Dealing with xenophobia and racism: calling the Covid-19 “Wuhan Pneumonia” spread racial stereotypes

This proposal illustrates the overall plan of the research paper, and it includes the general topic and specific research questions, tentative thesis statement and sub-claims, and utilization of sources.

Since the emerging Covid-19 pandemic spreads widely, Asian people, especially Chinese, have been associated with the spread of Covid-19, and this raises racism. Globally, the Asian race is condemned for the spread of the disease, and the racial stereotypes spread have influenced the disease to be referred to with names like “the Chinese virus”, “Wuhan Pneumonia”, and many others. The use of words like “the sick man of Asia” spreads racism concepts as the cases of people infected with the virus increases globally. The topic on COVID-19 and racism is explored in the research, with the focus being on the evidence attributing the Asian people as the source of the Covid-19 disease and the adverse social consequences racism causes. In the academic journal “**Racism and discrimination in COVID-19 responses,” the author Shannon mentions that some**Political leaders and American citizens have misappropriated the COVID-19 crisis to reinforce racism., and racism will lead to worse consequences for people all over the world. (Shannon et al). After reflecting on the journal, I decide that I will choose to provide evidence to argue why racism is not reasonable and analyze the reasons why xenophobia and racism do hamper the solution to the existing problems. More specifically, the questions that my paper seeks to answer are “What is the evidence for reasons why the behavior that holding a certain race responsible, xenophobia, and racism are not reasonable?” and “Why is it not helpful for solving the current corona-virus curing and preventing problems if people keep showing the targeted racism and xenophobia and keep trying to find who should be held responsible for corona-virus’s corresponding events?” These two questions are important because they will help racists better know what adverse results their racism will cause and convince them of the fact that attributing Asians as the sources of the pandemic because of prejudices is not reasonable; thus, this will be beneficial for solving the social conflicts and for advancing experts’ research about the corona-virus and improving the pandemic situation.

# According to my research by far, the tentative thesis statement answers the questions above by arguing: Although China might have taken the wrong measures in censorship and information blackout in the first stages, which made the pandemic spread widely, it is not recommended that racists attribute Chinese as sources of corona-virus and call it “Chinese virus,” and the current primary aim is that people should collaborate on fighting the corona-virus, while the focus on who should be held responsible for the spreading of the virus will only take up too many resources which could have been used for doing research on solutions to Covid-19. This argument is mainly supported by 3 sub-claims.

# First, racists’ hatred and prejudices are primarily based on fake news, conspiracy, and extremists’ hate speeches online, but they do not have any trustworthy evidence. In an academic journal called “Scientists ‘strongly condemn’ rumors and conspiracy theories about the origin of coronavirus outbreak,” Daszak mentions that because of the social media misinformation, rumors and conspiracy theories have led to the eruption of violence against his Chinese colleagues. (qtd in Cohen). Therefore, racists’ ideas can really be influenced badly by the heated debates about the root of the corona-virus problem and the conspiracy theories being peddled. However, the author Cohen states that 27 excellent public health scientists from outside China are against a series of stories and a scientific paper suggesting that a laboratory in Wuhan, China, may be the origin of the outbreak of Covid-19. (Cohen). Thus, it shows that the conspiracy and fake news about the causes of the corona-virus has no basis. Many foreign scientists’ study shows that there is no scientific evidence to indicate that the pandemic originates from the laboratory in China. Thereby the racism and xenophobia attacks are unwarranted. It is not reasonable that racists show prejudices towards Asians because their arguments and evidence are not convincing.

# Second, xenophobia increases the possibility that patients do not disclose their COVID-19 status, and this worsens the spread of the disease. As said by Chung in the academic journal “Anti-Chinese sentiment during the 2019-nCoV outbreak,” she states that discrimination against a certain group might give rise to pressure and stigma that prevent disease carriers from reporting their health conditions and from getting in-time health-care service. Those racists may think racism can help drive away those carriers. However, the carriers are still in the crowd every day, which speeds up the spread of the pandemic.

