

Turning COVID-19 Chaos into China's Community:

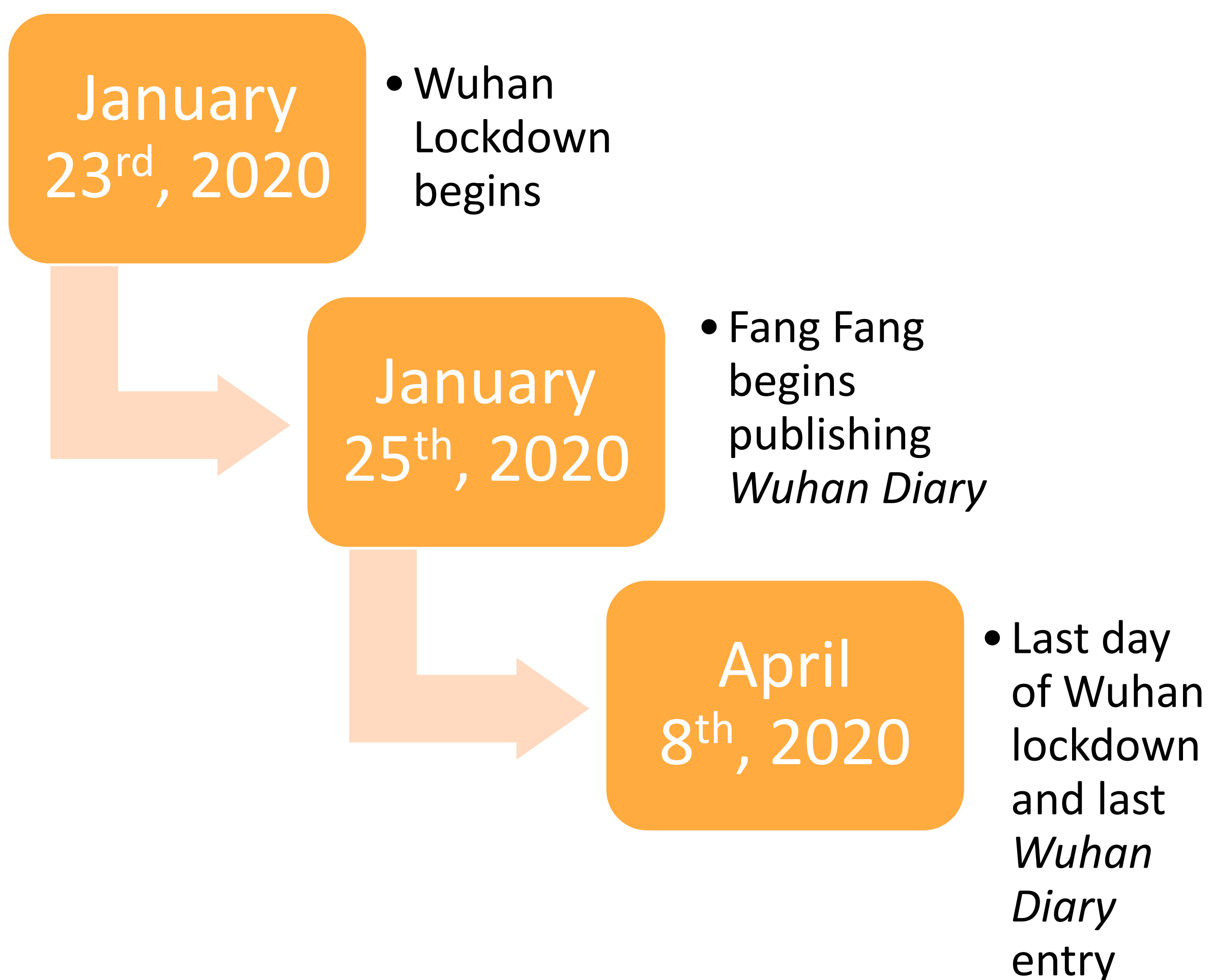
Social Media's Dual Existence and the Evolving Perception of Nonfiction Writing

