



This Folder
Address Book
Options
Log Off

**Mail**

**Calendar**

**Contacts**

**Email Settings**

Reply
Reply to All
Forward
Move
Delete
Close

**HKS Misinformation Review Digest, July 2020**  
HKS Misinformation Review [misinfo@hks.harvard.edu]

**Sent:** Monday, July 20, 2020 12:55 PM  
**To:** [Steve Johnston](#)

[View this email in your browser](#)

**Deleted Items** (2)

Drafts

**Inbox** (4)

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** (13)
- 20-06** (6)
- 2020 Reimagining

[Manage Folders...](#)

**HARVARD KENNEDY SCHOOL**

# Misinformation Review

**Research Article. [Images and misinformation in political groups: evidence from WhatsApp in India](#)**  
**By Kiran Garimella and Dean Eckles**

WhatsApp is a key medium for the spread of news and rumors, often shared as images. We study a large collection of politically-oriented WhatsApp groups in India, focusing on the period leading up to the 2019 Indian national elections. By labeling samples of random and popular images, we find that around 10% of shared images are known misinformation and most fall into three types of images. Machine learning methods can be used to predict whether a viral image is misinformation, but are brittle to shifts in content over time. [Read this article online.](#) [Download this article.](#)

**Research Article. [Do the right thing: tone may not affect correction of misinformation on social media](#)**  
**By Leticia Bode, Emily K. Vraga and Melissa Tully**

An experiment conducted with 610 participants suggests that corrections to misinformation – pointing out information that is wrong or misleading and offering credible information in its place – on social media reduce misperceptions regardless of the correction’s tone (uncivil, affirmational, or neutral). Our findings emphasize that correction on social media could operate as part of a broader strategy to reduce beliefs in misinformation, and users should be encouraged to bring additional relevant information into the conversation, using whatever tone feels most comfortable for them. [Read this article online.](#) [Download this article.](#)

**Research Article. [Misinformation in action: fake news exposure is linked to lower trust in media, higher trust in government when your side is in power](#)**  
**By Katherine Ognyanova, David Lazer, Ronald E. Robertson, Christo Wilson**

One major concern about fake news is that it could damage the public trust in democratic institutions. We examined this possibility using longitudinal survey data combined with records of online behavior. Our study found that online misinformation was linked to lower trust in mainstream media across party lines. However, for moderates and conservatives, exposure to fake news predicted a higher confidence in political institutions. The mostly right-leaning fake news accessed by our moderate-to-conservative respondents could strengthen their trust in a Republican government. This was not true for liberals who could be biased against such content and less likely to believe its claims. [Read this article online.](#) [Download this article.](#)

**Research Article. [News literacy education in a polarized political climate: how games can teach youth to spot misinformation](#)**

**By Yoo Kyung Chang et al.**

We designed, implemented and evaluated a game about fake news to test its potential to enhance news literacy skills in educational settings. The game was largely effective at facilitating complex news literacy skills. When these skills were integrated into the design and fictional narrative of the game, diverse groups of students engaged with the learning goals and transferred this knowledge to real life contexts. The fictional narrative allowed students to learn about misinformation without the distraction of political stances and divisions. However, teacher preparation for game-based learning mattered and additional support is needed for integrating games into school curricula. [Read this article online.](#) [Download this article.](#)

**Special Issue: COVID-19 & Misinformation (Part II)**

**Research Article. [Meme factory cultures and content pivoting in Singapore and Malaysia during COVID-19](#)**

**By Crystal Abidin**

This paper is a qualitative ethnographic study of how a group of meme factories in Singapore and Malaysia have adapted their content programming and social media practices in light of COVID-19. It considers how they have fostered, countered, or challenged the rise and spread of misinformation in both countries. More crucially, the paper considers how meme factories position their contents to speak in a variety of platform-specific and age-appropriate vernaculars to provide public service messaging or social critique to their followers. [Read this article online.](#) [Download this article.](#)

**Research Article. [Ibuprofen narratives in five European countries during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)**

