

Abstract

When the COVID-19 pandemic began in 2020 and lockdowns became the standard, photojournalists continued working. Some went out into the world and documented the news, while others stayed at home and documented their own experiences. Using Shoemaker and Reese's (2014) Hierarchy of Influences model as a lens, this project explores the influences that drove photographers to cover the pandemic. Seven photographers whose work was awarded in the 2020 COVID categories of the 2020 Pictures of the Year International (POY*i*), Pictures of the Year Asia (POY Asia), Pictures of the Year Latam (POY Latam) and College Photographer of the Year (CPOY) competitions shared their experiences working during the pandemic.

Summary of Professional Component

Picturing COVID-19: Photographers document the world's biggest story is a book of COVID-19 photographs that were awarded in POY*i*, POY Asia, POY Latam and CPOY. Using the four competitions as an archive of exceptional COVID-19 coverage, the book showcases the documentary and expressive work that photographers made during the first year of the pandemic. By juxtaposing the traditional news photographs with artistic, expressive photographs, the book provides a nuanced look into the many ways photographers experienced and documented the pandemic.