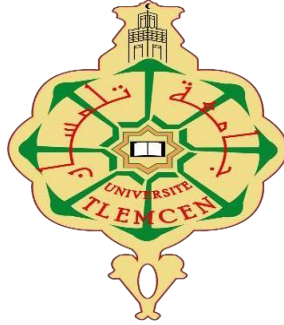


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**From Fiction to Reality in Steven Soderbergh's  
*Contagion* (2011), a Prediction of Coronavirus  
Pandemic**

Dissertation Submitted to the Department of English as a partial fulfilment of the requirements for Master's degree in Literature and Civilization

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# *Dedication*

This work is humbly dedicated to my family, and my beloved fiancé. Special thanks to  
my amazing parents, who have always supported me

from the very beginning till the end. Also, my sister who has constantly  
stood by my side in the most challenging and stressful periods.

To my cherished step sister, whose encouragement has been my guiding light  
throughout this academic journey.

A special feeling of gratitude to my lovely fiancé who shows unconditional  
love and indelible aid.

**Selma Kenza**

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Finally, Words cannot express my gratitude to my staunch teachers who have been a great source of inspiration. I estimate myself fortunate for having encountered them and conceived some marvelous memorable memories at university. I sincerely acknowledge their help, care, and affection.

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*ABSTRACT*

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The convergence of art and reality has always fascinated people, with fictional works providing unique ways to comprehend human experience. One such instance of this phenomenon clearly covers the film *Contagion* (2011). This work directed by Steven Soderbergh, and crafted a decade earlier mirrors a rapidly spreading infectious disease. It exposes the dilemmas faced by healthcare professionals and the role of scientists throughout an alarming situation. Remarkably, the storyline seems to have eerily predicted many facets of the Covid-19 pandemic. To reach this end, a diligent comparative study was used which was analyzed from multiple perspectives. The following research scrutinizes the common events portrayed in the film *Contagion* (2011) within the context of Covid-19. Results revealed the presence of parallels between the fictional narrative and real-world events. Through an interdisciplinary approach, it captures the complexity and interconnectedness of global crises, shedding light on the scientific, societal, economic, and political dimensions. This study also delves into the intersections of cinematic storytelling, cultural influence, and the mechanics of pandemics. The purpose of this work is to correlate not just the similar circumstances in which *Contagion* predicted Covid-19 disaster, but also aims at uncovering wider implications for our understanding of public health crises, and the influence of popular culture in shaping societal responses.

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## **List of Acronyms**

**CDC** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**EUA** Emergency Use Authorization

**FDA** Food and Drug Administration

**ONS** Office for National Statistics

**TTS** Thrombocytopenia Syndrome

**WHO** World Health Organization

# GENERAL INTRODUCTION

## **General Introduction**

New Year's Eve has always brought a sense of anticipation and excitement among people around the world. Such magical event manifests a state of joy and epiphany as individuals start writing their resolutions hoping for a better life. Only three years ago, a tragic incident has occurred, condemning the world to grief while many were embracing the new decade with much enthusiasm. No one would have believed, a micro germ could cause such grievous damage, shifting people's lifestyle in such a drastic way.

The Covid-19 outbreak occurred exactly on December 2019 in Wuhan (China). That era humanity faced the unknown virus has been the most challenging period in history. Many scientists and doctors have started investigating on the nature of the virus. It was later found that the latter was originated from bats. Leaving as many inquiries, the virus has rapidly spread without borders. People wished they knew the rules before a simple contact with humans would lead the entire world to suffer from severe acute respiratory syndrome. Countless death cases have been registered, leading people to launch call of distress. A state of emergency has been declared as scientists, and workers at the health sector have strived for efficient solutions that would save the world.

An unprecedented series of events have occurred since the emergence of covid-19 redefining the lives of people. The impact of the pandemic has been apparent, especially on the world's economy and communities all over the world. For, many questions have arisen regarding the nature of Covid-19, and whether it was manmade. Misinformation and conspiracy theories have circulated, causing confusion and skepticism among the population.

*Contagion* (2011); a unique cinematic, and captivating work has grasped the audience at the times of the pandemic. The uncannily predictive movie *Contagion* (2011) surfaced as a cinematic forewarning of the trials, and societal responses encountered in such a crisis. *Contagion* (2011) is a thought-provoking film directed by Steven Soderbergh in 2011.

This latter, blurs the lines between fiction and reality, delving into the realm of global pandemics. Despite its fictional traits, the movie's attention to details has made viewers relate the storyline to real-life pandemic. Starting from this point, it has become vitally important to examine whether *Contagion* (2011) has anticipated, and prepared for the coming of Covid-19 pandemic years before.

This study is undertaken to explore the parallels between *Contagion* (2011) and covid-19 pandemic, as well as its impact on the world. Therefore, this work is designed to find answers to the following question:

- To what extent can the cinematic work *Contagion* (2011) be regarded as a prescient allegory, offering a predictive lens through which Covid-19 virus aspects are examined?

The latter let to put forward the following hypothesis:

- *Contagion* (2011) predicts a pandemic situation caused by the virus, including its global spread and responses.

Based on Comparative study, this research intricately dissects the parallels between *Contagion* (2011) and Covid-19 pandemic through diligently structured chapters, each focusing on a distinct aspect of this intriguing parallel.

The first chapter embarks on a comprehensive exploration of Covid-19 virus. It unravels the mystery behind its origin, tracing its emergence and global impact. This latter meticulously elucidates the spectrum of symptoms experienced by individuals. It provides an in-depth analysis of manifestations, shedding light on patient experiences. Moreover, it further scrutinizes the method of transmission, going beyond mere description, and examine the layers of prevention as well as control measures. Besides, it involves a deep exploration of the strategies employed by public health officials, governments, and individuals. The chapter also highlights the monumental global efforts to develop a vaccine, providing further details on collaborative endeavors that led to the creation of Covid-19 vaccines. Recognizing the complexity of the global crisis, the chapter navigates through the realm of conspiracy theories surrounding the pandemic, dissecting the various narratives and their implications.

Furthermore, it engages with the world of predictive literature, drawing parallels between fictional accounts and the reality of the Covid-19 pandemic. It also explores the phenomenon of movies that eerily predicted real-world events, examining its cultural significance in the midst of a global crisis.

The second chapter embarks on a captivating journey into the heart of *Contagion* (2011). A literary study is conducted, dissecting the narrative threads and character dynamics, illuminating the cinematic craft that underpins its prescience. Then, it engages in a compelling comparison of fiction and reality, dissecting the intersections and divergences between the fictional outbreak in the film *Contagion* and Covid-19 pandemic. Furthermore, the chapter navigates through the layers of cultural and social reflections embedded within *Contagion* (2011), unpacking the film's commentary on human behavior, societal responses, and the fragility of established norms in the face of such crisis. Through a nuanced analysis, this chapter unravels the echoes that resonate between the film and the real-world pandemic, shedding light on the power of cinema to portray and anticipate the complexities of our global reality.

## **Chapter I:**

# **Understanding Covid19 Pandemic**

## 1.1 Introduction

The world witnessed a dramatic outbreak of a deadly virus in 2020. This latter has not only affected the world's economy, but has also shaped the balance of life. For instance, such a catastrophe has changed people's lifestyles around the world and led to the surfacing of several rumors on social media. As a result, the pandemic has brought many people to suspect some conspiracies. Eventually, in that time, some suppositions about the origins of Covid-19 have gone viral. To give an instance, Americans criticized China for its role in the spread of Covid-19. On the other hand, People claimed the billionaire Microsoft co-founder, Bill Gates, 'a Crazy Modern Witch', who uses vaccines to microchip humanity.

Prior to advancing extensively, it is imperative to revert back in history while the world was facing a global crisis. The rapid spread of covid-19 has raised many questions, and incited people to delve deeper into the origin of the virus, and analyze rumors that have been circulating.

## 1.2 Covid-19 Virus Origin, Symptoms, and Propagation

Covid-19 also known as SARS-COV-2 is a new highly contagious respiratory disease via the SARS-COV-2 virus. For instance, Dhama . et al (2020) have stressed the importance of nature as a starting point of the virus, which can be transferred from animals to humans by simple respiratory contact. Severe acute respiratory syndrome results from such a connection. It can be fatal in patients weakened by age or other factors such as chronic diseases, diabetes, hypertension (high blood pressure), and heart diseases, which can also result in death.

According to UKRI (2020), "Covid-19 is a relatively simple structure, and its form helps us to understand how it works. It is spherical and coated with spikes of protein. These spikes help the virus bind to and infect healthy cells". Since spikes are crown-like shaped under a microscope, the term "Corona" (crown in Latin) has emerged to describe their appearance. Beneath these spikes lay membranes that can be dismembered by efficient detergents against the virus such as alcohol, soap, and hand sanitizer.

The genome, also known as the virus's genetic material is found inside the membrane. This latter is made of ribonucleic acid and is subject to constant change.

### **1.2.1 Unraveling the Origin of Covid-19**

When facing a problem, one should start investigating its origin, and this is what scientists have done since the emergence of the tragic disease called "Covid-19". The identification of the virus set helped the researchers to clarify the propagation path of such ailment. However; the latter was not facile to control afterward. There have been a lot of hypotheses concerning the origin of the virus. Gostin, et al. (2023,2035) claims that, "The major hypotheses are a natural zoonotic spillover, most likely occurring at the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market, a laboratory leak from the Wuhan Institute of Virology". From this, it is conceivable that the virus could be manmade. While the precise source of the virus remains elusive, tensions have emerged between some nations.

Covid-19 also known as SARS- COV-2 is a new contagious respiratory illness that was observed first in Wuhan (China) in December 2019 and later spread to nearly every country. After a series of investigations, it was found that the SARS-COV-2 first existed in marked civet cats and dogs. "Antibodies to the virus in a badger were later found at China's Shenzhen live animal market, and were suspected to be the source of the human infection" (Looi, Mun-Keat,2023).

Conversely, poor laboratory maintenance can be one of the major reasons. In actual fact, FBI Director 'Christopher Wray' has confessed that the "Covid-19 pandemic origin is most likely a potential lab incident." (Wray ,2022). A little while back, some sort of conspiracy theory emerged as a consequence of a scandalous claim mentioned in '*The Truth about Wuhan*' (2022), a book written by Andrew G. Huff, an epidemiologist. Huff (2022) assesses the epidemic's genesis by alleging the virus was man-made. Still, another head-turning revelation would unfold. To all intents and purposes, Adew (2022) contends:



foreign laboratories did not have the adequate control measures in place for ensuring proper biosafety, and risk management, ultimately resulting in the lab leak at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. We helped the Wuhan lab put together the best existing methods to engineer bat corona viruses to attack other species. China knew from day one that this was a genetically engineered agent. The US government is to blame for the transfer of dangerous biotechnology to the Chinese.

