



COVID-19 and Its Uneven Impact on American Communities *A Discussion between Journalists Sheri Fink and Eli Saslow*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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November 12, 2020—RENO, Nev—Nevada Humanities presents [***COVID-19 and Its Uneven Impact on American Communities***](#)—the next installment of its bimonthly *Salon* series—online on Zoom on Thursday, November 19, 2020, at 12 - 1 pm PST. Nevada Humanities is pleased to welcome journalists Sheri Fink and Eli Saslow to this virtual conversation around COVID-19 and its uneven impact on American communities.

Sheri Fink’s investigation of patient deaths at a New Orleans hospital during Hurricane Katrina in 2009 has been followed by in-depth reporting on COVID-19 responses in New York City in 2020. Throughout his career, Eli Saslow has expertly woven stories together between racial unrest, poverty, and access to health care - stresses in every community across the United States that are linked inextricably. At this online event, Fink and Saslow will interview one another about the devastating relationship between healthcare access, poverty, and poor health outcomes, as well as the uneven impact that COVID-19 has had on communities throughout the nation. The conversation will be followed by an audience Q+A moderated by Christina Barr, Executive Director of Nevada Humanities. [Registration](#) and full details about this event and are at: nevadahumanities.org/salons. Books by these authors are available at [Sundance Books and Music](#) and [The Writer’s Block](#).

“We are thrilled to be hosting these two giants in their field,” said Christina Barr, Executive Director of Nevada Humanities. “This year has overwhelmed us all with a magnitude of news that pertains to public health and healthcare access. Eli Saslow and Sheri Fink have helped clarify these complex issues, and we look forward to hearing their perspectives at this event.”

Sheri Fink, winner of a Pulitzer Prize for journalism and a National Magazine Award, reports on the intersections between medicine, natural disasters, and human-made conflicts. She is the author of *Five Days at Memorial: Life and Death in a Storm-Ravaged Hospital*, a landmark investigation of patient deaths at a New Orleans hospital during Hurricane Katrina—and a suspenseful portrayal of the quest for truth and justice. After the floodwaters rose and the heat climbed, exhausted caregivers chose to

designate certain patients last for rescue. Named a Best Nonfiction Book of 2013 by *The New York Times*, *Five Days at Memorial* also won the National Book Critics Circle Award, the Ridenhour Book Prize, and *The Los Angeles Times* Book Prize. A former relief worker in disaster and conflict zones, Fink received her MD and PhD from Stanford University. Her first book, *War Hospital: A True Story of Surgery and Survival*, is about medical professionals under siege during the genocide in Srebrenica, Bosnia-Herzegovina. More recently, Fink served as an executive producer on the Netflix documentary series *Pandemic: How to Prevent an Outbreak* and has reported for *The New York Times* on the coronavirus pandemic; hurricanes in Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico; and emergency response to mass shootings.

In his Pulitzer Prize-winning coverage for *The Washington Post*, **Eli Saslow** covers the impact of some of the most pressing national issues and policy decisions on individual lives, from racism and poverty to addiction and school shootings. His ongoing oral history project for *The Washington Post*, *Voices from the Pandemic*, collects the accounts of ordinary people touched by COVID-19. Saslow's latest book, *Rising Out of Hatred: The Awakening of a Former White Nationalist*, charts the rise of white nationalism through the experiences of one person who abandoned everything he was taught to believe. Saslow won the 2014 Pulitzer Prize in Explanatory Reporting for a yearlong series about food stamps in the United States, later collected into the book *American Hunger*.

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About Nevada Humanities: [Nevada Humanities](#) is one of 56 independent, nonprofit, state and territorial humanities councils affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. With offices in Reno and Las Vegas, Nevada Humanities creates public programs and supports public projects statewide that define the Nevada experience and facilitate the exploration of issues that matter to the people of Nevada and their communities.

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