myhosting.com

Type here to search | This Folder | Address Book | Options | Log Off

Mail
Calendar
Contacts
Email Settings

Deleted Items (2)
Drafts
Inbox (7)
Junk E-Mail
Sent Items

Click to view all folders

16-12 Grants Committee
20-01 (26)
20-02 (18)
20-03 (27)
20-04 (27)
20-05 (10)

Manage Folders...

Reply | Reply to All | Forward | Move | Delete | Close

Misinformation Review: Issue 2 and COVID-19 Misinfodemics

HKS Misinformation Review [misinforeview@hks.harvard.edu]

Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 2:29 PM
To: Steve Johnston

View this email in your browser

HARVARD KENNEDY SCHOOL
Misinformation Review

Volume 1, Issue 2
Research Article. Misleading tobacco content is on the rise on YouTube
By Daniel Romer, Zachary Reese, Patrick E. Jamieson

A content analysis of popular videos on YouTube containing tobacco-relevant material revealed five categories of misleading content about tobacco use in 2013. A re-examination in 2019 of the most heavily viewed exemplars of these categories identified in 2013 revealed a striking increase in viewership in all categories but especially in the portrayal and promotion of vaping. Because Internet sites such as YouTube are immune from responsibility for the content they host, it remains a challenge to correct or remove these videos. Read this article online. Download this article.

Research Article. Pausing to consider why a headline is true or false can help reduce the sharing of false news
By Lisa Fazio

In an online experiment, participants who paused to explain why a headline was true or false indicated that they were less likely to share false information compared to control participants. Their intention to share accurate news stories was unchanged. These results indicate that adding "friction" (i.e., pausing to think) before sharing can improve the quality of information shared on social media. Read this article online. Download this article.

Research Article. Prebunking interventions based on "inoculation" theory can reduce susceptibility to misinformation across cultures
By Jon Roozenbeek, Sander Van Der Linden, and Thomas Nygren

This study finds that the online "fake news" game, Bad News, can confer psychological resistance against common online misinformation strategies across different cultures. The intervention draws on the theory of psychological inoculation: analogous to the process of medical immunization, we find that "prebunking," or preemptively warning and exposing people to weakened doses of misinformation, can help cultivate "mental antibodies" against fake news. We conclude that social impact games rooted in basic insights from social psychology can boost immunity against misinformation across a variety of cultural, linguistic, and political settings. Read this article online. Download this article.

Research Article. Engaging with others: How the IRA coordinated information operation made friends
By Darren L. Linvill and Patrick L. Warren

We analyzed the Russian Internet Research Agency's (IRA) 2015-2017 English-language information operation on Twitter to understand the special role that engagement with outsiders (i.e., non-IRA affiliated accounts) played in their campaign. By analyzing the timing and type of engagement of IRA accounts with non-IRA affiliated accounts, and the characteristics of the latter, we identified a three-phases *life cycle* of such engagement, which was central to how this IRA network operated. Engagement with external accounts was key to introducing new troll accounts, to increasing their prominence, and, finally, to amplifying the messages these external accounts produced. Read this article online. Download this article.

Research Article. The Anatomy of Credulity and Incredulity: a Hermeneutics of Misinformation
By Carolyn N. Biltoft

This essay explores the historical process by which the birth and expansion of information systems transformed the relationship between "faith" and "fact." The existence of recurring forms of credulity and conversely denial—from holocaust denial to climate change denial—suggests that patterns of belief and disbelief will not be easily resolved either with fact-checking or with the regulation of the press. While such approaches see the problem of misinformation in terms of a contest between truth and falsehood, history suggests that people believe falsehoods because they need to for a variety of psychological or socio-cultural reasons. While understanding what "needs" falsehoods meet may not provide an immediate solution to the problem of misinformation, it does open a different perspective on the question. Read this article online. Download this article.

Special Issue: COVID-19 & Misinfodemics
Editorial: A dangerous misinfodemic spreads alongside the SARS-COV-2 pandemic
By Guest-Editors Meghan McGinty and Nat Gyenes

In this first set of papers of the "Special Issue on COVID-19 and Misinfodemics," we highlight some of the challenges related to COVID-19 misinformation, knowing that while COVID-19 is a global pandemic, pandemics are experienced locally. In contexts around the world, varying degrees of quality information access can greatly impact

health perceptions, behaviors, decisions and outcomes in pandemic contexts, where misinformation online can lead to real-world health and disease. Through interdisciplinary research, we can gain a stronger understanding of the perceptions and beliefs that arise in pandemic contexts, as well as the factors that can exacerbate belief in, and actions taken based on health misinformation. More interdisciplinary papers will be published in the upcoming weeks as part of the Special Issue. Stay Tuned!

