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### **MAKING PICTURES IN AN UPTURNED WORLD:**

#### **AN ANALYSIS OF PHOTOJOURNALISTS' MOTIVATIONS FOR COVERING COVID-19**

Rarely does a story break that encompasses the whole world, but the COVID-19 pandemic did just that when it began in 2020. Months of lockdown, isolation, sickness and 1,813,188 deaths ensued in the pandemic that would touch every corner of the planet.

Photographers around the world documented the pandemic, pushed by one reason or another to take photographs of their experience, their community or a different facet of life affected by COVID-19. Some went out into the world to photograph while others turned their lenses on themselves in lockdown. The pandemic story, which affected so many, provides an opportunity to investigate what draws photographers to take pictures.

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with seven photographers who covered the pandemic in 2020. Each of the photographers had work awarded in the COVID-19 categories of the POY-family photojournalism competitions, including Pictures of the Year, Pictures of the Year Asia, Pictures of the Year Latam and College Photographer of the Year.

This research explores the influences that pushed photographers to document the pandemic and how those influences affected their work. It determines in what ways photographers adjusted to the pandemic and why they kept working during this difficult time. Studying these influences on photographers is important because they have tangible effects on their work; unraveling photographers' influences helps us to better understand their photographs.