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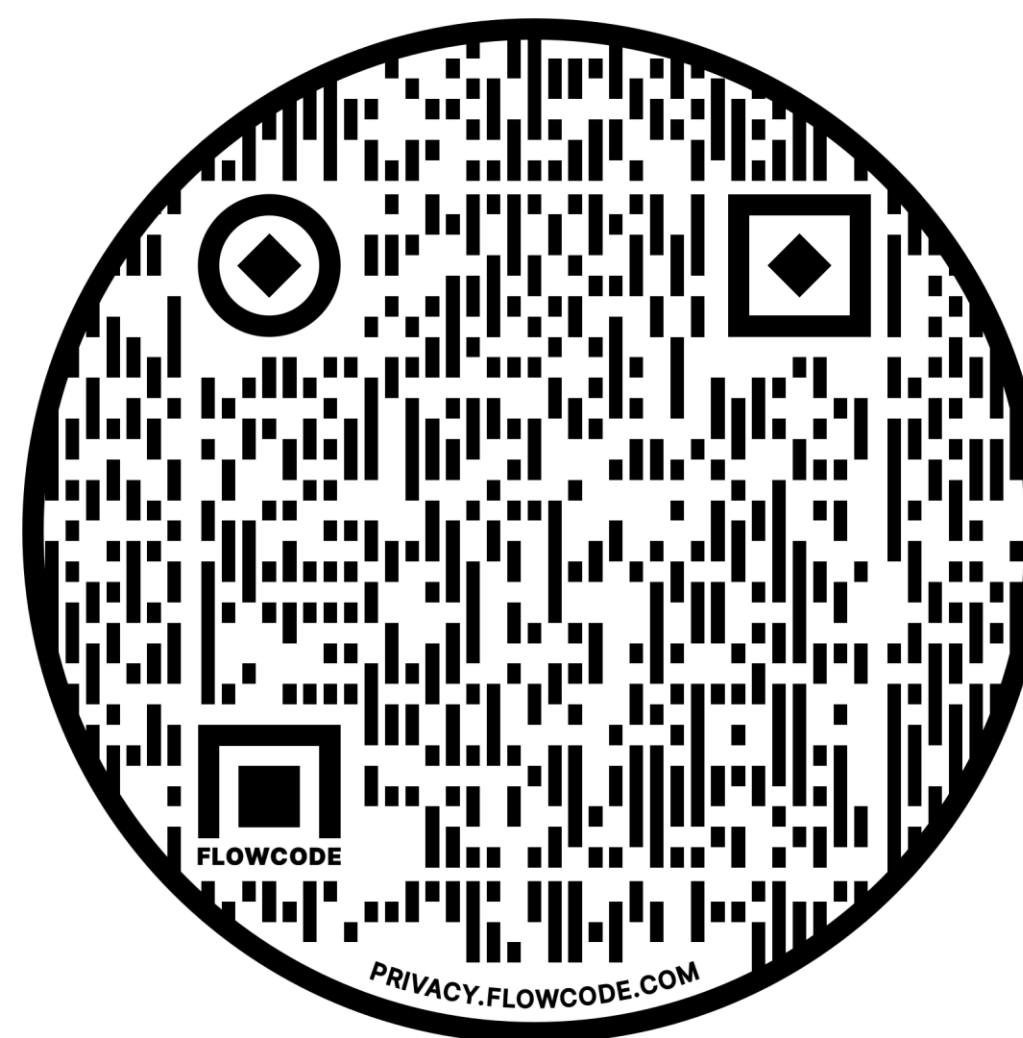
Introduction

What kind of insight do personal accounts from inside the COVID-19 epicenter in Wuhan, China give about social media's role in literature?

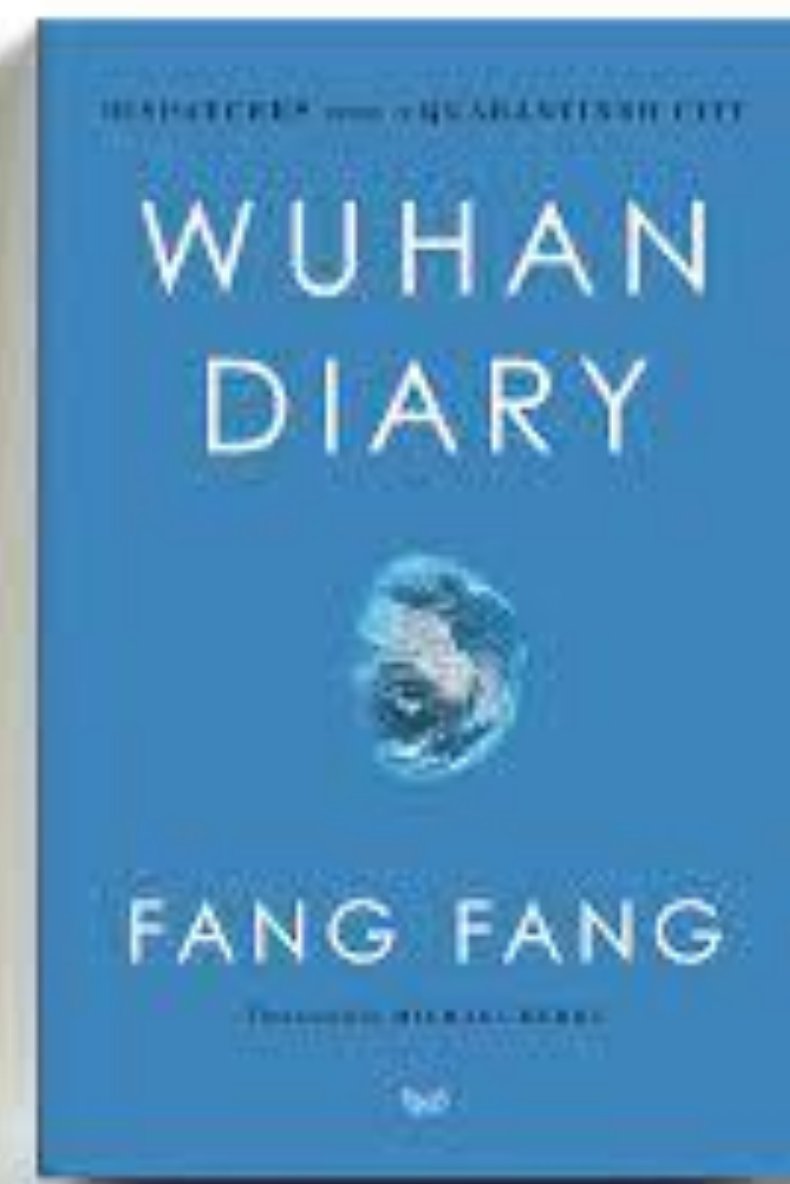
Timeline



Wuhan Diary shows that social media is the future of nonfiction writing.



This image from HarperCollins Publishers



Ephemerality and Eternality

- Existence in multiple relative times and dimensions
- Fluidity of time in digital writing
- Writing during tragedy inexplicably placed in time and timeless

Nonfiction Writing

- Losing stigma of intrinsic existence prior to recording
- Adaptation of terms like “literary nonfiction”
- Diaries and letters, and now digital diaries and comment sections are examples

Social Media

- Both short-term and long-term importance
- Accessible news source
- Allows for communal reality building
- Included in digital archiving efforts
- Community building under censorship