

FRESH EYES

COVID-19, a graphic account

COVID-19: un relato gráfico

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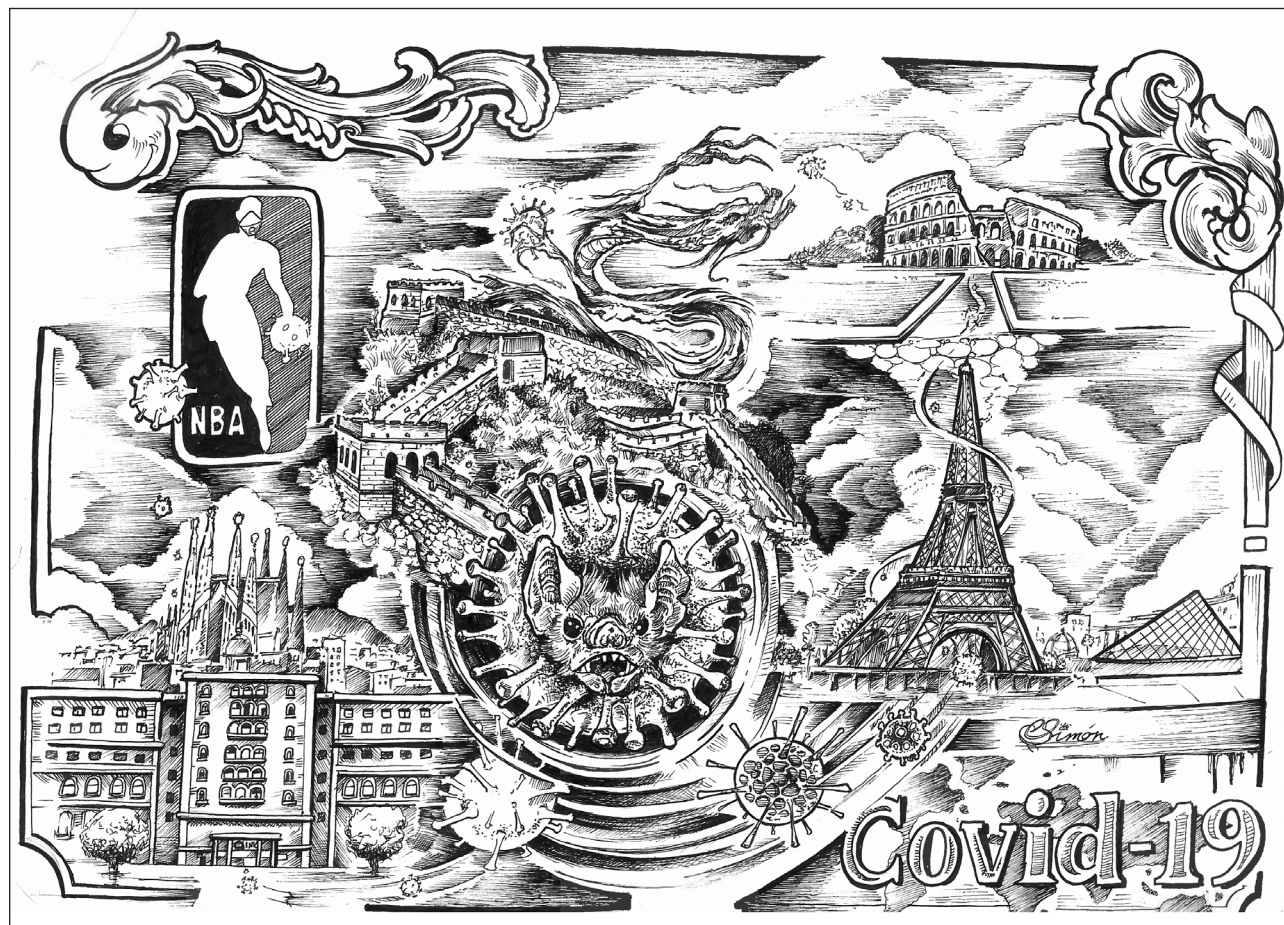


Figure 1. A travelling virus.

Although SARS-COV-2 has apparently been around for a long time, the first cases of severe pneumonia, later identified as being caused by a new species of Coronavirus, appeared in China in December 2019. Only a few months later, the travelling virus has been isolated from virtually all parts of the world¹⁻³.