As a consequence, the hypotheses of the horrific event's origin have created clashes between nations such as the United States and China. Both countries are regarded as the most powerful ones. As a matter of fact, China always attempts to overtake the power of the US. In particular, the emergence of Covid-19 has created doubt about how it appeared and prospered all over the world. Thomas (2020) affirmed that political realities provoked a crucial misdirection of the crisis on both sides. Besides, he asserts that “The finger-pointing and politically driven accusations between the world's two leading powers – and between the Republican and Democratic parties in the United States- might have catastrophic results, particularly when the virus spreads to the world's most impoverished nations.” (Thomas ,2020)

After numerous researches, the evidence of the origination of the disease is still actual data that the world up to now made efforts to discover.

### **1.2.2 The Symptoms of Covid-19 Virus**

The infection of covid-19 results in various symptoms. Understanding the symptoms is crucial to identify and manage the infection. Indeed, it seems arduous to recognize it because of the non-specific symptoms. In fact, they can vary widely, ranging from mild to severe, and manifest differently among individuals. As claimed by UW Medicine (2020) there are some factors that can worsen the infection such as body's immune response, and an organ damage mystery. Covid19 virus has continued to evolve, giving rise to various variants, each with the same symptoms, but, some of them may be less common.

According to the World Health Organization (2020), the most common symptoms of Covid-19 include:

- Fever - a high temperature  $>37.8^{\circ}\text{C}/100^{\circ}\text{F}$
- Tiredness
- Dry cough

Less common symptoms include:

- Headache
- Diarrhea
- Loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Discoloration of toes or fingers, or rashes on the skin
- Aches and pains
- Conjunctivitis

Serious symptoms are :

- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chest pain or pressure
- Loss of movement or speech

However, since the beginning of the pandemic, many variants of coronavirus have been identified some of which are causing significant concern. Symptoms are thought to be the same as the original strains of the disease. As stated by Dr. Osman (2021) there is some suggestion that severity may not be. The following figure presents the most common variants of concern by Diviya (2021):

Variants of concern				
				
<b>May 2020</b> UK	<b>August 2020</b> South Africa	<b>November 2020</b> Brazil	<b>October 2020</b> India	<b>November 2021</b> Multiple countries
Spreads more easily	Spreads more easily and some vaccines may be less effective against it	Spreads more easily and some vaccines may be less effective against it	Spreads more easily Symptoms may present differently May reduce vaccine efficacy Still protects against severe disease	Early studies show that it spreads more easily

**Table 1: Covid-19 variants (Diviya , 2021)**

As claimed by Cailey (2022), Becker's Healthcare has compiled the following lists of frequently reported symptoms related to five coronavirus variants and subvariants based on emerging research.

- Frequently reported BA.5 symptoms:

- Cough
- Runny nose
- Sore throat
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Muscle pains

- Frequently reported BA.4 symptoms:

- Cough
- Runny nose
- Sore throat
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Muscle pains

**Frequently reported omicron symptoms (BA.1):**

- Sore throat
- Headache
- Runny nose
- Congestion
- Cough
- Lower back pain
- Fatigue

**Frequently reported delta symptoms (B.1.617.2):**

- Sore throat
- Headache
- Runny nose
- Fever
- Diarrhea/GI problems

**Frequently reported alpha symptoms (B.1.1.7):**

- New loss of taste or smell
- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

The clinical interpretation of Covid-19 may differ depending on the viral variant. The frequent symptoms like: fever, cough, fatigue, headache, and runny nose remain consistent across the variants, but the severity and additional symptoms may diverge. By recognizing these variations, healthcare practitioners can ensure timely and appropriate management of Covid-19 cases, leading to improve patient outcomes and better control of the pandemic.

### **1.2.3 The Spread of Covid-19 in China**

December 2019, was the beginning of a pandemic situation that emerged due to a strain of coronavirus (called Covid-19) first identified in Wuhan (China). The unexpected appearance of the virus led the Chinese Government to a difficult circumstance, which obliged them to take severe protocols in order to stop the propagation of the virus. Politicians and the government were leveraging science in a surprising manner to seek solutions. Nevertheless, the spread of the virus was uncontrollable as it had a worldwide effect and turned the life light off.

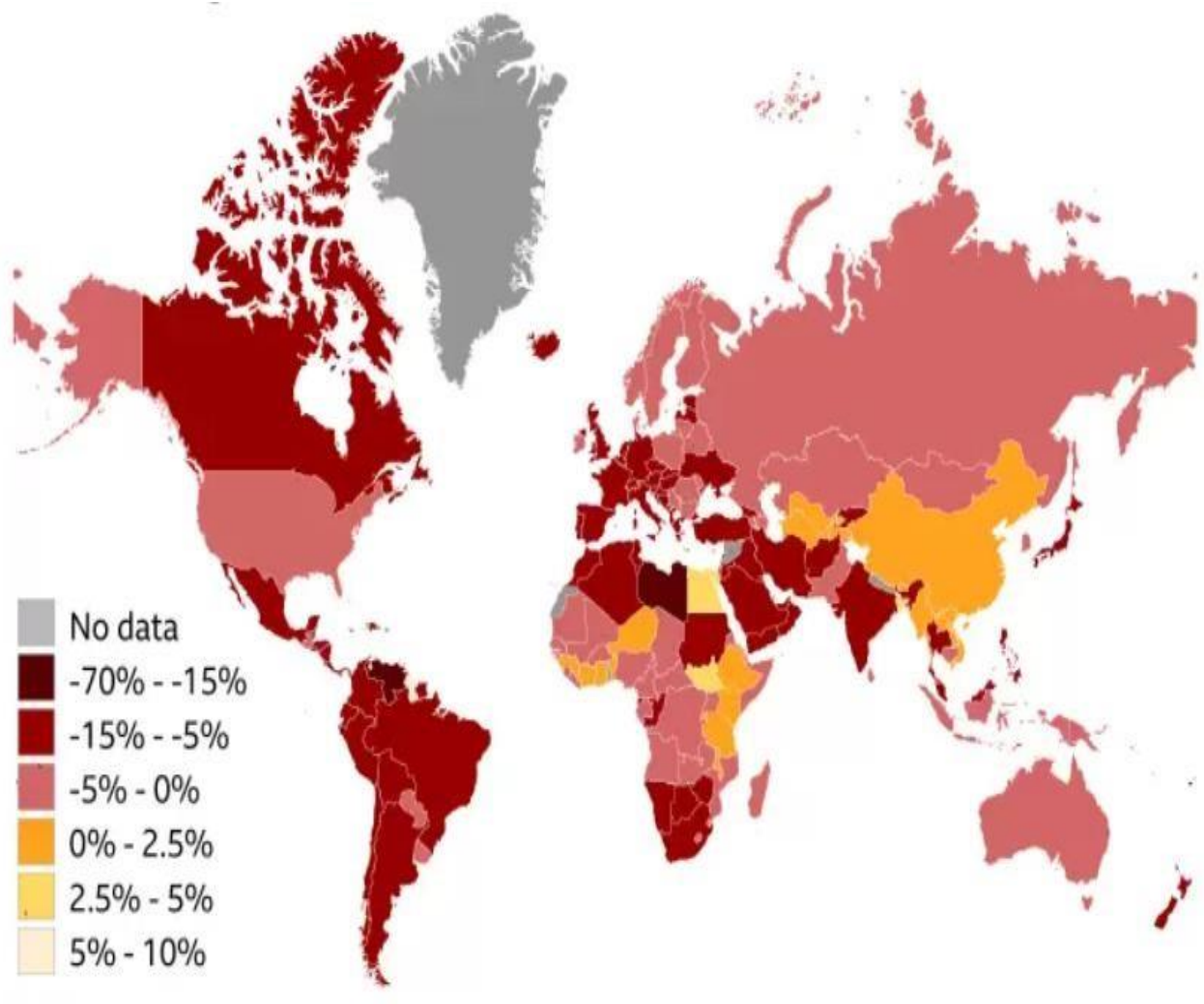
From the start of the pandemic, the Chinese Government has imposed a strict lockdown due to the dangerous effects of the virus that have resulted in numerous death cases. Eventually, China expanded its restricting movement to more cities. In the first cases, the Chinese government did not take a serious initiative, because of the incubation period that extended up to fifteen days; the first symptoms did not appear directly. The pressure was on the scientists. Doctors, immunologists, and virologists had widely documented anomalies and had already sent warnings in late December 2019. Their data, published in online research repositories and international scientific publications, indirectly challenged the official data released by the National Health Commission and caused an uproar on the internet in China. At the same time that netizens lamented the suppression of information about the epidemic and the untrustworthy conduct of government authorities, they engaged in efforts to elevate some Chinese scientists to public hero status (Anna, Yishu , Et all, 2020). Despite the overload of Hospitals due to the daily cases, New medical institutions were rapidly constructed. Nevertheless, after a lot of efforts, there were numerous cases and the death toll from the outbreak continues to rise.

### **1.2.4 The Worldwide Spread of Covid-19**

The proliferation of Covid19 has not only abated within China. After only short days, covid-19 fatly and heavily spread throughout the world reaching six continents, and has also caused countless damages as was the case in China. Indeed, there have been multiple motives behind the swift propagation of the virus. The lack of information related to covid-19's nature, and people's awareness. In addition, among them, the role of international travel cannot be overlooked, as it has been a significant part that caused such rapid spread. These factors have shaped the trajectory of the pandemic and continue to influence its global impact.

Indeed, Feras (2023) has reported the presence of multiple motives. For instance, by ignoring Covid-19 virus, some individuals have not only put their health and safety at risk; so, did they with all humanity. Whether pertaining to ignorance, or misinformation, these actions had far- reaching consequences. Eventually, the latter have contributed to the spread of the virus by downplaying its seriousness, also not following recommended practices such as wearing masks, social distancing, and avoiding large gatherings. Selvanathan, Eliyathamby A., et al (2021) consider that the situation requires health professionals, and leaders to teach us how to live with the pandemic informed by robust scientific sources.

The impact of international travel on the rapid propagation of Covid-19 virus has been a significant concern throughout the epidemic. According to Romero, Karla et al. (2020), international travel has played a crucial role in the global transmission of the virus. The movement of individuals across borders has led to an extensive spread in various regions. The world operating as a global village today has facilitated the swift transmission of Covid-19 since millions of people travel at an international scale each day. As a result, all countries Have been obliged to take serious measures in order to control the influx of infected individuals, and reduce the risk of further transmission within their borders. The proliferation of the virus has surged, and multiple nations have reported cases. The following figure is clearly revealing Covid-19 worldwide expansion, showing the danger of the situation in each country.