# Furthermore, the real urgent issue that needs to be focused on and solved is solving the corona-virus problems but not trying to theorize on who should be held responsible and be criticized for the spread of the Covid-19. In another academic journal called “Joint International Collaboration to Combat Mental Health Challenges During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic,” the author Xiang claims that a joint effort to build international collaboration is needed to deal with the difficulties caused by Covid-19 pandemic because of the mental health problems caused by the facts that there is a high death rate, and people lack effective therapies, vaccines, and large-scale isolation measures. (Xiang). And he states that through in-time collaboration with different countries and institutions, people can fully deal with the mental challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. (Xiang). It shows that what really matters, for the time being, is solving the accessible problems. If racists and those sympathizers are still wasting and taking up too many resources which can be used to study the corona-virus and its corresponding solutions, the situation cannot get improved. Also, those countries in difficulties need China’s collaboration to together face the challenges and escape from the predicament. The behavior of the racists, xenophobia, and racism are just hurting the Chinese institutions, the Chinese government, and Chinese citizens emotionally. China has almost dealt with the crisis, and it is doing much more to help other countries and to collaborate with different countries, but the bad behaviors, such as criticizing, doubting, and racism, are still discouraging them. Racists should understand why their racism does hamper the solutions to problems is that what is urgently needed is cooperation that can solve the current problems but not criticism, racism, or cold war, which causes adverse social consequences, such as conflicts between countries and discouragement to China that is offering help.

     However, some people may challenge these arguments by asking “Though the urgent problem now is to deal with the challenges caused by the pandemic, the country from which the pandemic originate cannot escape from being responsible. How can you tell China can justify its statement that calling the corona-virus ‘Chinese virus’ is not reasonable? Does this mean China is trying to use the statement that racism is against human ethics to flee from duty?” I partially agree with the idea of this question. In fact, there are some articles and academic journals analyzing the facts that initially, China wrongly used censorship and information blackout, and this worsened the situations and got the pandemic spread. However, the problem does not arise from saying that China is partly responsible for the spread of COVID-19. What matters is that racists are calling the virus “Chinese virus,” showing prejudices towards a certain race, and causing them to suffer inequalities. Therefore, what I agree is that people all over the world have justified rights to find the truth and China’s wrongdoings, but people need to distinguish two totally different things that the racists combine together. They need to distinguish the Chinese government initial wrongdoings from Chinese citizens’ not doing anything very wrong but being attributed as sources of the pandemic and being discriminated against because finding the true causes of COVID-19 is normal and allowed, while the latter behavior that people show racial stereotypes and discrimination against Asians is called “racism.”

My tentative conclusion: Considering racial stereotypes based on fake new and conspiracy theories, the disadvantage brought by racism that carriers do not disclose their corona-virus status, and the real urgent issue is that people need to focus on solving problems but not theorizing on sources and causes of corona-virus.

My tentative conclusion: Considering the racial stereotypes based on fake news and conspiracy theories, the disadvantage brought by racism that the carriers do not disclose their corona-virus status, and the urgent issue that people needs to focus on solving the corona-virus problems but not taking up too many resources to theorize on sources and causes of the corona-virus, the reasons why racism will hamper the solutions to difficulties become clearer and more convincing. Although China may be held responsible for wrongdoings about information lockdown in the first stages, it is not recommended to call the corona-virus “Chinese virus” because racism is against human ethics and worsens the corona-virus spread, and people should enhance collaboration to fight the COVID-19 instead of the behavior of criticizing one another, which will only waste precious resources which can be utilized to advance the corona-virus solution process.

In this proposal, I write three sub-claims, but the analysis of the evidence for the racists’ arguments and oppositions is still not enough. Therefore, in my later research, I will still mainly focus on the evidence, look for sources that can offer a more systematic framework to evaluate the effectiveness of different parties’ evidence, and give more sub-claims to specify the analysis of the evidence. Also, I only mention one or two examples above for each sub-claim and each point in the thesis statement, but I can add more to make the paper more comprehensive and enriched.