Read the full editorial.

Research Article: Why do people believe COVID-19 conspiracy theories?

By Joseph E. Uscinski, Adam M. Enders, Casey Klofstad, Michelle Seelig, John Funchion, Caleb Everett, Stephan Wuchty, Kamal Premaratne and Manohar Murthi

As conspiracy theories about COVID-19 take root in the United States, understanding the psychological foundations of conspiracy beliefs is increasingly critical. Our research shows that beliefs in two popular variants of COVID-19 conspiracy theory are the joint product of the psychological predispositions 1) to reject information coming from experts and other authority figures and 2) to view major events as the product of conspiracies, as well as partisan and ideological motivations. The psychological foundations of conspiracy beliefs have implications for the development of strategies designed to curtail their negative consequences. Read this article online. Download this article.

Research Article. The Relation between Media Consumption and Misinformation at the Outset of the SARS-CoV-2 Pandemic in the US

By Kathleen Hall Jamieson and Dolores Albarracin

A US national probability-based survey during the early days of the SARS-CoV-2 spread in the US showed that, above and beyond respondents' political party, mainstream broadcast media use (e.g., NBC News) correlated with accurate information about the disease's lethality, and mainstream print media use (e.g., the New York Times) correlated with accurate beliefs about protection from infection. In addition, conservative media use (e.g., Fox News) correlated with conspiracy theories including believing that some in the CDC were exaggerating the seriousness of the virus to undermine the presidency of Donald Trump. Five recommendations are made to improve public understanding of SARS-CoV-2. Read this article online. Download this article.

Research Article. How search engines disseminate information about COVID-19 and why they should do better

By Mykola Markhortykh, Aleksandra Urman and Roberto Ulloa

Access to accurate and up-to-date information is essential for individual and collective decision making, especially at times of emergency. On February 26, 2020, two weeks before the World Health Organization (WHO) officially declared the a "pandemic," we systematically collected and analyzed search results for the term "coronavirus" in three languages from six search engines. We found that different search engines prioritize specific categories of information sources, such as

government-related websites or alternative media. We also observed that source ranking within the same search engine is subjected to randomization, which can result in unequal access to information among users. Read this article online. Download this article.

Commentary. Using Misinformation as a political weapon: COVID-19 and Bolsonaro in Brazil

By Julie Ricard and Juliano Medeiros

With over 30,000 confirmed cases -as of April 16th- Brazil is currently the country most affected by COVID-19 in Latin America, and ranked 12th worldwide. Despite all evidence, a strong rhetoric undermining risks associated with COVID-19 has been endorsed at the highest levels of the Brazilian government, making President Jair Bolsonaro the leader of the "coronavirus-denial movement". To support this strategy, different forms of misinformation and disinformation have been leveraged to lead a dangerous crusade against evidence-based recommendations. Read this article online. Download this article.

Commentary. Identifying patterns to prevent the spread of misinformation during epidemics

By Elaine O. Nsoesie and Olubusola Oladeji

This paper discusses patterns of public health misinformation observed during infectious disease epidemics. Specifically we group epidemic-related misinformation into four categories: transmission, prevention, treatment, and vaccination. By developing tools, algorithms, and other resources around these categories, institutions, companies, and individuals can proactively limit and counter the spread of misinformation and its potential negative health effects. Read this article online. Download this article.

Commentary. Signs of a new world order: Italy as the COVID-19 disinformation battlefield

By Costanza Sciubba Caniglia

When Italy became the western center of the COVID-19 outbreak, it also became the focus of a series of state-sponsored coordinated disinformation campaigns. From early March through May 2020, disinformation operations in the country have increased noticeably, showing evidence of evolving strategies from multiple state actors geared towards reshaping the narrative of the global COVID-19 crisis and pushing forward geopolitical interests. Such campaigns may be a sign of things to come with Italy as a critical battleground subject to state-sponsored disinformation operations, acting as a gauge of power relations particularly between the United States, Russia, the EU, and China. Read this article online. Download this article.

Our mailing address is:
HKS Misinformation Review, Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy
Harvard Kennedy School
79 JFK St., Taubman Building
Cambridge, MA 02138

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

Connected to Microsoft Exchange