**Figure1: Majority of Countries in recession (Palumbo, et al ,2021)**

The lack of responsibility has prolonged the duration of the epidemic causing unnecessary suffering, and loss of many lives. Ignoring Covid-19 has not determined the efforts of healthcare workers as well as frontline workers. As a matter of fact, it also erodes people’s collective responsibility to protect themselves. It has been crucial that every person understands the gravity of the situation, and takes the necessary precautions to prevent the spread of the virus.

### **1.3 The Layers of Prevention, and Control Measures Taken against Covid-19 Virus**

Covid-19 pandemic has initiated a global health issue, leading to a renewed focus on preventive measures. The suggestion recommended can be attributed to various sources. Thus, the World Health Organization has been actively involved in providing guidance and recommendations to various sectors during the pandemic. The layers of prevention against Covid-19 encompass a range of strategies aimed at reducing the transmission and impact of the virus.

Firstly, personal hygiene plays a critical role in intercepting the expansion of Covid-19. The CDC declared: “Your health is in your hands” (People’s CDC Statement 2022). The maintenance of good wholesomeness such as regular hand washing with soap and water or the use of hand sanitizers, reduces minimally the risk of infection.

Secondly, the virus spreads primarily through respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. In fact, these droplets can land on surfaces and objects, making it crucial to frequently clean and disinfect. It was highly recommended by Health professionals to avoid touching the face, especially the eyes, nose, and mouth. In addition, wearing masks has been crucial and imposed by the healthcare administration. According to People’s CDC Statement (2022), the individuals are almost solely responsible for preventing Covid infections, and self-assessing their risk.

Thirdly, social distancing has been an obligatory action in mitigating the transmission of Covid-19. In 2020, Dr. Timothy has emphasized the need for individuals from all professions, including lawyers, to take necessary precautions, such as keeping a safe physical distance of at least six feet and avoiding close crowded places in order to control the chain of transmission. The implementation of preventive measures within the legal profession helps to ensure the continuity of essential legal services while minimizing the possibility of Covid-19 transferal.



Overall, the efforts in combating Covid-19 have been monumental, reflecting the global determination to contract the virus. The deployment of rigorous public health measures by the collaborative efforts of researchers worldwide have been evident in curbing the expansion rate of the virus and protecting vulnerable populations. The lessons learned from this global crisis serve as a reminder of the importance of preparedness, international cooperation, and the prioritization of public health.

#### **1.4 Global Efforts on Covid-19 Virus Vaccines**

Since the emergence of the new Covid-19 virus, everyone has been in danger. The infected people were numerous with a large number of deaths. Every country was obliged to lock down its territory in order to limit contact with other people from other nations. The purpose of stopping daily cases, The World Health Organization suggested vaccination; as the best solution for each country in the perilous state of the world. The world has witnessed a period when everyone must be vaccinated.

Covid-19 virus affects not only the lungs but even other organs. According to Tsatsakis, Aristides, et al (2020) The Sars-Cov-2 virus not only causes viral pneumonia; however, it also has major implications for the cardiovascular system. The latter caused several damages, especially to elders and others with particular medical conditions like diabetes, asthma, and other chronic diseases. As claimed by CDC in 2023, age remains the strongest risk factor for severe Covid-19 outcomes with increasing age. In fact, countries around the world have started producing their own vaccine against Covid-19 virus. Yet, the most approved and highly recommended vaccines were those discovered by: China, and The United States of America.

The process of vaccine production was completed in due course. A lot of people hesitated to get vaccinated, because of the fast production and rapid diffusion of vaccines around the world. Nonetheless, vaccination has been obligatory, especially for workers. During the challenging years, scientists have accelerated in making a lot of doses under the pressures of protecting public health and economies, that all communities have faced.

Country	Developer	Clinical phase	Efficacy	Doses	U.S. emergency or full approval
China	CanSino	3	58%–92%	1	
China	Sinopharm	3	78%	2	
China	Sinovac	3	51%–84%	2	
India	Bharat Biotech	3	78.0%	2	
Russia	Gamaleya	3	75%–92%	2	
United Kingdom, Sweden	Oxford-AstraZeneca	2 and 3	74%–100%	2	
United States, Germany	Pfizer-BioNTech	3	91.0%	2	Yes
United States, India	Baylor, Biological E	3	90%+	2	
United States	Johnson & Johnson	3	64%–72%	1	Yes
United States	Moderna	3	93%–98%	2	Yes
United States	Novavax	3	90.0%	2	Yes

**Table 2: Leading COVID-19 Vaccines (Klobucista, 2022)**

Klobucista (2022,1313) reports that,

the Western-made mRNA vaccines have become the most sought after for their consistent effectiveness against preventing serious illness. Concerns have grown, meanwhile, about the waning durability of other COVID-19 vaccines, including China’s, billions of doses of which have been distributed around the globe.

China's CoronaVac and Sinopharm vaccines promised world protection after two doses against covid-19 to all age groups. For instance, China was the first country to distribute vaccines to the neighborhood. Asian and African countries attributed most of China's vaccines to European countries. Doucleff (2022) believes that, although 30 million doses of Chinese vaccines were delivered to European countries, they were criticized. Abnett, John et al (2021) has reported Charles Michel; the president of the European Council affirming, "Europe will not use vaccines for propaganda purposes. We promote our values". In other words, the Chinese vaccine was accused of having less durable efficiency.

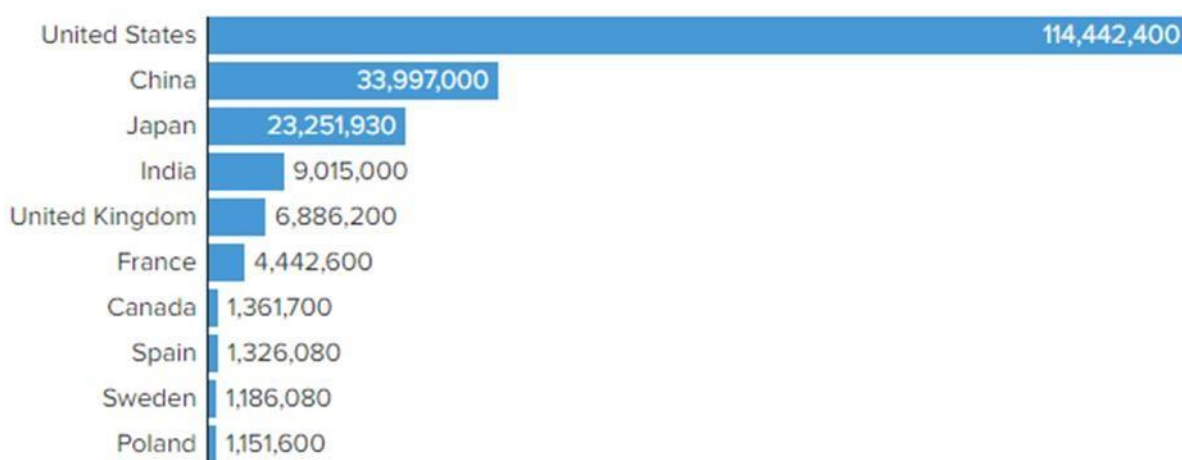
Conversely, The United States of America has produced Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson and Johnson vaccines. In 2021, the white house announced that President Biden has committed to donating a minimum of 80 million COVID-19 vaccine doses from the United States stockpile. By this, The U.S. has contributed the largest amount, two billion dollars, to COVAX, a global vaccine initiative. This commitment has been reinforced by the Quad initiative, which supports the production of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines in other countries. President Biden aimed at constructing the U.S. vaccine hub. As a result, Americans and people worldwide would benefit from these vaccines.

Vaccinations have become a trend among developed countries since each country started developing its own vaccine. Yet, people would still rely on China and America's vaccines. This latter would create conflicts between nations. First, America criticized China's vaccines for their inefficiency. Then, the world's citizens have been influenced by such American misinformation. Consequently, doubts have been raised about decreasing China's vaccine market. It should be highlighted that reducing the propagation of the pandemic was a must. Therefore, nations did not have the opportunity to choose their vaccine doses. Instead, they would be influenced to have their vaccine doses. Poor countries were the most affected by such consequences.

As reported by Du, Li, et al. (2021) the vaccines like Pfizer and Moderna have limited production capabilities, leading developing nations to seek China's assistance due to their capacity for vaccine manufacturing.

It should be noted that the vaccines from Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech have storage requirements that Sinovac's vaccine surpasses. Unlike the Moderna vaccine, which requires -20°C storage, and the Pfizer vaccine, which demands -70°C storage, Sinovac's vaccine can be stored in a regular refrigerator.

As stated previously, it has been proved that the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna mRNA vaccines are more effective than China. America remained the most donor of Covid-19 globally as it is demonstrated in the following figure:



**Figure 2: Donors of Covid-19 vaccines UNICEF Sep. 7, 2021 (Josh and Anna et all ,2021)**

The U.S. Covid-19 vaccines have demonstrated remarkable effectiveness in curbing the spread of the virus and reducing severe illness. Their widespread distributions have played a pivotal role in slowing the pandemic's impact. The U.S. vaccine effort stands as a crucial defense, offering a pathway toward returning to normalcy and protecting public health on both a national and global scale.

All in all, vaccines have been a subject of confusion mainly because scientists lack knowledge regarding Covid-19 virus. It was no easy task to define the best vaccination option, because of their various compositions. Still, all humanity has been going back and forth. Some were convinced about their vaccine choice, whereas, others have rejected vaccination. One should not forget that; vaccines have saved people's lives in such a stressful period.

As a matter of fact, fully vaccinated people are more protected against Covid-19 than those who are not. However, regardless of all the potential benefits vaccines show, there are some side effects that could appear afterward.

#### **1.4.1 Covid-19 Virus Vaccine Safety and Side Effects**

COVID-19 vaccine was such great news to the world's population thanks to its powerful protection from the virus. Such vaccines are perceived as the greatest achievements scientists put their efforts into during the pandemic. Undeniably, as Sciences cannot always be exact; experiments could not be adapted to every person.

Several studies have reported associations between coronavirus (Covid-19) vaccination and the risk of cardiac diseases, especially in young people. In 2023, Science Media Center has assessed that the Office for National Statistics (ONS) released a statistical bulletin estimating the risk of all-cause and cardiac death in the 12 weeks after vaccination or positive SARS-CoV-2 test compared with subsequent weeks for people aged 12 to 29 years. It is mainly due to the diversity of people's reactions to medication, vaccines, and illness. As a matter of fact, COVID-19 vaccines have scared a lot of people by reason of their side effects. Yet, every citizen was forced to be vaccinated, following public health guidelines.

COVID-19 vaccines ensured safety from the virus, and thus ceasing the tremendous rise of daily cases and death tolls. Indubitably, COVID-19 vaccines were evaluated in tens of thousands of participants in clinical trials. It has been reported by the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (2023) that, the latter met Food and Drug Administration's (FDA's) rigorous scientific measures for protection, efficiency, and manufacturing quality required to assist Emergency Use Authorization (EUA).

