3	0.5
Rhetoric analysis	1	0.17
Phenomenology	1	0.17
Mixed	93	16.1
Total	**576**	**100**

Source: Own elaboration.

Within quantitative methods, the Survey was the most adopted data collection method (n=199; 34.5%) followed by Experimental Studies (n=70; 12.1%) and Review (n=58; 10.06%). Content analysis was adopted by 3.29% (n=19) of the peer-reviewed articles within the sample frame, while twelve articles (2.08%) adopted social media analysis. Only three articles adopted secondary methods.

Within Qualitative methods, critical discourse analysis was adopted by twenty-six articles (4.51%). The number of articles that adopted in-depth interviews was (n=22; 3.81%) and reviews (n=22; 3.81%). Thirteen articles adopted case study analysis (2.2%), while semiotic analysis was adopted by nine articles (1.5%). Articles that adopted textual analysis (n=6; 1.04) and ethnography (n=6; 1.04) were evenly divided. Only five articles (0.86%) adopted document analysis. Articles that used focus groups (n=4; 0.69%) and thematic analysis (n=4; 0.69%) were also equally distributed. Three articles adopted conversation analysis (0.5%). The number of articles that adopted Rhetoric analysis (n=1; 0.17%) and Phenomenology (n=1; 0.17%) were equally distributed. Articles that adopted a mixed method approach were 16.1% of the sample frame. (n=93; 16.1%).

RQ 4. Guiding theories within communication and media focused covid research

For guiding theories, Table 4 shows that most of the COVID-focused papers didn't adopt a theory (n=462; 80.2%). Sixteen of the communication and media-focused COVID papers adopted multiple theories (2.77%). The leading theories within this research area are; Grounded (1.56%, n=9), Framing (1.38%, n=8), Motivation theory (1.38%, n=8) and Relational turbulence (121%; n=7).

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Table 4. Guiding theories within communication and media focused covid research.
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Articles that adopted the Wefulness theory (0.69%; n=4) and Uncertainty Reduction theory (0.69%; n=4) were equally distributed. Similarly, articles that adopted Situational crisis communication (0.52%, n=3) and Affection exchange theory (0.52%, n=3) were also equally distributed. Articles that were guided by Field theory (n=2; 0.34%), Communication mediation theory (n=2; 0.34%), Mediatization theory (n=2; 0.34%), Unified theory of acceptance (n=2; 0.34%), Social capital theory (n=2; 0.34%), Cultivation theory (n=2; 0.34%), Media multiplexity theory (n=2; 0.34%), Interdependence theory (n=2; 0.34%), Attachment theory (n=2; 0.34%), Family systems theory (n=2; 0.34%), Multiple goal theory (n=2; 0.34%), Communication theory of resilience (CTR) (n=2; 0.34%), Legitimation theory (n=2; 0.34%), Social identity theory(n=2; 0.34%), Social information possessing theory (n=2; 0.34%) and Affordance theory(n=2; 0.34%) are equally distributed. Articles that adopted Complexity theory (n=1; 0.17%), Organizational support theory (n=1; 0.17%), Innovation theory (n=1; 0.17%), Embodiment theory (n=1; 0.17%), Feminist (n=1; 0.17%), Script (n=1; 0.17%), Expectancy violation theory (n=1; 0.17%), Feeling-as-information theory (n=1; 0.17%), Construal level theory (n=1; 0.17%), Cognitive load (n=1; 0.17%), Theory of planned behaviour (TPB) (n=1; 0.17%), Inoculation theory (n=1; 0.17%), Exemplification theory (n=1; 0.17%), Media system dependency theory (n=1; 0.17%), Structuration theory (n=1; 0.17%), Situational theory of problem-solving (STOPS) (n=1; 0.17%), Network theory (n=1; 0.17%), Affect theory (n=1; 0.17%), Social scientific (n=1; 0.17%) and Interdependence theory (n=1; 0.17%) were equally distributed.