Annotated Bibliography

RY-N Chung, MM Li. “Anti-Chinese sentiment during the 2019-nCoV outbreak. “*Lancet*, 395(2020), pp.686-687

The two authors are both faculties of Medicine and Institute of Health Equity and Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, and they are from the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Education University of Hong Kong. Therefore, their article is a dense, academic piece about complex issues about coronavirus. The article uses an example that a restaurant does not serve Mandarin-speaking customers to report that the coronavirus spread stirred an unwelcoming sentiment towards Chinese and some communities take self-initiated precautionary measures.The authors argue that though the health care measures are intended well and for good purpose that less people will get infected, it can cause adverse consequences that the anti-Chinese sentiment may not help with targeting the real issues accurately and may lessen the effectiveness of the intervention measures. Moreover, the authors state that though people believe that the predictive model will justify their behavior of alienating Chinese from mainland, bias against them may lead to shame and stress, which will prevent true carriers from admitting that they have bad conditions and from receiving healthcare. The two authors draw a conclusion that the ethical consideration is actually far more important than the pure intellectual thought, and it will increase positive impacts overall.I intend to use the source by stating the advantages of self-initiated measures as the opposing view of those who discriminate against Chinese to make my arguments seem more convincing that bias against a certain group will actually lead to more disadvantages, such as too much stress and true carries daring not admit that they have got infected. The reason why I use this source is that I will use it to demonstrate the fact that the anti-Chinese sentiment and corresponding measures will decrease the overall positive effects.

Haynes, Suyin. “As Coronavirus Spreads, So Does Xenophobia and Anti-Asian Racism.” *Time.com*, March 11, 2020.

The author is Haynes, Suyin, and he is a Senior Reporter based in London covering gender and culture for TIME. Since he is a Senior Reporter, he has many experiences of writing reports. Therefore, his article is a dense, academic piece about complex disadvantages of racism caused by coronavirus. In the article, he uses the example that a Singaporean students is the largest target of xenophobia and racism related to coronavirus and has been beaten by four men seriously, to exhibit one disadvantage of racism that is shown in a violent way. Also, he uses some other examples to demonstrate the previous example is not an isolated incident and furthers his idea that xenophobia is really one thing that is noteworthy and its corresponding problems need to be solved. Finally, he concludes that not only mainland Chinese people are targeted, but also those who are not first-generation immigrants are discriminated against because of their phenotypes and racial identities, and it is wrong to target people simply according to their appearance. I think this source can help me show what the direct adverse social consequences of racism are and relate it to the evil crimes and violent events to make audience think from different perspectives and sympathize with those who are discriminated against.

Bobo, Lawrence D. “Racism in Trump’s America: reflections on culture, sociology, and the 2016 US presidential election.” *British Journal of Sociology*, Nov 2017 Supplement S1, Vol. 68

The author is Bobo, Lawrence D., and he is the Dean of Social Science at Harvard University. His research focuses on the intersection of social psychology, social inequality, politics, and race. Therefore, his article is a dense, academic piece about complex issues of racism. In his article, he mentions that America still has a deep problem of racism, and the term has been overused.  He gives richer introductions and connotations of the term racism and analyzes that the reason why Trump got electoral success was primarily that his policy agenda rests on deep-rooted racism and white supremacist presumptions in US institutions and culture. Also, the author poses in a direct and narrow sense about how to define the term racism and analyzes where racism comes from. Finally, the author concludes that American society needs to move toward being awaken while Trump’s surprising and troubling political success happened undoubtedly. As for my research paper, I think I will use the explanations about the reasons why racism exists and is deeply rooted in America society and the fact that it is the mainstream of the American politics to analyze the reasons why Trump mentions too much about his words, such as “Chinese virus”, without worrying about the adverse impact of his speech. And I will also define the term racism in my research paper and apply these introductions to my explanations and analysis throughout the paper.