**By Sergi Xaudiera and Ana S. Cardenal**

We follow the trajectory of the unverified story about the adverse effects of using Ibuprofen for treating the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) on Twitter, across five European countries. Our findings suggest that the impact of misinformation is massive when credible sources (e.g., elected officials, mainstream media) participate in its propagation; yet, they also imply that crisis communication management has a local scope given the greater reach and impact of regional channels in the spread and

countering of misinformation. These patterns reveal both the global and local dynamics involved in the spread of misinformation. [Read this article online.](#) [Download this article.](#)

**Research Article. [The causes and consequences of COVID-19 misperceptions: understanding the role of news and social media](#)**

**By Aengus Bridgman et al.**

We investigate the relationship between media consumption, misinformation, and important attitudes and behaviours during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. We find that comparatively more misinformation circulates on Twitter, while news media tends to reinforce public health recommendations like social distancing. Exposure to social media is associated with misperceptions regarding basic facts about COVID-19 while the inverse is true for news media. These misperceptions are in turn associated with lower compliance with social distancing measures. We thus draw a clear link from misinformation circulating on social media, notably Twitter, to behaviours and attitudes that potentially magnify the scale and lethality of COVID-19. [Read this article online.](#) [Download this article.](#)

**Research Article. [Feeling “disinformed” lowers compliance with COVID-19 guidelines: evidence from the US, UK, Netherlands and Germany](#)**

**By Michael Hameleers, Toni G. L. A. van der Meer, Anna Brosius**

This study indicates that, during the first phase of the coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) pandemic in 2020, citizens from the US, UK, Netherlands, and Germany experienced relatively high levels of mis- and disinformation in their general information environment. We asked respondents to indicate the extent to which they experienced that information on coronavirus was simply inaccurate (*misinformation*) or intentionally misleading (*disinformation*). Those who experienced misinformation were willing to seek further information and to comply with official guidelines. Individuals perceiving more disinformation – on the other hand – were less willing to seek additional information and reported lower willingness to comply with official guidelines. [Read this article online.](#) [Download this article.](#)

**Research Article. [Pandemics & propaganda: how Chinese state media creates and propagates CCP coronavirus narratives](#)**

**By Vanessa Molter and Renee di Resta**

To gain insight into how Chinese state media is communicating about the coronavirus pandemic to the outside world, we analyzed a collection of posts from their English-language presence on Facebook. We observed three recurring behaviors: sharing positive stories and promoting the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) pandemic response, rewriting recent history in a manner favorable to the CCP as the coronavirus pandemic evolved, and using targeted ads to spread preferred messages. Although spin is not unique to state actors, paid ad campaigns to promote government-run state media pages containing misinformation and conspiracies are problematic. Our findings suggest that platforms should implement clearer disclosure of state-sponsored communications at a minimum, and consider refusing

paid posts from such entities. [Read this article online.](#) [Download this article.](#)

## **Commentary. [Promoting health literacy during the COVID-19 pandemic: a call to action for healthcare professionals](#)**

**By April Joy Damian and Joseph J. Gallo**

The extraordinary spread of misinformation during the COVID-19 pandemic is impressive. And, to public health professionals like us, it's worrying: We know that good information and good health go hand in hand. Knowing what we do about the practice of public health and what the science tells us about how people fall for misinformation, we see promising strategies for intervention in our own field. We therefore call on fellow healthcare professionals to take concerted action against misinformation, and we suggest here one lever our field is perfectly situated to address: health literacy. In this commentary, we propose concrete strategies for colleagues at four levels of practice: in healthcare organizations, community-based partnerships, cross-sector collaborations, and as individual healthcare providers. [Read this article online.](#) [Download this article.](#)

Join the HKS Misinformation Review! Learn more about [submitting an article](#), or [signing up to be a reviewer](#). The [HKS Misinformation Review](#) is a project of the [Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy](#) at [Harvard Kennedy School](#).

*Copyright © 2020 HKS Misinformation Review, Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy, All rights reserved.*

The Harvard Kennedy School Misinformation Review is a publication of the Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy at Harvard Kennedy School. You are receiving this email because you opted in on our website, or submitted a paper to the journal.

**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