RQ5. Geographic landscape of content within communication and media-focused COVID research published in High-Impact Journals

Table 5. shows that in terms of first author affiliations, authors affiliated with US institutions were the majority (n=235; 40.79%), followed by the United Kingdom (n=56; 9.72%), Australia (n=32; 5.55%), and China (n=29;5.03%). The fifth, sixth and seventh leading affiliations were German institutions (n=23; 4%); the Netherlands (n=19; 3.3%), and Canadian institutions (n=10;1.73%). Thirteen articles were affiliated with Israeli institutions (2.25%) and Swiss Institutions (n=8, 1.38%). Nine articles were affiliated with Hong Kong institutions (1.56%) followed by Swedish (n=8; 1.38%) and Singaporean universities (n=7; 1.21). Finally, seven were scholars from Austria (1.21%), followed by South Korea (n=7; 1.21%), Belgium (n=7; 1.21%), Spain (n=6, 1.04%), Finland (n=6, n=1.04%), and New Zealand (n=6, 1.04%).

Table 5. Geographic Landscape of Content.
https://www.doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.25237513

Similarly, authors that were affiliated with multiple institutions (n=4; 0.69), South African (n=4; 0.69), Zimbabwean (n=4; 0.69), Greek (n=4; 0.69), Indian (n=4; 0.69), Norwegian (n=4; 0.69), Mexican (n=4; 0.69), and Danish (n=4; 0.69) were equally divided. Similarly, articles published by authors affiliated with institutions in Italy (n=3; 0.52%), Romania (n=3; 0.52%), Russia (n=3; 0.52%) and Malaysia (n=3; 0.52%) were uniformly distributed. Authors from Ireland (n=2; 0.35%), Brazil (n=2; 0.35%), the Philippines (n=2; 0.35%), Thailand (n=2; 0.35%), Portugal (n=2; 0.35%), Chile (n=2; 0.35%), Slovenia (n=2; 0.35%), Indonesia (n=2; 0.35%), and Serbia (n=2; 0.35%) were proportionally dispersed. Authors that published only one article and are affiliated with institutions in Japan (n=1; 0.17%), Iran (n=1; 0.17%), Ghana (n=1; 0.17%), Nigeria (n=1; 0.17%), Poland (n=1; 0.17%), Kosovo (n=1; 0.17%), Oman (n=1; 0.17%), Argentina (n=1; 0.17%), Taiwan (n=1; 0.17%), Ethiopia (n=1; 0.17%), France (n=1; 0.17%), North Cyprus (n=1; 0.17%), Zambia (n=1; 0.17%), Uganda (n=1; 0.17%), Turkey (n=1; 0.17%), Taiwan (n=1; 0.17%), Japan (n=1; 0.17%), Puerto Rico (n=1; 0.17%), United Arab Emirates (n=1; 0.17%) and Namibia (n=1; 0.17%).

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As shown in Table 5, the majority of the communication and media centred COVID papers focused on the United States (n=166; 28.81%). 15.45% (n=89) of the articles didn't focus on any country. The result shows that 8.15% of articles focused on multiple countries (n=47). Thirty-eight (6.59%) of the articles focused on China, thirty-four (5.9%) articles on the UK, 3.99% (n=23) on Australia, and 18 (3.12%) on Germany. Sixteen articles concentrated on the Netherlands (n=16; 2.77%), twelve on Israel (2.08%) and eight on Canada (1.38%). Articles focused on Spain (n=7, 1.21%), Singapore (n=7, 1.21%), and India (n=7, 1.21%) were evenly divided. Six articles concentrated on South Korea (n=6; 1.04%). The articles that focused on Sweden (n=5; 0.86), South Africa (n=5; 0.86), Austria (n=5; 0.86) and Belgium (n=5; 0.86) were proportionally divided. Articles that focused on Russia (n=4; 0.69), Hong Kong (n=4; 0.69), Finland (n=4; 0.69) and Switzerland (n=4; 0.69) are proportionally equal. The sum of articles that focused on Zimbabwe (n=3; 0.52), Kosovo (n=3; 0.52), Romania (n=3; 0.52), Italy (n=3; 0.52), New Zealand (n=3; 0.52) and Ukraine (n=3; 0.52) are 3.12% (n=18) were equally distributed within the sample frame.