Shannon, et al. "Racism and discrimination in COVID-19 responses." 2020, doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736 (20)30792-3. 28 Apr. 2020.

 The authors Shannon, Devakumar, and so on are faculties at Institute for Global Health, and one of them is at Newcastle University. Therefore, their article is a dense, academic piece about complex issues of coronavirus. The information presented by Shannon in the article describes the aspects of racism and how it is continuing to create fear among people. Racial threats are affecting all races after many countries gave directives denying inter-state movements. Therefore, Asians living in America feel threatened, and the Africans residing in China cry for help. Racism due to the spread of beliefs on its causes and ways of spreading is responded to differently, and such information is presented in the journal by Shannon. The article relates to the research question, and its full utilization helps expound on the topic of Covid-19 and racism. This source presents a different perspective because now there are too many sources focusing on anti-Asian topics. This article analyzes both Asians’ and Africans’ difficulties. I think I may use this source to analyze different races’ predicament.

Hung, H. F. "Holding Beijing Accountable For the Coronavirus Is Not Racist." Journal of Political Risk, vol. 8, no. 23, 2020, pp. 1-3. 28 Apr. 2020.

<https://www.jpolrisk.com/holding-beijing-accountable-for-the-coronavirus-is-not-racist/?__cf_chl_jschl_tk__=961c9fd1951dc3ff44ee95ffca2a9e58fdda2bd5-1588023621-0-AVQGAJt-EObq8ty74PDDv_HyhxXonWee45EHUK7uN5Us4LufWJDFYzyHGrk5a-Whfii1QNlSPFGLr-dasYZq6VpvxH3SI-wxtyGDhLqFrYufdowQg2dL4z5XlJtn7D6IaWEMGv8ppqIVICngvbo8iAu6-bmNkE0TWIbNjuVtXyF-Flfo7B3IXxfoSOeJ5USahBgpPHCmeJSLFLP3xJMXgQB5wEqg3b-K-q0FPVklCshJcq_tE4tF3nXvA4GEhZqeSdIeQvOMQ7NIrI4Qs7Kyacb1wXjySuyoGcJww1GkqxmWhBnJz7Es2tHcDhtIj7Cr-mKFfEzlQD32NH4oA758TGZ9lL6sWLLKUOtow2kUzqDx>

The author is Henry M. & Elizabeth P. Wiesenfeld Professor in Political Economy at the Department of Sociology & School of Advanced International Studies, The Johns Hopkins University.  Therefore, his article is a dense, academic piece about complex issues of coronavirus, much of which is written in discipline-specific language, not easily understandable for laymen. While the context is that with the coming of coronavirus global pandemic, an old racial stereotype that relate diseases to Asians appeared again,  the main topic of the author’s article is about holding Beijing responsible for the coronavirus spread is not racist. He argues that the fight against racial discrimination should not prevent people from discussing the China-origins of the virus and blaming the Chinese government for causing the global public health crisis. In this article, the author clearly makes the difference between blaming Chinese and blaming the Chinese government clear that it is not a certain group of people that cause the pandemic, but it is the unreasonable censorship and information blackout that cause the disaster. Finally, the author concludes that holding Beijing accountable is not Sinophobia but the way to prevent similar events from happening again. I choose this source because the author well explains what is worth discussing, such as the real reason why the pandemic got spread successfully, but not just blames a particular race. This can help me convince the audience who discriminate against Asians that the root of the problems is not Chinese but the unreasonable measures and policies. Also, this makes the audience feel that their emotion is taken into considerations because the article admits that the Chinese government is responsible for the epidemic, but the difference is that the emotion does not come from the race, and the racial stereotypes are not right.