On the other side, there are also some existing side effects that people could have. These appeared as a reaction to covid-19 vaccination. Fever, pain, loss of appetite, and sleepiness are considered the most frequent side effects that could be experienced.

In addition, there are other rare side effects that could occur. The following is proof of this careful and ongoing scrutiny:

Around July 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced that approximately 100 individuals out of 13 million Americans who had been administered the J & J vaccine had developed Guillain-Barré syndrome, an uncommon neurological ailment characterized by the immune system's assault on nerve cells, leading to muscle weakness and occasional paralysis. Incidences of GBS following COVID-19 vaccination were infrequent.

Toward the end of June 2021, the CDC documented instances of heart inflammation that could be associated with the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines. These cardiac problems were exceptionally uncommon. Similarly, during the clinical trial phase of the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine, a few incidents of heart inflammation were observed.

As of late November 2021, both the CDC and FDA had pinpointed 54 cases of thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS), a clotting disorder, among individuals who had received the J & J vaccine out of a total of 16.4 million doses administered. Subsequently, on December 16, the CDC advised Americans to opt for the Pfizer- BioNTech or Moderna vaccines over the J & J vaccine.

In short, COVID-19 vaccines have undergone rigorous testing to ensure their safety and effectiveness. While rare side effects have been identified, such as Guillain- Barré syndrome, and heart inflammation...These occurrences are infrequent and should be weighed against the overall benefits of vaccination in preventing severe illness and death from COVID-19. So, each individual had to decide about vaccination based on their personal health circumstances.

## **1.5 The Socio-Economic Impact of the Covid-19 Virus**

All disasters that could appear have lasting effects on the environment. Such resulting damages are serious disturbances that can severely affect the whole world in all domains. The epidemic of Covid-19 has changed many lives. It has been stated by Gong, Yimiao, et al. (2022) that, Covid-19 has caused extensive consequences on societies, economies, and also psychological problems.

For, the most affected people were families, poor people, and youth. Many people suffered from extreme mental issues because of their lack of awareness and fear of the unknown virus. Also, nearly everyone has confronted serious problems such as

unemployment, financial crisis, poor healthcare due to the economy, etc. The pandemic has also had some negative impacts on the fields of education and tourism. Only hospitals have been the most working sector due to the daily cases.

The sudden outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic was followed by tough restrictions to make sure the world population was under control. In fact, the lockdown, self-isolation, and social distance maintenance were highly considered. The former primarily aimed at banning all kinds of social interactions like those pertaining to workplaces, universities, cafes, shopping centers, etc. So, people have been isolated at home, and deprived of their prior daily lifestyle, especially working and active people. That has been followed by an important rise of depression, and panic attacks as people were aware of the daily cases and death statistics. Additionally, the imposed curfew has created problems among families and couples. Consequently, citizens were devastated. The lockdown has had an important impact on families as violence, and lack of understanding have pertained, limiting social and physical activities.

Covid19 lockdown has affected numerous fields. At the beginning, everyone used to spend the whole day at home, grieving and consuming unhealthy food. This has rapidly led to increased obesity rates in many countries. On the other hand, the sexual sphere has had its impact on couples' way of expressing their love in their couple's life. That is to say, fear of being contaminated by such a deadly virus has decreased physical contact between wives and husbands. Consequently, the occurring detachment between couples easily led the way to divorce. Furthermore, the lack of economic mobility caused a lot of disputes and disagreements between family members and couples on account of the limitation measures of working. Nonetheless, poor people have been the most concerned as they have faced critical troubles affording familial comfort.

In the field of education, students and teachers have been disturbed during the whole quarantine. First and foremost, teachers were obliged to teach online sessions though no one has been prepared for such teaching conditions. So, students were required to follow their courses at home. This has incited learners' laziness as well as a lack of motivation. Correspondingly, interactions between students and teachers have come to an end.

As all sorts of social interactions have been forbidden, depression, lack of self-confidence, and desire for suicide have been of the most critical consequences. Still, graduated students could not have access to employment opportunities. Youths have been forced to leave their dream job until the end of the pandemic. All things considered, those restrictions have had a brutal influence on the younger generation provoking malefic desires such as stealing, drug, alcohol consumption, and suicide.

Since outdoor spaces like cafes, shopping centers, and universities closed, all traffic including Air travel, metro stations, etc. ceased. People from other countries could not have access to other areas. Similar constraints have promoted the feeling of loneliness, and frustration due to the incapacity of traveling. On the other side, the decisive lack of transportation has led to a serious economic burden in every country because of the non-presence of tourists. Hotels were empty and employers were underpaid. As for international business transport, chaos surfaced when goods could not pass in such miserable conditions. Companies have been in constant need of raw materials in order to fabricate their products.

Challenging events such as quarantine have shaped people's lifestyles. One should not forget that the Covid-19 virus has not only intrigued harsh psychological damages but, has also been a turning point in numerous fields. Notably, tourism, education, and the stern economic crisis the world has witnessed. Until now, people are suffering from the massive augmentation of prices that emerged during the covid-19 pandemic.

## **1.6 Some Conspiracy Theories in Times of Covid-19 Virus**

Social Media Networking Sites have always been a means of exchanging ideas and spreading news behind the screen. In this time and age, many companies work at a distance from online platforms in any domain. In fact, people have been using this modern technology to publish information they perceive as useful. However, many times, rumors start circulating. During the COVID-19 pandemic, people have started investigating the real origin of the virus and spreading their findings on Social Media Networking Sites to the world.



Nonetheless, multiple conspiracy theories have been disseminated. In 2020, F. Diane, a psychotherapist, affirms that “denying the reality of the coronavirus has made it more dangerous for everyone”. It has been an unmanageable situation that the world witnessed in such moments of health crises. For, the most common conspiracy theories that have been broadcasted are those of ‘Bill Gates as Scapegoat’, ‘the Virus Escaping from Chinese Lab’, ‘the US Military Imported the Virus into China’.

At the beginning of the COVID-19 health crisis, news has been circulating that they have attacked an American co-founder of Microsoft named ‘Bill Gates. It all started with an ancient video of him that was diffused on Social Media Networking Sites in 2015. During his speech, Bill Gates pointed out the biggest threat to humanity; an evil virus that could end the world. To illustrate,

When I was a kid, the disaster we worried about most was a nuclear war. That’s why we had a barrel like this down in our basement, filled with cans of food and water. When the nuclear attack came, we were supposed to go downstairs, hunker down, and eat of that barrel. Today, the greatest risk of global catastrophe doesn’t look like this. Instead, it looks like this. If anything kills over 10 million people in the next few decades, it’s most likely to be a highly infectious virus rather than a war. Not missiles, but microbes. Gates (2015)

After the discourse he gave on the Ebola outbreak, Gates (2015) confidently mentioned a sudden worldwide propagation of a dangerous virus with an increasing number of deaths. He was, then, accused of creating the virus. According to Wakabayashi, et al. (2020), Bill Gates “had foreknowledge of the COVID pandemic or even purposely caused it”. In addition, there has been another fake news that Bill Gates planned to insert digital microchips inside the human body in order to control all people. A lot of people named him the witch Bill Gates.

The starting point of COVID-19 propagation was in Wuhan; a city in China. The researchers have started investigating the origin of the virus.

Since its emergence, there have been a lot of convictions regarding its origin. Many people have had doubts about the virus apparition and presumed that the latter was man- made. As mentioned previously, American politicians have inculcated the idea to the world that China is responsible for Covid-19 crisis as mentioned previously. Helmore (2023) has reported in The Guardian Newspaper that, “former US president Donald Trump politicized the issue, calling it the ‘China Virus’, triggering a racialization of a pandemic that his Democratic successor Joe Biden has sought to avoid. But political polarization remains under the surface of efforts to establish its origins.”

Another view of COVID-19 virus origin has been circulating in China. As a response to The US accusations toward China. In fact, the Chinese government has spread the idea that Americans brought the virus to China. In this sense, the US may be the culprit behind this fatal health crisis that Americans have staged to humiliate and degrade the Chinese population as well as the government. Additionally, in 2019, the US military participated in the Military World Games in Wuhan. That visit has led the Chinese government to suspect the US Military. Later, the virus was named “the US virus”, as a reaction to the US attribution.

The covid-19 crisis has been a source of sensitive debates between nations due to the harsh conditions the world was confronted with. This has also led to the proliferation of conspiracy theories surrounding the pandemic. Despite their lack of evidence, such hearsay has been a cause of distrust among races. That is why, in order to avoid similar conflicts, it is fundamental to critically evaluate information before having recourse to action.

### **1.7 Predictive Literature in Relation to the real- world Covid-19 pandemic**

Predictive literature has always captivated readers with its ability to foreshadow and anticipate future events. It has significant implications for society’s perception and response to these events. Predictive literature has the potential to shape public opinion and influence the decision-making process. Thus, “the detection of signs that such a catastrophe might happen in the near future, members of the potentially affected population are alerted and given instructions to prevent or minimize damage” (Reid,2006).

In the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, this literature genre has occupied a whole new significance. One particular work of fiction, *The Eyes of Darkness* has gained attention of readers for its parallels to real-world outbreak.

*The Eyes of Darkness* written by Dean Koontz (1981) is a thriller novel that reveals a world grappling with unprecedented challenges in a global pandemic. The story revolves around a mother named Christina Evans, who relentlessly searches for her son after he mysteriously disappears during a camping trip. As the story unfolds, Christina's determination to unveil the truth leads her down a dark and dangerous path where she encounters a secretive government agency, sinister experiments, and a chilling conspiracy. However, what truly captured readers during the pandemic was the book's mention of a fictional virus called "Wuhan 400", originating from a Chinese military laboratory in the city of Wuhan. The startling coincidence between the fictional virus and the real-life Covid-19 pandemic sparked widespread curiosity and intrigue.

In the midst of the Covid-19 global pandemic, some people turned to literature as a means of seeking solace, understanding, and even predictive insights. One such novel *The eyes of Darkness* drew attention among readers and explored the concept of a deadly virus. The convergence of fiction and reality does not only underscore the power of literature to reflect and steer complex social issues. In fact, it requires readers to understand and foresight in times of uncertainty. Ultimately, the enduring significance of the predictive literature during covid-19 era constitutes as a statement to the enduring power of storytelling, its ability to capture real-world events, and even prepare humanity for the unknown.

## **1.8 The Popularity of Prediction Movies during Covid-19 Pandemic**

Movies have long been a platform for exploring and forecasting various aspects of human existence and social concerns. In the realm of pandemics, films have often served as a medium for portraying fictional outbreaks and their consequences.