Results show that articles focused on Indonesia (n=2; 0.34%), Denmark (n=2; 0.34%), Thailand (n=2; 0.34%), Greece (n=2; 0.34%), the Philippines (n=2; 0.34%), Nigeria (n=2; 0.34%), Brazil (n=2; 0.34%), Mexico (n=2; 0.34%), Serbia (n=2; 0.34%), Norway (n=2; 0.34%), and Slovenia (n=2; 0.34%) were equally divided. Similarly, articles focused on Chile (n=1; 0.17%), Pakistan(n=1; 0.17%), Lebanon (n=1; 0.17%) Georgia (n=1; 0.17%) Kenya (n=1; 0.17%) Puerto Rico (n=1; 0.17%) Malaysia (n=1; 0.17%) Portugal (n=1; 0.17%) Japan (n=1; 0.17%), Turkey (n=1; 0.17%), Taiwan (n=1; 0.17%) Costa Rica (n=1; 0.17%), the Czech Republic (n=1; 0.17%), France (n=1; 0.17%), Zambia (n=1; 0.17%) Uganda (n=1; 0.17%), Argentina (n=1; 0.17%), Macedonia (n=1; 0.17%) Oman (n=1; 0.17%), Poland (n=1; 0.17%), Saudi Arabia (n=1; 0.17%) and Ghana (n=1; 0.17%) were equally distributed.

RQ6. Publication Avenue of communication and media-focused COVID research

Table 6 shows that *The Journal of Social and Personal Relationships* is the leading publication avenue (7.10%; n=41). Thirty-nine articles were published in *Health Communication* (6.80%). *Social Media + Society* is the third leading publication avenue (6.10%; n=35).

Table 6. Publication outlets of communication and media focused Covid research. https://www.doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.25237519

Thirty-one of the articles were published in the *Journal of Health Communication* (5.40%). The *Media International Australia* published twenty-six (4.50%) communication and media-focused COVID articles. Twenty-one articles were published in *New Media & Society* (3.60%) while twenty articles were published in *Digital Journalism* (3.50%). Nineteen articles were published in *Journalism Studies* (3.30%) while the *Journal of Business and Technical Communication* (n=17; 3.00%) and *Public Understanding of Science* (n=17; 3.00%) were equally distributed.

Similarly, this study found that *the Journal of Children and Media* (n=16; 2.80%) *and Science Communication* (n=16; 2.80%) were proportionally divided. Fourteen articles were published in *Feminist Media Studies (2.40%)* as well as in *Discourse &* Society *(2.40%)*, respectively. *Javnost* published thirteen articles (2.30%), and *Media, Culture & Society* published twelve (2.10%). Distribution of articles in *Convergence* (n=11;1.90%) and *Journalism Practice* (n=11;1.90%) were equally distributed. Ten articles were published in *Information, Communication & Society* (1.70%).

Nine articles were published in *Communication and Critical-Cultural Studies* (1.6%) and *International Journal of Business Communication* (1.6%), respectively. The result shows that articles in the sample frame published in *Social Semiotics* (n=8; 1.4%), *Journal of Language and Social Psychology* (n=8; 1.4%) *Journal of Advertising* and, *Journalism & Mass Communication*

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Quarterly (n=8; 1.4%) are equally divided. Articles published in the *Asian Journal of Communication* (n=7; 1.2%), *Discourse, Context & Media* (n=7; 1.2%), *Chinese Journal of Communication* (n=7; 1.2%) and *Environmental Communication* (n=7; 1.2%) were proportionally divided.

Articles published in *Discourse & Communication* (n=6; 1%), *Mass Communication and Society* (n=6; 1%) and *Journalism* (n=6; 1%) are equally distributed. Articles whose publication avenues are *International Journal of Public Opinion Research* (n=5; 0.9), *Critical Discourse Studies* (n=5; 0.9), *Games and Culture* (n=5; 0.9), *Journal of Applied Communication Research* (n=5; 0.9), *Media Psychology* (n=5; 0.9) and *Journal of Media Psychology* (n=5; 0.9) are equally dispersed.

