

The Invention of Infodemics: On Outbreak of Zika and Rumors | Somatosphere

By Meg Stalcup

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In December 2015, a Brazilian photographer with The Associated Press took a photo of four-month-old José Wesley being bathed in a bucket by his mother. The image was chosen [by the photojournalist](#) with care, to show the child himself, and also microcephaly, the best-known characteristic of what would come to be known as Congenital Zika Virus Syndrome (CZVS). As evidence increased of the virus' capacity to inflict neurological damage, the photo--a tiny baby stopped in the smallest moment of time--came to represent a global health story that is still unfolding (as other posts in this series [attest](#)). Even before the photos of José Wesley and his mother went viral, however, related but quite different kinds of stories were proliferating online and through messaging on social media platforms.

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