

Communicating and Designing for Public Health Emergencies

Faculty at the [College of Arts, Media and Design](#) are leaders in the fields of communication and design - developing innovative solutions to global, complex problems in a world of burgeoning information and data. Their work harnesses cutting edge knowledge and new media technologies, effectively and accurately communicating, engaging and designing solutions around preparedness, resilience and emergencies.

[The Center for Design](#) launched Design for Emergency, an open platform for mobilizing design competencies to address the needs and conditions of people forced into isolation. Led by [Professor Paolo Ciuccarelli and Sara Comlombo](#), this rapidly developed, research-driven design initiative helps analyze needs and envision responsive solutions. Design for Emergency launched in Italy with over 1800+ survey responses on people's problems, desires and emotions to the COVID-19 emergency. They are now planning a series of open design challenges to collaboratively ideate and implement digital and physical solutions to address challenges identified by the survey platform.



[Professor Casper Hartevelde's](#) lab at Northeastern is investigating how game design can be leveraged to disseminate and collect information from the public in times of crisis. Additionally, they are researching how can game design increases access to public health information for vulnerable populations.

[Professor Matt Nisbet](#) is studying and sharing effective communication by spotlighting, evaluating, and experimenting with data-driven storytelling and expert commentary about the scientific, communication, and societal dimensions of the pandemic. His team is exploring how to optimally communicate systemic issues around public health and other global crises that intersect such as climate, energy, and food systems. [Professor Meg Heckman](#) is leveraging area-outlets to serve local public information needs; she is working with Northeastern's students fill gaps in COVID-19 coverage for local publications.



[Professor Sara Jensen Carr](#) examines the connections between landscape, human health, urban ecology and design. Her current work is focused on how humans have responded to infectious disease by redesigning our physical spaces. Her forthcoming book, *The Topography of Wellness: Health and the American Urban Landscape*, is due out this Fall.