Results indicate that five articles were published in the *International Journal of Communication* (n=5; .0.7%), *Continuum* (n=5; .0.7%), *Mobile Media & Communication* (n=5; .0.7%), *Public Opinion Quarterly* (n=5; .0.7%), and the *Journal of Broadcasting & Electronic Media* (n=5; .0.7%). Papers published in *Discourse Studies* (n=3; 0.5), *African Journalism Studies* (n=3; 0.5), *Management Communication Quarterly* (n=3; 0.5), *International Journal of Advertising* (n=3; 0.5), *Communication & Sport* (n=3; 0.5), *International Journal of Press/Politics* (n=3; 0.5) and *International Journal of Conflict Management* (n=3; 0.5) were equally divided.

Two articles each were published in *International Communication Gazette* (0.3%), *Communications* (0.3%), *Journal of Media Ethics* (0.3%), *Text & Talk* (0.3%), *European Journal of Communication* (0.3%), *Journal of Information Technology & Politics* (0.3%), *Communication Research* (0.3%), *Political Communication* (0.3%), *Human Communication Research* (0.3%), *Television & New Media* (0.3%). Results show that the articles published in *Language & Communication* (n=1; 0.2%), *IEEE Transactions on Professional Communication* (n=1; 0.2%), *Translator* (n=1; 0.2%), *Communication Monographs* (n=1; 0.2%), *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication* (n=1; 0.2%), and *Journal of Public Relations Research* (n=1; 0.2%).

5. Discussion and Conclusion

This study starts with an important question, 'How are communication and media studies scholars writing about COVID?' In general, findings reveal that communication and media scholars are writing about a well-rounded variety of communication and media aspects. More specifically, we found that scholars in the field are writing about mass communication aspects, social media and Twitter. Results show that quantitative methodology emerged as the leading method, while survey and experimental research are the most used techniques. Communication and media-focused articles were theory-deficient. Only a few adopted the Grounded and Framing theory. As for the geographical distribution, most scholars are from the Global North and China. Concerning publication avenues, health communication journals were visibly represented with the *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, *Health Communication*, *Social Media + Society* and *Journal of Health Communication* as the leading journals.

This review suggests that concerning communication and media aspects of this emergent scholarship, we found that mass communication aspects dominated. The only reason that could explain this result is that in general, mass communication substantially contributed to the COVID infodemics, and this is because typically when there is a public health concern, individuals and collectives tend to tune into radio programs, news shows, websites of digital media platforms, etc. The medium that people turn to becomes the question of time, trust, efficiency, preference, age of the viewer, and other gratifications the audience seeks, etc. As corroborated by the Anwar *et al.* (2020) study, the aforementioned reasons are why an array of mass communication aspects dominate communication and media-focused research (Anwar *et al.*, 2020). Although it is not strange given the context of COVID-19, interestingly, Chinese social media sites, Zhihu and Sina Weibo appeared in our sample frame. Typically, those social networking sites are not found even found in Asian-focused mainstream communication and media systematic literature reviews.

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As for the methodological characteristics of communication and media-focused covid research, our findings suggest that the adoption of a quantitative method aligns with the milestone health communication-focused metanalysis by Kim *et al.* (2010). Although this study goes beyond the sample frame of one journal like it was done in their work with *Health communication*, findings in terms of the methodology characteristics of both studies are similar to a large extent hence, cannot be ignored despite the peculiarities of COVID-19 and the pandemic. The similarity is shockingly striking. In Kim *et al.* (2010) study, quantitative methods led with 62.9% (n = 372). Similarly, in this present study, three hundred and sixty-one articles adopted quantitative methods (62.6%). The use of experimentation and survey was predominant in both studies too. The contagious nature of COVID is a good basis for measuring responses quantitatively through online surveys which is predominant in communication and media-focused covid research. Interestingly, about one-fifth of the articles in the sample frame were reviews. This is quite rare in health communication-focused metanalysis (e.g., Freimuth *et al.*, 2006; Kim *et al.*, 2010) as well as in the larger context of communication and media (i.e., metanalysis measuring the scope of other communication and media aspects (Boulianne, 2015; Borah, 2011; Zheng *et al.*, 2016; Li & Tang, 2012). Given how infectious the virus is, it is understandable that many researchers would settle for a commentary or a reflexive approach to exploring communication and media aspects of COVID-19 since it permits researchers to draw from their own social, cultural and political perspectives and/or voice.