Nonetheless, with the advent of Covid-19, the real-life pandemic becomes intriguing to examine how movies have previously predicted a global health crisis. Thus, some people may view these films as mere fiction, but others consider them as cautionary tales for preventing some catastrophes. There was a variety of movies that captured people's awareness.

*Contagion* is one of the most remarkable cinematic works produced by Steven Soderberg in 2011. As the movie implies events that are close to pandemic disasters, it has attracted numerous populations around the world during Covid19 pandemic. The movie delves into the challenges faced by individuals confronting a highly infectious ailment originating from bats in Hong Kong. As it spreads rapidly on a global scale, devastating consequences have arisen within the world's population.

One of the cinematic arts that has also sparked people's interest is *World War Z*, a film produced by Dede Gardner in 2013. It has portrayed the rise of zombies which has coincided with a growing sense of unease about the state of the world. This latter has consisted of themes forecasting apocalypse and pandemic. In a way, this movie genre has acted as a warning and a reminder to contemplate a potential threat that may lie ahead. It is gripping to witness how these fictional evocations have influenced real-world discussions about emergency preparedness, disease control, and the moral dilemmas that arise in times of crisis.

Cinema has been a crucial device of distraction individuals took refuge in. The popularity of movies' predictions has increased during Covid19 pandemic. This has not only given the chance to movie producers to predict the future. As in *Contagion*, for example, the hidden message cinema has strived to convey lays in setting psychological preparedness amongst individuals, combined with higher hopes towards the future. Consequently, people eagerly awaited the release of predicted movies, discussing them on social media, and speculating about their plots and twists. This has brought them to raise some questions on whether the movie *Contagion* anticipated such a destructive global state of emergency even before its apparition in 2019.

## **1.9 Conclusion:**

To conclude, Chapter I has delved into the many-sided aspects related to Covid-19 Virus, its origin, and accelerated propagation in the different corners of the world. In purpose of combating such a vulnerable epidemic, it is fundamental to consider the main symptoms as well as other characteristics of the virus. Thus, valuable insights have been acquired regarding the complex nature of this global health crisis.

For instance, the examination of the prevention methods highlights the significance of acting quickly and together. The rise of vaccines as a crucial means to reduce the pandemic's effects offers optimism, as widespread vaccination efforts can alter the course of the crisis. Moreover, this chapter illuminated the prevalence of conspiracy theories surrounding covid-19, and emphasizing the importance of sharing accurate and clear information to combat misinformation and build trust among the public. As we move forward in our probing of this delicate subject, subsequent characters will scrutinize the sociocultural, economic, and psychological implications of the pandemic, shedding light on the transformative effect it has had on global societies and civilizations. All in all, chapter I has provided a foundational understanding of the origins and progression of Covid-19, Setting the stage for an in-depth analysis of its broader implications in the subsequent chapters.

## Chapter II:

# *Contagion* (2011) and Covid19: Intersecting Realities and Fictive World

## 2.1 Introduction

The world's extended lockdown during Covid-19 pandemic has imbalanced the life of the world's population. Everyone has been isolated for days and months at home, living in endless loneliness and stress.

*Contagion* (2011) is one of the movies that in a way captures the audience's attention from the beginning, presenting a visceral and realistic depiction of a rapid spread of a deadly virus. However, the movie scenario may cause certain political confrontations between nations specifically between America and China.

The following chapter will be devoted to researching the Similarities Between the health crises in the movie *Contagion* and the COVID-19 pandemic, with a deeper investigation into their similarities.

## 2.2 The Main Characters

The movie *Contagion* (2011), introduces viewers to a diverse cast of main characters who play pivotal roles in the course of the epidemic. In addition, all main characters are regarded as heroes. The film showcases a multiple range of protagonists, each with their own unique strengths and characteristics.

Gwyneth Paltrow performs the role of Beth Emhoff as patient zero, marking the beginning of a future pandemic. She is introduced as a seemingly vibrant woman who returns home from a business trip to Hong Kong. However, her condition quickly deteriorates, and she succumbs to a mysterious and highly contagious virus that causes her death.

Matt Damon portrays Mitch Emhoff, an ordinary man who becomes a widower after his wife succumbs to the deadly virus. Mitch's character demonstrates the emotional toll that the pandemic has taken on individuals and the importance of resilience in the face of such adversity.

Laurence Fishburne plays a significant role in the narrative as the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ‘Dr. Ellis Cheever ‘. He navigates the challenging decisions and ethical dilemmas that arise during the crisis. This character provides a realistic portrayal of the challenges confronted by such a position of authority during times of crisis.

Kate Winslet performs ‘Dr Erin’, who works for the Epidemic Intelligence Service and was sent to Minneapolis to constrain and understand the deadly virus that is spreading rapidly. Her motivation stems from a sense of duty and responsibility toward public health, as she prioritized the well-being of others above her own safety.

Marion Cotillard portrays ‘Dr Leonora Orantes’, is a World Health Organization epidemiologist. She plays a pivotal role in combating the deadly MEV-1 virus. ‘Dr Orantes’ was initially sent to Hong Kong to investigate the origin of the outbreak and work with local authorities to contain it. However, she soon finds herself in a dangerous situation during her mission. Her character provides a human perspective to the chaos and panic that ensues in such a pandemic.

Jude Law portrays “Alan Krumwiede “, a social media reporter and conspiracy theorist who spread misinformation about the virus and promoted unproven treatment. His manipulation of information and exploitation of public fear paints a dark picture of the power that individuals can have in shaping public opinion and the dangers that arise when that power is misused.

Jennifer Ehle portrays “Dr. Ally Hextall”, as a determined scientist who becomes an invaluable asset in the race to find a cure and save many lives. She is driven by a deep sense of responsibility towards humanity and exemplifies the dedication that many real- life Healthcare professionals exhibit in times of crisis.

### **2.2.1 Plot Summary of *Contagion***

*Contagion* (2011) is a gripping and thought-provoking medical thriller directed by Steven Soderbergh.



The movie deftly weaves together multiple storylines, each focusing on different characters and their experiences during the outbreak. With a star-studded cast including the likes of Gwyneth Paltrow, Matt Damon, Laurence Fishburne, Kate Winslet, Marion Cotillard, Jude Law, and Jennifer Ehle. *Contagion* presents a chillingly realistic portrayal of a deadly virus outbreak and the race of scientists against time to find a cure that can rescue humanity from the devastating results of the virus.

The movie begins with an introduction of Beth Emhoff (played by Gwyneth Paltrow), an American woman who returns from a business trip To Hong Kong feeling unwell. Before she came back home to Minneapolis, some symptoms of a disease started appearing on her as it seemed that she had a discomfort in her lungs. Two days later, her condition became serious as she experienced a seizure attack which caused her death. Her unknown condition and unexplained death terrified her husband Mitch Emhoff (played by Matt Damon), tried to comprehend the sudden loss of his beloved wife. During this time, several countries were affected by the virus, in terms of health and socioeconomic consequences. This highly contagious disease initially emerged in Hong Kong and quickly spread to numerous countries, including London (England), Tokyo Japan, and many others. The virus spread has been uncontrolled because of its fast infection causing panic and chaos worldwide.

The unsafe world's position facing the unknown virus, scientists and doctors have started investigating the causes and the possible treatment or a vaccine that can limit the infection. As the first scientific community's response, Dr. Ellis Cheever (Laurence Fishburne) the deputy director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, he was faced to contain the spread of the outbreak by finding people who had been contaminated. Then, Dr. Erin Mears (played by Kate Winslet), working for the Epidemic Intelligent Service, was urgently sent by Dr. Ellis Cheever to Minnesota where she discovered a rapidly growing number of cases, indicating the virus's alarming contagiousness.

Meanwhile, The World Health Organization has started taking the situation into consideration. Dr. Leonora Orantes (played by Marion Cotillard), is an epidemiologist from the World Health Organization.

She was sent to Hong Kong to investigate the virus's origin. She collaborates with local authorities to trace the virus's initial carrier, known as "patient zero". However, as the inspection unfolds, Dr. Orantes faces numerous challenges and risks her own life to uncover crucial information, including being kidnapped by a group of opportunistic individuals ( who demand the vaccine in exchange for her freedom ). Despite the harrowing circumstances, she remains composed and focused on her mission. Confronted with a deadly virus, a lot of people died; others caught the disease and survived. Such scenes also reflect humanistic aspects of the medical and the scientific world.

In parallel, a controversial blogger in San Francisco Alan Krumwiede (played by Jude Law) emerges as a prominent figure in the media, spreading conspiracy theories and alternative treatments for the virus. As a result, he gained a substantial following, causing widespread panic and distrust in the government and the medical community.

On the other hand, as the outbreak intensified, a group of doctors started overlooking a solution that could save the world. Dr. Ally Hextall (played by Jennifer Ehle), and her team at the CDC have worked tirelessly to develop a vaccine. Furthermore, they have faced worrying obstacles including limited resources, ethical dilemmas, and, the ever-increasing death toll.

Throughout the film, *Contagion* (2011) explores various aspects of a pandemic, including the social, economic, and political consequences. The interconnected stories of its characters highlight each character facing the vulnerability of human society, the rapid spread of fear, misinformation, and the challenges faced by government officials in managing such chaos. Moreover, the film sheds light on the importance of collaboration, scientific research, and public health measures. Nevertheless, it brings a sense of realism and authenticity to the narrative, revealing the complex emotions, and obstacles in combating a global health crisis.

## 2.3 Fiction vs. Reality in *Contagion*

Released in 2011, *Contagion* is a thought-provoking film that blurs the lines between fiction and reality, delving into the realm of global pandemics. While the events depicted in the film are fictional, they are also based on scientific research and real-life pandemics. The movie's attention to detail and adherence to scientific accuracy contributed to its authenticity, allowing viewers to immerse themselves in the story and contemplate the potential consequences of a real-life pandemic. As stated by Professor Frid Daoudi (2022) the main reason behind its sudden success is the strange similarity with the 2020 pandemic situation. The film focuses on the social, economic, and political impact of a global outbreak.

*Contagion* serves as a cautionary tale, highlighting the importance of preparedness, cooperation, and scientific advancement in the face of infectious diseases. In addition, blurring the distinction between fiction and reality, the film prompts viewers to reflect on the fragility of the modern world and the potential for a scenario to become a reality after nine years.

### 2.3.1 The Virus Origin, Symptom, and propagation in *Contagion*

*Contagion* is an attractive movie that explores the interaction of imagination of a pandemic. In the face of global pandemics like Covid-19 outbreak, there were multiple events depicted in the movie *Contagion* (2011) which align similarly with the movie's portrayals including the virus origins and the transmission spread. In addition, the similarities between Covid-19 and the film *Contagion* (2011) have been subjects of interest and speculation in recent times.

