



Andrea Baer

**Independent Long COVID Journalism as a Lens for Critical
Information Literacy: Conversations with *The Sick Times*
Founders Betsy Ladyzhets and Miles W. Griffis**

Andrea Baer, Rowan University

Abstract

Both the COVID-19 pandemic and the acceleration of climate change illuminate how difficult it can be to make sense of information about *wicked problems*—that is, issues that are highly complex and have no simple or complete solutions (Rittel & Webber, 1973). One approach to grappling with wicked problems is to consider the information practices that different people, communities, or professions use to make sense of those issues. In this Perspectives piece, I explore possible ways to practice and teach about critical information literacy by looking to the views, experiences, and professional practices of two independent journalists who report on an urgent but still under-reported wicked problem: Long COVID. Betsy Ladyzhets and Miles W. Griffis are the co-founders of the website *The Sick Times*, which is dedicated to reporting on Long COVID and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Following highlights from their interviews with me about their work, I consider potential implications of these journalists' experiences for practicing and teaching critical information literacy.

Keywords: critical information literacy, journalism, COVID-19, wicked problems, perspective taking

Perspectives

edited by Andrea Baer

Baer, A. (2024). Independent long COVID journalism as a lens for critical information literacy: Conversations with *The sick times* founders Betsy Ladyzhets and Miles W. Griffis. *Communications in Information Literacy*, 18(1), 94–106.

Copyright for articles published in *Communications in Information Literacy* is retained by the author(s). Author(s) also extend to *Communications in Information Literacy* the right to redistribute this article via other scholarly resources and bibliographic databases. This extension allows the authors' copyrighted content to be included in some databases that are distributed and maintained by for-profit companies. All other rights of redistribution are licensed by *Communications in Information Literacy* under Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0).