As for the theory adopted by communication and media-focused COVID research, we found a dearth of theoretical guidance in almost all studies. The lack of theoretical guidance is a problem that has been highlighted by many metanalysis scoping the field of health communication (Kim *et al.*, 2010; Beck *et al.*, 2004) as well as the larger context of communication and media studies research (Zheng *et al.*, 2016; Li & Tang, 2012). Despite the dearth, we found grounded theory to be the dominant theory adopted. This is appropriate given the novelty of this emergent area and the nature of Grounded theory. According to Turner and Astin (2021), the theory provides an opportunity for discovery. It also adopts a constructivist approach to research; in that it allows the researcher to rely on prior related studies to enhance the process of theory formulation as opposed to imposing set ideas on emergent scholarship as in the case of communication and media-focused covid 19 research.

This review reveals an overwhelming preponderance of communication and media-focused COVID research from the Global North, even though the virus travelled around the world with no regard for geographical territory. This is a problem that dates back further than COVID-19 and the pandemic. Before late 2019, the world was already facing various forms of social, economic and environmental sustainability crises. Unfortunately, "Countries situated in the Global South are being impacted more severely and, likely, they will also be, by the COVID-19 crisis, at least" (Buitendijk *et al.*, 2020 p. 3) at least from a long-term recovery basis. Beyond communication and media-focused covid research, this is reflected in most covid research focus and first author affiliation, which is why scholars (Ekpenyong & Pacheco, 2020; Buitendijk *et al.*, 2020) are advising that we use covid as an opportunity to re-evaluate global collaboration in research and learning by way of inclusive funding and incentivising. As Buitendijk *et al.* (2020) rightly put it: 'We have to rapidly become more empathic, less competitive and more networked in our research and educational activities and in our ability to take care of each other on a global scale" (p. 3).

Publication Avenue has some unexpected findings. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships* topping over *Health Communication* is unexpected but understandable now that we have data to show for it considering that it is a multidisciplinary journal that draws from varying aspects of psychology, sociology, as well as communication and media, to understand social and interpersonal relationship. Objectively the journal is a publication outlet committed to publishing communication and media issues which informs their listing in The Observatory of International Research's top communication journals. Most of their research

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explored loneliness as well as other communication-focused issues such as relationship satisfaction, challenges of caregiving and social support, intimacy, loneliness, sexual communication, supportive communication, computed mediated communication and nonverbal communication.

While it is not unfounded to argue that a decline in communication and media-focused COVID research is inevitable, considering the reality of the decline in pandemic fatality, changing public interest as well as the shift in research priorities, this study's seminal contribution lies in identifying the key priority areas and research characteristics for communication and media scholars all around the world, during and in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, this study provides a snapshot of the realities of communication and media-focused COVID research at an important point in research. In addition, this study is an appropriate launching pad for future analysis of the communication and media aspects of any major public health epidemic. This is because historically, research studying media aspects and "disease dynamics", have birthed models and theories that have turned out to be useful. For example, the Media Impact model was introduced after the pandemic of SARS 2003-2004. By way of identifying trends, mass media-focused public health research mapped the MERS outbreak in 2012, evidence of such research showed that with the intervention of the internet, public awareness improved drastically, thus urging better adherence to essential public health measures (Anwar *et al.*, 2020, p. 2).

Based on the findings of this study, it is evident that communication and media-focused covid research need a more balanced approach to the methodologies used to address, understand and contribute to new knowledge in this research area. Findings shows that qualitative research was not prioritized as much quantitative methods despite the research methods' recorded advantage in understanding the complexities of human experiences, especially the social and cultural dynamics of it. By extension, not prioritized also are qualitative data analytical techniques such as semiotic analysis, textual analysis, ethnography, document analysis, focus groups, thematic analysis, conversation analysis, rhetoric analysis and phenomenology etc.

This gap seamlessly mirrors the lacuna in the levels of communication, especially at the group and interpersonal communication level. No doubt, "In times of a severe public health crisis, people rely heavily on media coverage to stay informed" (Wagner & Reifegerste, 2023, p. 1014); however, interacting with individuals and collectives about aspects of the crisis as well as the media framing and coverage of it is a good data source for communication and media focused covid research hence, it is imperative for scholars to do more work in this area. Other gaps that were found are the atheoretical nature of communication and media focused covid research, fewer global south studies and as well fewer public relations focused research.