The movie *Contagion* (2011) pictures a fictitious virus called MEV-1 that spreads speedily across the world, causing panic, fear, and chaos. The echoes experienced in the movie are so close to real-life troubles during the Covid-19 pandemic. Both epidemics have started propagating in the same country China, Wuhan, and Macau. Additionally, the scientists gathered that the virus in *Contagion* and Covid-19 are zoonotic, meaning they developed in animals before affecting humans. In the case of Covid-19, it was believed to have originated from a seafood market in Wuhan, China, where various live animals have been sold for a long period. In parallel, the virus in *Contagion* is portrayed as originating from a similar scenario in which a bat infected a pig and eventually transmitted to humans.

The scenes of the character Beth Emhoff are the first captivating scenes, revealing the start of a deadly virus and its severe symptoms. The scene casted at minute 01:43 shows, Beth Emhoff was in the Macau International Airport returning home to Minneapolis feeling unwell as she started coughing with slight fatigue gradually escalated. and Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing (see appendix A).

The other scene projected at minute 01: 41:18 demonstrates the contagious process that happened due to a seemingly inconspicuous act of the chef unaware of the potential danger lurking on his hand in which he forgot to wash his hands before coming into contact with Beth (see appendix B). The insignificant action proceeds a chain of events that would have far-reaching a lot of contaminations. Thus, the failure to adhere to basic hygiene practices proved to be one of the reasons for the rapid spread of the virus, as Beth unknowingly carried the pathogens into her immediate surroundings infecting those she came into contact with. In addition, the simple act of negligence highlights the potential consequences that can arise from overlooking such basic practices.

However, after a few days of Beth's arrival, she experienced a shocking and sudden demise after suffering from a seizure (08:24) (see appendix C). Her bizarre condition degraded her oxygen rate and attacked her central nervous system causing severe neurological complications. The scene marks the beginning of a deadly pandemic that will hit the world.

The transmission spread of the virus and its symptoms are other clues that are connected between *Contagion* and Covid-19 outbreak. The film pictures the rapid diffusion of the virus through close contact, fomites, bad hygiene, and respiratory which correspond with the modes of transmission of Covid-19. At the Department of Health, Dr. Mears conveyed her opinion, "three to five times every waking minute. In between, we are touching doorknobs, water fountain, elevator buttons, and each other. Those things fomites" (17:58) (see appendix D)

In the previous scene, Dr. Mears called attention to the gravity of touching things during an outbreak.

This statement serves as a crucial reminder of the role that contact plays in the spread of infectious diseases. Touch, being one of the primary senses, is a fundamental part of human interaction and communication. Nevertheless, it can become a way for the transmission of pathogens. The state in the film has certain correspondence to the state of the actual pandemic. Covid-19 lands on a surface after an infected person coughs or sneezes, and another person touches that surface soon afterward and then touches their nose, mouth or eyes (48:50) (see appendix E).

As well as the symptoms, according to The World Health Organization (2023), Covid-19 is a disease caused by a virus. The most common symptoms are fever, chills, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, Cough, and Fatigue. The disease becomes serious and causes a lot of people's deaths. Moreover, the initial cause is people who already have the symptoms and transfer it unconsciously.

The resemblance between the events depicted in the film *Contagion* and the actual pandemic serves as a reminder of the unpredictability and devastating consequences of a deadly disease. The eerily accurate portrayal of the rapid spread sheds light on the vulnerabilities inherent in our interconnected world, identifying the swift actions in the face of such crises. Besides, the parallelisms between the character's struggles as Beth Emhoff and the real-life experiences of individuals underscore the universal nature of human suffering, and the immense changes that arise in times of crisis.

### **2.3.2 The Layers of Prevention and Control Measures Taken Against the virus in *Contagion***

The government's reaction to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 and the fictional outbreak in *contagion* share multiple similarities in combating the virus. In both cases, governments across the world faced the challenges of containing and mitigating the spread of a highly infectious disease. The most notable similarity is the implementation of various public health measures such as Quarantine, and travel restrictions to limit the transition of the respective viruses. In both chaos, governments heavily relied on the expertise and recommendations of scientists and public health officials to inform their strategies and policies.

The CDC is responsible for protecting the public's health; it has recommended a quarantine period for anyone in the general public who is exposed to COVID-19 (2021). Quarantine played a crucial role in controlling the spread of the virus as it helped to protect the population's health. In accordance with quarantine, the CDC stressed on wearing good quality of masks (2022). Masks have proven to be one of the most effective tools in preventing the spread of the virus. They acted as a physical barrier, preventing respiratory droplets from being released into the air. Many individuals infected with Covid-19 may have mild symptoms, unconsciously spreading the virus to others. Additionally, Mask was particularly essential in situations where social distancing may be difficult to maintain, such as in crowded indoor spaces or public transportation. By adhering to these guidelines, individuals also can contribute to flattening the curve, reducing the strain on healthcare resources, and ultimately saving lives.

In the film, there were multiple scenes that provoked the government to take strict measures such as quarantine. As Once Dr. Cheever said: "They are using the same protocols established for SARS. They quarantining the complex and screaming for symptoms" (Minute 00:12:48, *contagion* Movie, Scott Z. Burn,2011) (see appendix F)

Dr. Cheever mentioned the implementation of quarantine measures and symptom screening in order to contain the spread of the virus. This highlights the significance of following established procedures and guidelines during a public health crisis. Furthermore, in the scene, the officer is depicted as taking numerous precautions to ensure the safety of the patient. One of the precautions shown is the officer wearing masks for both their own protection. Another precautionary measure shown in the scene is the officer measuring the patient's body temperature. This step has been crucial in identifying any signs of fever that is a common symptom associated with the virus illness. These acts emphasized the personal protective equipment to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.

The government has been required during Covid-19 to take other protocols. Some of the measures include the closure of public places, including schools, and trade restrictions. By executing such actions, the government aims to limit the contact and

interaction among individuals, thereby minimizing the risk of transmission. However, these precautions may severely impact students due to the closure of schools and public lifestyle in restricting public activities. Trade restrictions have been critical, as an example a lot of business managers have been deprived of doing their jobs. In the film, a scene mentions the government's proactive approach, demonstrating their commitment to public safety (00:23:41) (see appendix G).

On the other hand, the quarantine process provoked isolation in which individuals who have been exposed to the virus or are showing symptoms. It provided time for individuals to recover and helped to prevent further transmission. Quarantine measures were essential in protecting the elderly or those with underlying health conditions, who are at higher risk of severe outcomes. According to the Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine, the case fatality rate (CFR) is about 4% for patients over 60 years old, 8% for patients over age 70 years, and approximately 15% for patients over the age of 80 (Oxford COVID-19 Evidence Service, 2020). This strategy aimed to flatten the curve, reducing the strain on healthcare resources, and ultimately saving lives.

In the movie, isolation has been prominent in the face of the outbreak. The characters in the film found themselves in a situation where they were contracted with a contaminated person, and as a result, they became isolated from the rest of society as in the Mitch Emhoff insolation scene (16:10). Mitch finds himself tragically isolated after his family becomes victims of the deadly virus. This scene effectively showcases the isolation that many individuals experience (see appendix H).

Moreover, as hospitals have been overwhelmed with patients, the government offered special buildings to house the infected individuals. A pivotal scene captures the efforts of Dr. Mears. She represents the government and CDC and established the building for patients (00:39:00). The scene unfolds with great detail, demonstrating the meticulous planning and execution required to establish a safe space for those affected by the virus (see appendix I).

Above all, recognizing the severity of the situation during the outbreak of the disease, the actions undertaken by the government have been substantial.

Numerous policies and regulations have been implemented, such as quarantine measures and mandatory mask-wearing. Quarantine required a strict lockdown in which every public place and transportation service both were closed. Masks were also obligatory and presented a powerful protection. The government aims to ensure the survival and well-being of the general public. These proactive measures serve as crucial tools admitted in the film and later during the Covid-19 pandemic.

### **2.3.3 The Development of vaccine Against the virus in *Contagion***

The film's attention to scientific accuracy sets its part during Covid-19 pandemic. In both outbreaks, scientists have had to rapidly respond to a new highly contagious working tirelessly to understand its origin, transmission patterns, and potential treatments. They have been perceived as life savers. In addition, the race to develop a vaccine is grounded in scientific research, leading to a sense of authenticity in the narrative. Vaccination campaigns were implemented on a global scale to mitigate the impact of the outbreak. According to the World Health Organization (2021), COVID-19 vaccines have proven to be safe, effective, and life-saving. While some individuals may have experienced some side effects.

The emergence of Covid-19 and its gravity has prompted an immediate and comprehensive response from the scientific community. As claimed by Jon (2020) In the stock pandemic movie, scientists are frantically working on concoctions to stop the spread of a newly emerging virus. They have been at the forefront of the global effort to quickly characterize the virus, and identify its transmission patterns. In comparison to the reaction of scientists, is depicted in *Contagion* in which scientists came together to understand the fictional MEV-1 virus.

In the heart of the movie, the scene presented at minute 28:38 portrays some important scientists like Dr. Ally Hextal and Dr. Cheever engaged in a serious dialogue (see appendix J). Both of them were coordinating efforts to fathom the nature of the virus, and find further possible solutions to fight the epidemic. This mirrors the state of emergency the world has been facing encouraging those working at health sector to collaborate with hopes of fighting the new virus.

The combabilities in the scientist's reactions in real-life situations and the movie are striking. The solution found in the fight against the virus is a vaccine. vaccination has been obligatory in both pandemics in order to reduce probation of the virus.



The relentless pursuit of knowledge, the dedication to releasing the remedy, and the sense of urgency are all common elements shared by the scientists in both scenarios. As matter of fact, the development of safe and effective vaccines necessitated rigorous testing and evaluation. As mentioned by Jon (2020) vaccines are available, researchers will test them in animals to see whether they are safe and produce an immune response. If so, companies will have to receive regulatory approvals to launch phase I human trials, which test safety and immune responses in small numbers of volunteers who are not at risk of the disease. In *contagion*, the vaccine's tests were first experimented on animals. This scene is shown at 01:08:23 when Dr. Sussman tested the vaccine on a monkey (see appendix K). The test on the monkey symbolizes the critical stage of the research and the success or failure of the vaccine that could determine the fate of humanity. However, the vaccine in this scene was not approved because the monkey died. As stated by Dr. Ally Hextall at 01:08:38 about the vaccine she tested it on a monkey in her first test as follows:

Dr. Ally Hextall:" We try using dead virus combined with several agents to prove to a new response, no productive antibodies a lot of dead monkeys"

The approval of the vaccine is a crucial process that requires extensive investigation. During the Covid-19 pandemic, Scientists announced that vaccines contain very small amounts of viruses or bacteria that are dead or greatly weakened. As stated in the University of Maryland Medical System (2022) that is when a person is infected with a germ, whether a virus or bacteria, the immune system creates special proteins, called antibodies, that help protect against future infections from that germ. This exploration was also found in the movie at 01:08:38 when Dr. Ally Hextall explained to Dr. Cheever her new research of a new vaccine that she will put it in a test.

