

News Item

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

By Meg Stalcup March 16, 2020

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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