In sum, this study expands the literature on health communication through its examination of communication and media aspects, methodological characteristics and guiding theories, the geographic landscape of content, dominant publication avenue of communication and media-focused covid research.

I confirm that I have given due consideration to the protection of intellectual property associated with this work and that there are no impediments to publication, including the timing of publication, with respect to intellectual property. In so doing I confirm that I have followed the regulations of my institution concerning intellectual property.

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Appendix

Table 4. Guiding theories within communication and media focused covid research.

Theories	f	%
None	462	80.2
Multiple	16	2.77
Grounded	9	1.56
Framing	8	1.38
Relational turbulence	7	1.21
Motivation theory	8	1.38
Wefulness	4	0.69
Uncertainty reduction	4	0.69
Situational crisis communication	3	0.52
Affection exchange	3	0.52
Field	2	0.34
Communication mediation	2	0.34
Mediatization	2	0.34
Unified theory of acceptance	2	0.34
Social capital	2	0.34
Cultivation, Media multiplexity	2	0.34
Interdependence, Attachment	2	0.34
Family systems theory	2	0.34
Multiple goals	2	0.34
Communication theory of resilience (CTR)	2	0.34
Legitimation	2	0.34
Social identity theory	2	0.34
Social information possessing	2	0.34
Affordance	2	0.34
Complexity	1	0.17
Organizational support	1	0.17
Innovation	1	0.17
Embodiment	1	0.17
Feminist	1	0.17
Script	1	0.17
Expectancy violation	1	0.17
Feeling-as-information theory	1	0.17
Construal level theory	1	0.17
Cognitive load	1	0.17
Theory of planned behaviour (TPB)	1	0.17
Inoculation	1	0.17
Exemplification	1	0.17
Media system dependency	1	0.17
Structuration	1	0.17
The situational theory of problem-solving (STOPS)	1	0.17
Network	1	0.17
Affect	1	0.17
Social scientific	1	0.17
Interdependence theory	1	0.17
Total	**576**	**100**

Source: Own elaboration.

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Table 5. Geographic Landscape of Content.

1st Authors' affiliation	f	%	Country of focus	f	%
U. S	235	40.79	U. S	166	28.81
United Kingdom	56	9.72	None	89	15.45
Australia	32	5.55	Multiple countries	47	8.15
China	29	5.03	China	38	6.59
Germany	23	4	United Kingdom	34	5.90
Netherlands	19	3.3	Australia	23	3.99
Canada	10	1.73	Germany	18	3.12
Israel	13	2.25	Netherlands	16	2.77
Switzerland	13	2.25	Israel	12	2.08
Hong Kong	9	1.56	Canada	8	1.38
Sweden	8	1.38	Spain	7	1.21
Singapore	7	1.21	Singapore	7	1.21
Austria	7	1.21	India	7	1.21
South Korea	7	1.21	South Korea	6	1.04
Belgium	7	1.21	Sweden	5	0.86
Spain	6	1.04	South Africa	5	0.86
Finland	6	1.04	Austria	5	0.86
New Zealand	6	1.04	Belgium	5	0.86
Multiple affiliations	4	0.69	Russia	4	0.69
South Africa	4	0.69	Hong Kong	4	0.69
Zimbabwe	4	0.69	Finland	4	0.69
Greece	4	0.69	Switzerland	4	0.69
India	4	0.69	Zimbabwe	3	0.52
Norway	4	0.69	Kosovo	3	0.52
Mexican	4	0.69	Romania	3	0.52
Denmark	4	0.69	Italy	3	0.52
Italy	3	0.52	New Zealand	3	0.52
Romania	3	0.52	Ukraine	3	0.52
Russia	3	0.52	Indonesia	2	0.34
Malaysia	3	0.52	Denmark	2	0.34
Ireland	2	0.35	Thailand	2	0.34
Brazil	2	0.35	Greece	2	0.34
Philippines	2	0.35	Philippines	2	0.34
Thailand	2	0.35	Nigeria	2	0.34
Portugal	2	0.35	Brazil	2	0.34
Chile	2	0.35	Mexico	2	0.34
Slovenia	2	0.35	Serbia	2	0.34
Indonesia	2	0.35	Norway	2	0.34
Serbia	2	0.35	Slovenia	2	0.34
Japan	1	0.17	Chile	1	0.17
Iran	1	0.17	Pakistan	1	0.17
Ghana	1	0.17	Lebanon	1	0.17
Nigeria	1	0.17	Georgia	1	0.17
Poland	1	0.17	Kenya	1	0.17
Kosovo	1	0.17	Puerto Rico	1	0.17
Oman	1	0.17	Malaysia	1	0.17
Argentina	1	0.17	Portugal	1	0.17
Taiwan	1	0.17	Japan	1	0.17
Ethiopia	1	0.17	Turkey	1	0.17
France	1	0.17	Taiwan	1	0.17
North Cyprus	1	0.17	Costa Rica	1	0.17
Zambia	1	0.17	Czech Republic	1	0.17
France	1	0.17	France	1	0.17
Uganda	1	0.17	Zambia	1	0.17
Turkey	1	0.17	Uganda	1	0.17
Taiwan	1	0.17	Argentina	1	0.17