Dr. Ally Hextall reports, "now we have to try a life-attenuated virus". (01:08:38)

Later, the vaccine was approved by Dr. Ally Hextall at 01:16:00 when she administered the vaccine to herself (see appendix L). Her decision to test the vaccine on herself signifies the dedication and selflessness of medical professionals in times of crisis. The validation of the vaccine symbolizes hope but also emphasizes the importance of scientific research and innovation in combating infectious diseases.

The vaccine assures safety against the virus. As reported by The World Health Organization (2021) Covid-19 vaccines are safe, and getting vaccinated will help protect you against developing severe Covid-19 disease and dying from it. Serious outcomes, including hospitalization and death. The Covid-19 pandemic vaccination was obligatory for the whole population, restoring a sense of normalcy to the world's state. The efficiency of the vaccine is seen in the film *Contagion* at 01:17:40, Dr. Ally Hextall shows the effectiveness of the MEV-1 vaccine when she goes to visit her contaminated father and immediately removes her mask (see appendix M). This pivotal scene serves as a powerful visual representation of the vaccine's efficacy.

On the other side, the side effects of the Covid-19 vaccine have been a topic of concern and discussion since the vaccines were first developed. As affirmed by WHO (2021) it is common to experience some mild-to-moderate side effects when receiving vaccinations. In addition, They Reported that the side effects of Covid-19 vaccines have mostly been mild to moderate and have lasted no longer than a few days. Typical side effects include pain at the injection site, fever, fatigue, headache, muscle pain, chills, and diarrhea. As stated by several medical experts, these side effects are typically a sign that the body is building protection against the virus and they are temporary. However, it is essential to remember that the benefits of vaccination far outweigh the risks of these side effects. The Covid-19 vaccines have undergone rigorous testing and have been proven to be safe and effective in preventing severe illness, hospitalization, and death from the virus.

In contrast, the movie *Contagion* does not depict any explicit signs of side effects caused by the vaccine. Throughout the movie, the characters who were vaccinated such as Dr. Ally Hextall, Dr. Cheever, and others did not experience any side effects of the vaccine. Indeed, after vaccination, the characters seem to be immune with no complications. The filmmaker may have intentionally maintained focus on the effectiveness of the vaccine rather than diverting attention to the potential complexities of the vaccine. The movie successfully emphasizes the importance of the vaccine as a vital tool in fighting the virus and highlights the dedication and sacrifices achieved by the scientists.

In light of what is mentioned above, comparing the reactions of the scientists during Covid-19 pandemic to the depiction in the film *Contagion*, it becomes evident that fiction often mirrors reality. The accurate events have been paramount in both situations, as the movie revealed the scientist's rush struggling to find a cure. Thus, the evolution of the vaccine in the movie is part of the reactions to the Covid-19 pandemic. The filmmaker delves into the scientific prediction of a pandemic situation through meticulous research and attention to detail to create a realistic portrayal of a global crisis with a purpose of educating the viewers in the face of such a dramatic outbreak.

### **2.3.4 The Socio-Economic Impact in *Contagion***

In the film *Contagion* (2011), the depiction of societal response to a rapidly spreading virus provides a valuable framework for examining human behavior in the context of a public health crisis. This section delves into the nuanced depictions of how communities, and individuals grapple with fear, and uncertainty. Through a close analysis of the film's narrative, we acquire valuable understanding of how human behavior and community dynamics interact in the midst of a public health crisis.

The fear of contamination during Covid-19 pandemic has become a pervasive and deeply rooted concern for individuals across the globe. The rapid spread of the virus has produced people's fear of contracting the disease. This feeling stems from the uncertainty surrounding the virus, its mode of transmission, and the potentially severe consequences. Patel, Mohan et al. (2020) argued that people's responses to the terror of the infectious virus could lead society to fear, stress, anxiety, and insecurities, especially with the sudden spread and the high death rate.

Similarly, the movie *Contagion* gives evidence of the society's state in multiple scenes, as in the scene at 01:59:25. It demonstrates the insecurities of Mitch which are vividly portrayed while he and his daughter Jory find themselves at a supermarket, going about their routine of purchasing their daily necessities (see appendix N). This peculiar act manifests fear and panic. Admits the bustling aisles, a woman with a severe cough seeks assistance, reaching Jory for help.

However, Mitch the father did not accept his daughter for helping the woman, he chose to ignore her. This scene shows fear and panic with a sense of control and security in an unpredictable world.

In addition, watching the number of cases and deaths rise every day on TV has been a sobering reminder of the devastating impact on individuals and communities. As a consequence, a lot of people have been mentally devastated by following everyday news behind a television screen. This impact was also captured in the movie when Mitch and Jory were watching the news together (see appendix O). They sit in front of the television, following the latest updates (01:24:40). This scene represents anxiety and hope of receiving good news in such hard times. Furthermore, it highlights the devastating impact of quarantine that has created tensions at home which especially has affected youths. As in times of Covid-19 pandemic, one of the significant effects of the quarantine has been on youths. The isolation and uncertainty have taken a toll on the mental well-being of the youths, leading to feelings of anxiety, depression, and loneliness.

Unlike the youth's mental state, numerous families suffered economically due to the implementation of strict quarantine measures. According to WHO (2021), environmental controls are measures designed to remove or place barriers between the hazard and the worker or individual. Businesses were forced to temporarily close or operate at limited capacity. Consequently, millions of people have lost their jobs and sources of income. This sudden disruption in economic activities has caused a severe shortage has undeniably caused families to experience dissatisfaction and hardship. The inability to afford essential items such as food, and shelter. These constant struggles Have been faced especially for the poor people.

The movie *Contagion* depicted this issue at 01:11:14. Throughout the scene, People were struggling to obtain essential resources in the face of a devastating pandemic (see appendix P). Tension fills the air as individuals were pushing each other, desperate in order to satisfy their family members. The scene captures the chaos and vulnerability of individuals when faced with an uncontrollable contagion.

The analysis of societal reaction in the film *Contagion* compared to the real pandemic features the multifaceted nature of human state in the face of a global pandemic. The primary

social issues were the fear of contamination and the obsession with following everyday cases caused many individuals to experience heightened anxiety. Moreover, quarantine measures implemented have devastated youth's mental well-being, exacerbating feelings of loneliness and despair. Quarantine also resulted economic shortage that led a lot of people specifically the vulnerable populations to struggle financially. Ultimately, the filmmaker aimed to create awareness among audiences as a precaution to critically examine the systemic flaws that were exposed during the crisis.

### **2.3.5 The Diffusion of Conspiracy Theories in *Contagion***

In The movie *Contagion* (2011), rumors have spread like wildfire, fueling panic among the general population. The society has been severely affected since the outbreak of covid as rumors have suddenly submerged creating a state of panic among people. With the rapid dissemination of information through social media platforms, it has been increasingly challenging to distinguish fact from fiction. Patel, Mohan et al. (2020) stated that the flow of information is much faster than the virus especially from social media.

During Covid-19 outbreak there were a lot of rumors about the origin of the virus, its transmission methods, and potential cures that have flooded the internet, leading to widespread confusion. As claimed by Lynas and Mark (2020) Covid not only escaped from a lab, but it was intentionally created by Chinese scientists as a biowarfare weapon. Yet, due to the widespread conspiracy, many individuals and communities wrongly blame the Chinese lab for the global health crisis.

Those kinds of rumors also appeared in the movie by a journalist blogger named Alan Krumwide. The scene at minute 54:38 shows Alan who spread conspiracy theories on social media (see appendix Q). He believed in something and started sharing it toward society in which he claimed to have cured himself with forsythia. Besides, Alan holds another belief that the virus MEV-1 was not a natural occurrence but rather a biological weapon resulting from the Center for Disease Control.

Alan's skepticism stems from his mistrust of the government and his conviction. He was a prominent voice in the spreading of such conspiracy theories. However, those sorts of misinformation have caused panic and confusion among the public exacerbating the already tense situation.

The comparison between conspiracy theories surrounding Covid-19 Pandemic and the movie *Contagion* (2011) highlights the impact of misinformation and panic in times of crisis. The dispersion of rumors on social media has been increasingly prevalent providing a fertile ground for the amplification and dissemination of false information. As result, it has led to skepticism and mistrust among the public adding pusher and mystery during the pandemic

#### **2.4 Cultural and Societal Reflections in *Contagion* vs. Covid-19 Pandemic**

Some reviewers have highlighted the film's predominant emphasis on the actions, and perspectives of American and Western institutions, and the way the pandemic is addressed by experts. Although the movie briefly touches on the international response, it primarily centers around the endeavors of Western characters and institutions. Anglo- centricism is portrayed through various elements in the film.

American institutions are highly exposed in the movie *Contagion*. In fact, the CDC play a crucial role in the global response to the pandemic. But, despite the countless efforts of other countries in fighting the virus, the primary focus remains on the American response. The focus on American institutions is one of the most dominant traits of Anglo centricism in the movie.

The main characters playing in *Contagion* film are pure reflections of Anglo centricism. For instance, the movie exposes English and American characters who are attributed important roles. To illustrate, talented actors like Matt Damon, Gwyneth Paltrow, and Kate Winslet are at the forefront of the narrative. These characters, along with other Western experts, play pivotal roles in providing solutions and fighting the virus. The choice of characters in *Contagion* revolves around Hollywood.

The choice of language and context clearly shows the movie's perspective. As a matter of fact, the dominance of English-speaking countries has had a great impact on global media. English is the primary language used throughout the film. Although *contagion* has been diffused in multiple countries over the world, some scenes are reported in the original language for the convenience of the audience. Also, many American cities are mentioned in particular passages. This resonates more strongly with Western audiences owing to familiarity and cultural references. The present language and setting in the movie are originated from a purely American industry.

The existing limited perspective in the movie is subject to Anglo centrism. *Contagion* (2011) mainly provides the viewpoint of Western scientists and institutions. Even though, the nature of the global pandemic is acknowledged, some secrets have not yet been revealed. In other words, the movie does not delve deeply into the response of non- Western countries. Though *Contagion* aims at portraying the global pandemic realistically, it makes use of an Anglo-centric lens.

*Contagion* (2011) has put stress on the Western perspective in dealing with a global crisis. For, it is important to recognize that this critique necessarily diminishes the film's overall quality or impact, but it does foreshadow a particular perspective that may not fully represent the global nature of Pandemics.