Tobias Hoonhout. “Bill Gates Dismiss Chinese Coronavirus Coverup: ‘It’s Not Even Time for That Discussion’.” *Yahoo news*, April 27, 2020, <https://news.yahoo.com/bill-gates-dismisses-chinese-coronavirus-141646721.html>

The author of the article is Tobias Hoonhout, and he is a news writer for National Review Online and is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame. He has received high-level education. Therefore, his article is a dense, academic piece about complex issues of coronavirus and the latest speech by Bill Gates. In the article, he states that Bill Gates pushed back on criticism of Beijing’s response and reports Bill Gates’s idea that it is not the proper time to blame others but to take the great science to affect the following consequences. Bill Gates just briefly mentions that China’s initial response was not right that China covered up the origins of the Wuhan coronavirus. However, Bill Gates shifts the focus and concludes that the most noteworthy thing is how to solve the problems about the coronavirus. It shows that Bill Gates offers great insight and points out the key to the question. Many citizens and news media get misguided and spend much time on doing useless research and discussions about who should be held responsible for the epidemic. But Bill Gates prefers that more resources can be used to deal with the predicament. I choose this source because this new idea can help me further my arguments and state that besides explanations about why the racism and the anti-Chinese sentiment brings disadvantages and where the root of the problem really lies, one thing that is worth caring about is to focus on the solutions to the current problems caused by coronavirus. In this way, it can make audience be more aware of the urgent measures to take to cure diseases and to prevent the further spread of the coronavirus. And I plan on using this to elicit my appeal that people should focus more on solving the problems but not just blaming others.

Kim, C. H. "'Anti-Asian racism has come roaring back with COVID-19': Cathy park Hong on being Asian American." 3 Apr. 2020, [www.theguardian.com/books/2020/apr/01/cathy-park-hong-minor-feelings. 28 Apr. 2020](http://www.theguardian.com/books/2020/apr/01/cathy-park-hong-minor-feelings.%20Accessed%2028%C2%A0Apr.%C2%A02020).

 The author Crystal Hana Kim is an American author, and she has a novel that was named a best book of 2018 by The Washington Post. Therefore, she has great writing skills and is a qualified writer. Her article is dense and informative. The research explores Anti-Asian racism, and the problems witnessed as the Coronavirus disease is rapidly spreading globally. The information posted on The Guardian by Crystal Hana Kim illustrated that the wake of coronavirus resulted in an accusation of East-Asia people as the source of the pandemic. To emphasize on the stereotype, photos of people from East Asia were shared on social media and criticized as characters affected by the Covid-19. The information in the News article relates to the research question. It presents credible information on the topic of Covid-19 and racism. I find it a challenge to Asians to withstand the accusations that they are the source of Coronavirus disease. There is a need to appreciate that the virus is a global health disaster. However, they say that everywhere in the world, people are worried about the spreading of racism stereotypes. I may use this source and some examples in this source to break down my topic sentences into more specific sub-claims.

Kuo, Lily. "China Fails to Stop Racism against Africans over Covid-19." The Guardian, 27 Apr. 2020, [www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/27/china-fails-to-stop-racism-against-africans-over-covid-19. 28 Apr. 2020](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/27/china-fails-to-stop-racism-against-africans-over-covid-19.%20Accessed%2028%C2%A0Apr.%C2%A02020).

 The author is Kuo, Lily, and she is the Guardian’s Beijing bureau chief. Therefore, she has great writing skills and is a qualified writer. Her article is dense and informative. The Guardian news article by Kuo depicts how the spread of racism connected to Covid-19 is causing problems for the Africans living in China. Africans are discriminated against in Chinese hotels, forced to remain isolated in their region, and denied essential services they require for survival. The above reaction was after the spread of racial stereotypes that China is the source of Covid-19 and names that connect to Asian people used to refer to Covid-19. The News article is relevant and fully describes the level of hostility and racism different races are witnessing due to the spread of coronavirus disease. I am sympathizing with Africans in China, for they are undergoing real racism experiences. They say that everything has turned hostile for them in China. This source provides a perspective that is different from that of the anti-Chinese sentiment analysis article. Thus, I may use this source to analyze the problems different races encounter. Since too many articles intended for analyzing anti-Asian racism, this kind of source may also take minorities into consideration.

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