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Japan	1	0.17	Macedonia	1	0.17
Puerto Rico	1	0.17	Oman	1	0.17
United Arab Emirates	1	0.17	Poland	1	0.17
Namibia	1	0.17	Saudi Arabia	1	0.17
			Ghana	1	0.17
Total	**576**	**100**	**Total**	**576**	**100**

Source: Own elaboration.

Table 6. Publication outlets of communication and media focused Covid research.

Journals	f	%
Journal of Social and Personal Relationships	41	7.10
Health Communication	39	6.80
Social Media + Society	35	6.10
Journal of Health Communication	31	5.40
Media International Australia	26	4.50
New Media & Society	21	3.60
Digital Journalism	20	3.50
Journalism Studies	19	3.30
Journal of Business and Technical Communication	17	3.00
Public Understanding of Science	17	3.00
Journal of Children and Media	16	2.80
Science Communication	16	2.80
Feminist Media Studies	14	2.40
Discourse & Society	14	2.40
Javnost	13	2.30
Media, Culture & Society	12	2.10
Convergence	11	1.90
Journalism Practice	11	1.90
Information, Communication & Society	10	1.70
Communication and Critical-Cultural Studies and others	9	1.6
International Journal of Business Communication	9	1.6
Social Semiotics	8	1.4
Journal of Language and Social Psychology	8	1.4
Journal of Advertising	8	1.4
Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly	8	1.4
Asian Journal of Communication	7	1.2
Discourse, Context & Media	7	1.2
Chinese Journal of Communication	7	1.2
Environmental Communication	7	1.2
Discourse & Communication	6	1
Mass Communication and Society	6	1
Journalism	6	1
International Journal of Public Opinion Research	5	0.9
Critical Discourse Studies	5	0.9
Games and Culture	5	0.9
Journal of Applied Communication Research	5	0.9
Media Psychology	5	0.9
Journal of Media Psychology	5	0.9
International Journal of Communication	4	0.7
Continuum	4	0.7

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Mobile Media & Communication	4	0.7
Public Opinion Quarterly	4	0.7
Journal of Broadcasting & Electronic Media	4	0.7
Discourse Studies	3	0.5
African Journalism Studies	3	0.5
Management Communication Quarterly	3	0.5
International Journal of Advertising	3	0.5
Communication & Sport	3	0.5
International Journal of Press/Politics	3	0.5
International Journal of Conflict Management	3	0.5
International Communication Gazette	2	0.3
Communications	2	0.3
Journal of Media Ethics	2	0.3
Text & Talk	2	0.3
European Journal of Communication	2	0.3
Journal of Information Technology & Politics	2	0.3
Communication Research	2	0.3
Political Communication	2	0.3
Human Communication Research	2	0.3
Television & New Media	2	0.3
Language & Communication	1	0.2
IEEE Transactions on Professional Communication	1	0.2
Translator	1	0.2
Communication Monographs	1	0.2
Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication	1	0.2
Journal of Public Relations Research	1	0.2
Total	**576**	**100%**

Source: Own elaboration.