## **2.5 Conclusion**

To sum up, *Contagion* (2011) is a movie that narrates a terrifying scenario of a pandemic that jeopardized the world. Directed by Steven Soderbergh, the movie presents an accurate illustration of the sudden spread of a deadly virus and the subsequent chaos it unleashes on society. While the events portrayed in the movie may give the impression at the time of its release, Covid-19 pandemic drew striking parallels to the film. After nine years. Even though *Contagion* is a fictional work, it incorporates all possible tragedies and solutions during the pandemic period. The aim of this chapter is to uncover all the similarities between the real-life Covid-19 pandemic and *Contagion*.

At first glance, the spread of the virus and its scary mode of transmission are almost identical to the real pandemic, highlighting the importance of personal hygiene. Furthermore, all the protective measures provided by the government, public healthcare officials, and scientists seeking for the survival of the public. Moreover, *Contagion* gathered the scientific community's efforts to develop a vaccine, enlightening the dilemmas faced in the race of time that was realistically presented.

Through its meticulous attention to detail, the stellar ensemble cast delivered compelling performances that fulfill the emotional toll and personal struggles faced in such a health crisis. Misinformation and conspiracy theories have been one of the critical problems faced within society that have created panic. As a final point, the filmmaker as being American, represented Americans as leaders and heroes in the fight against a global threat. In contrast, he decreased the other nations through multiple scenes. Even though *Contagion* is a fictional work, it incorporates all possible tragedies and solutions during the pandemic period.



# GENERAL CONCLUSION<sup>1</sup>

## **General Conclusion**

In the realm of cinema, lies a peculiar phenomenon where fiction can remarkably predict reality. One artistic work that is worth mentioning is, clearly, the uncannily prophetic movie *Contagion* (2011) which surfaced a decade before the onset of Covid-19. While the world wrestled with the unyielding impact of a worldwide pandemic, the shocking similarities between the cinematic tale and the real-world events became tremendously evident. The film has not only mirrored the events people all over the world witnessed at times of covid19. It has also covered the contagion's origin, the race for a vaccine, societal upheaval, and the rise of conspiracy theories. This has lead the researcher to investigate on whether *Contagion* (2011) had predicted futuristic occurrences way before the emergence of the virus.

The purpose of our work was to conduct a comparative study shedding light on the main existing parallels in *Contagion* in relationship to Covid-19. This study portrays the crucial role of cinema in shaping reality, and the manifold responses of audience to narratives.

This work mainly suggests that the movie *Contagion* (2011) perfectly pictured several key aspects of the Covid-19 pandemic that the world had experienced. One of these aspects is the global spread of a highly contagious and deadly virus that infected millions of people worldwide. The resemblance of the origin and the symptoms correlates with the Covid-19 virus. Additionally, the film brilliantly captures the unfolding events and the various responses from governments, healthcare professionals, and ordinary citizens as they grapple with the reality of a new pandemic. In fact, the scientific accuracy depicted throughout the movie made this work predictable. Societal state and conspiracy theories that have circulating are told by the discourse of the movie as well. *Contagion* matched with the real-world scenarios witnessed nine years after its production. This research proves that *Contagion* predicted the Covid-19 pandemic.

Finally, regarding the origin of Covid-19, it will be pivotal that future investigations continue to unravel the truth behind this global pandemic. The origins of the virus have been a subject of intense scrutiny and speculation, with various theories being produced Scientists,

researchers, and Health Organizations have been working tirelessly to discover the mysteries surrounding this dangerous virus. Indeed, a lot of accusations have been raised. One of the most prevalent accusations was that Covid-19 was intentionally created as a bioweapon. Another accusation revolves around the movie *Contagion* (2011) in which Director Steven Soderbergh was seen as a forecaster predicting real chaos. Thus, these accusations have spread out with political motivations. The United States; confrontation with the Chinese government as being responsible for such a health crisis for example. However, the hidden truth is still obscure. Revealing the true source of the virus is crucial for preventing future outbreaks.

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# APPENDICES

**Scenes that Show: The Virus Origin, Symptoms, and Propagation in *Contagion***



**Appendix A: Beth Emhoff at the Airport (00:01:43)**



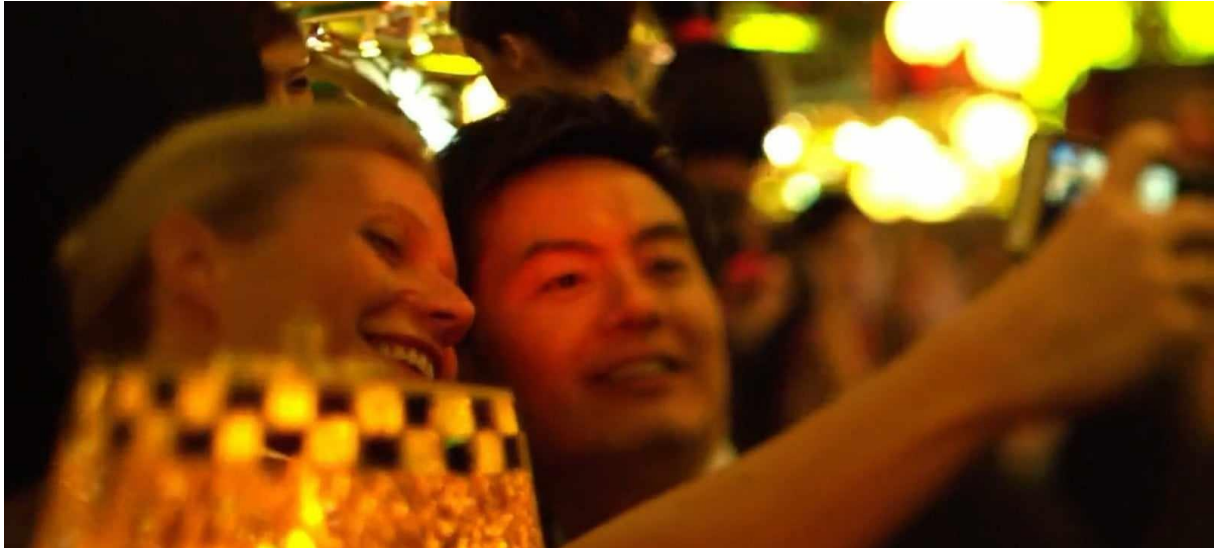
**Appendix B: The Chef's Unaware Act of Hygiene ( 01:41:18 )**



**Appendix C: Beth's Shocking Condition (00:08:42)**



**Appendix D: Dr.Mears Discourse on the Gravity of Touching During the Epidemic (00:17:58)**



**Appendix E: The Scene of Contamination (00:48: 50)**

**Scenes that Show: The Layers of Prevention Taken Against the Virus in *Contagion***



**Appendix F: The Announcement of Measures of Prevention that Should be taken (00:12:48)**



**Appendix G: The Making of an Important Governmental Decision to Public  
Safety (00:23:41)**



**Appendix H: Mitch Under Quarantine at Hospital (00:16:10)**



**Appendix I: Dr Mears Planning to Offer the Building for Patients  
(00:39:00)**

**Scenes that Show: The Development of Vaccine Against the Virus in *Contagion***



**Appendix J: a Serious Dialogue Between Dr Ally Hextal and Dr Cheever  
to Reach Solutions (00:28:48)**



**Appendix K: Vaccine Testing on a Monkey by Dr. Sussman  
(01:08:23)**



**Appendix L: Dr Ally Hextall Administering the Approved Vaccine  
to Herself (01:16:00)**



**Appendix M: Dr Ally Hextal Approving the Vaccine While Visiting her Contaminated Father (01:17:40)**

**Scenes that Show: The Socio-Economic Impact in *Contagion***



**Appendix N: “*Fear of Contamination*”  
Mitch with his daughter in a Supermarket (01:59:25)**





**Appendix O: Anxious Mitch and Jory Watching TV News  
(01:24:40)**



**Appendix P: People's Struggle to Find Essential Resources  
(01:11:14)**

**Scene that Shows: The Diffusion of Conspiracy Theories in *Contagion***



**Appendix Q: Alan Krumwide Spreading Rumors on Social Media  
(00:54:38 )**

## Summary:

Following the global spread of COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the uncannily predictive movie *Contagion* (2011) surfaced as a cinematic forewarning of the trials and societal responses encountered in such a crisis. Directed by Steven Soderbergh, the film portrays the rapid spread of a fictional deadly virus and the subsequent struggle of scientists, healthcare workers, and the public trying to stop its impact. This thesis aims to examine how *Contagion* anticipated elements of the COVID-19 pandemic, including scientific, societal, economical, and political responses. It has taken a diverse approach, examining the links between cinematic storytelling, cultural influence, and pandemic dynamics to reach reliable results. *Contagion* mirrored real-life pandemic consequences, drawing striking parallels between its fiction and reality. It also provides a distinct perspective for analysing and understanding public health emergencies.

## Résumé :

Suite à la propagation mondiale de la pandémie de COVID-19 en 2020, le film étrangement prédictive *Contagion* (2011) est apparu comme un avertissement cinématographique des épreuves et des réponses sociétales rencontrées dans une telle crise. Réalisé par Steven Soderbergh, le film dépeint la propagation rapide d'un virus mortel fictif et la lutte qui s'ensuit entre les scientifiques, le secteur de la santé et le public pour tenter d'arrêter son impact. Cette thèse vise à examiner comment *Contagion* a anticipé les éléments de la pandémie de COVID-19, notamment les réponses scientifiques, sociétales, économiques et politiques. Il a adopté une approche diversifiée, examinant les liens entre la narration cinématographique, l'influence culturelle et la dynamique pandémique pour parvenir à des résultats fiables. *Contagion reflète* les conséquences réelles de la pandémie, établissant des parallèles frappants entre sa fiction et la réalité. Il offre également une perspective distincte pour analyser et comprendre les urgences de santé publique.

## ملخص:

بعد الانتشار العالمي لوباء كوفيد-19 في عام 2020، ظهر الفيلم التنبئي الغريب *كونتاغيون* (2011) كتحذير سينمائي مسبق من التجارب والاستجابات المجتمعية التي واجهتها مثل هذه الأزمة. يصور الفيلم، من إخراج ستيفن سودربيرغ، الانتشار السريع لفيروس قاتل خيالي والنضال اللاحق للعلماء والعاملين في مجال الرعاية الصحية والجمهور في محاولة لوقف تأثيره. تهدف هذه الأطروحة إلى دراسة كيفية توقع *كونتاغيون* العناصر جائحة كوفيد-19، بما في ذلك الاستجابات العلمية والمجتمعية والاقتصادية والسياسية. لقد اتبع نهجًا متنوعًا، حيث قام بدراسة الروابط بين رواية القصص السينمائية والتأثير الثقافي وديناميكيات الوباء للوصول إلى نتائج موثوقة. يعكس فيلم *كونتاغيون* العواقب الوبائية الواقعية، ويرسم أوجه تشابه مذهلة بين الخيال والواقع. كما يوفر منظورًا متميزًا لتحليل وفهم حالات الطوارئ المتعلقة بالصحة العامة.