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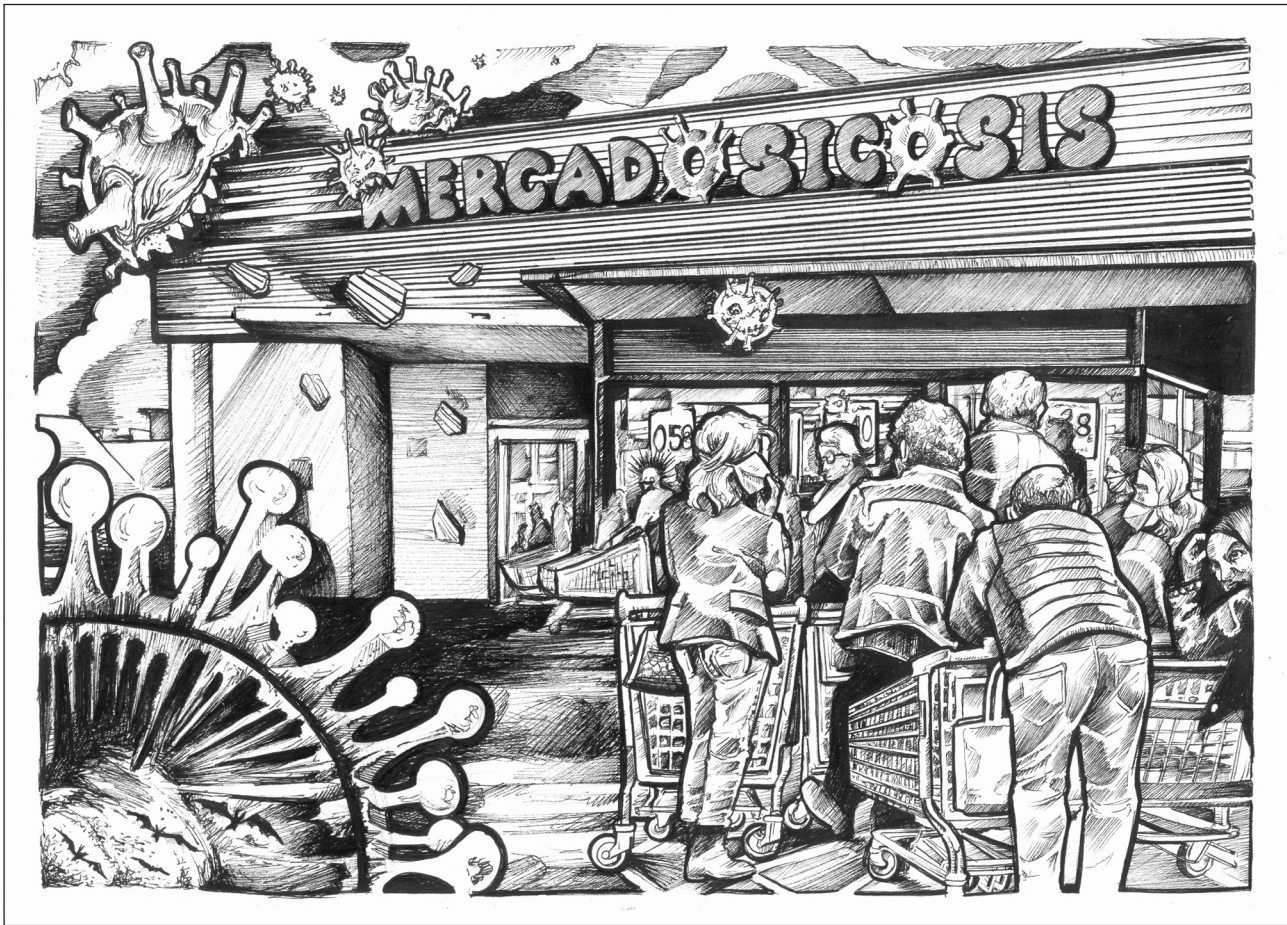


Figure 2. Panic causes unexpected reactions.

This is an unprecedented situation and therefore we find no precedent in the population's responses. In recent years there have been other crises caused by infectious agents but, as the normal activity of all citizens was not stopped, the response to the problem was strictly health-based. In this case, since the whole population has been affected, we have seen unsuspected reactions, such as uncontrolled shopping in supermarkets^{4,5}.



Figure 3. We are vulnerable.

People from the so-called developed countries feel very safe against infectious agents that are considered to be typical of other latitudes. This is the first pandemic in several generations that has raised doubts about collective security. It has made us see something that experts have been announcing for some time: our vulnerability to highly contagious infectious agents, such as this one^{6,7}.



Figure 4. Together we will make it.

The health system has a limited capacity to respond. In Spain, the emergency services and critical care units are permanently overcrowded and are managed by prioritizing the most urgent cases over others that are not. In an epidemic of these characteristics, the response of the health system alone is not sufficient. To avoid the collapse of the system, we need everyone's involvement. But together we can make it⁸⁻¹⁰.

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