Some terms...

- Fake News
- Misinformation
- Disinformation
*Fake News*

*Fake News*

22 Clinton Foundation Employees Arrested On First Day Of New Investigation AND IN THIS INVESTIGATION HIL....

URDUCHEL.COM

BREAKING BOMBSHELL: Multiple Reports Tie Clinton's Podesta Brothers to Child Abduction Case of Madeline McCann
Misinformation is not like a plumbing problem you fix. It is a social condition, like crime, that you must constantly monitor and adjust to. – Tom Rosenstiel, American Press Institute, 2017
*Disinformation = politically motivated messaging creating public cynicism, uncertainty, distrust
• Spotting possible disinformation
  – Foreign source, domestic source, some just crazy stuff
• Why people share
• Sharing responsibly
About 2016 – what we now know

- Russian Internet Research Agency troll farm, $100,000 (not much!) for ~3500 FB sponsored ads
- 30.4 million FB ads linked to Russia were shared by users
- Same story with twitter
- Many were deceived – including top newspapers
Fake Organization playing off of BlackLivesMatter
Ad ID 2535
Ad Text: Father of the mentally ill Black man killed in the El Cajon shooting last month, Richard Olango, has established a police-reform foundation. El Cajon Shooting: Father of Alfred Olango Sets Up Foundation | BM BM
Ad Targeting: Location - Living In: United States
Interests: Martin Luther King, Jr., African-American Civil Rights Movement (1954–68), African-American history. Malcolm X or Black (Color)
Age: 18 - 65+
Placements: News Feed on desktop computers or News Feed on mobile devices
Ad Impressions: 1,953
Ad Clicks: 190
Ad Spend: 263.28 RUB
Ad Creation Date: 11/01/16 08:01:54 AM PDT
Ad End Date: 11/02/16 08:01:53 AM PDT

The Metadata for that ad (from FB – note payment in rubles)
Ex: fake events fooled lots of people
Rated as ‘most negative’ in terms of sentiment
Black Excellence

Leon Moss, 12, is Atlanta resident. His mother discovered Leon’s talent when he was 9-year-old. She began to take him to local museums such as the Apex, the Sights and Sounds Black Cultural Museum and the Fernbank Museum of Natural History.

To improve Leon's skills of painting he began to attend art classes of R. Gregory Christie. Non-profit organization the Southwest Atlanta Youth Business Organization (SWAYBO) also helped Leon in many ways.

According to blacknews.com, the ... See More

Rated as ‘most positive’ in terms of sentiment
Extreme statements and images can have powerful emotional impact.
Coronavirus rumor leads to loss of business for Chinatown supermarket

HOUSTON – The JUSGO Supermarket was open for business despite rumors that an employee at the store had come down with the novel coronavirus.
Using the Internet & Social Media

Sockpuppets - fake accounts. May be linked to amplifying or approving bots to like and retweet

Bots & Botnets - look at the profile (photo? bio? language use?) Bots amplify results

Trolls - plain old (real) misanthropes?
Check…

• Domain name & source
• Spelling errors & poor grammar
• Memetic content – repurposed memes
• Some fact checking sites
  – Snopes.com
  – PolitiFact
  – Factcheck.org
  – Lots of others
• Reverse image searches to check pictures
From BotSentinel, a bot check site (2/22/2020)
Kathleen Kennedy, Lucasfilm president, at Archer School for Girls, 2017

(Notice the hashtag)
Psychological factors...

“Confirmation Bias”

Seeing is believing…
Twitter’s prototype for checking tweets

Forty percent of the guns in this country are sold without any background checks. We have to end the absurdity of the gun show loophole.

Harmfully Misleading
Twitter Community reports have identified this tweet as violating the Community Policy on Harmfully Misleading Information. This tweet's visibility will be reduced.

Top Reports

Jamison Hong
This claim overstates the number of guns sold without background checks by 2x. The actual estimate based on recent survey data is 22%. See nytimes.com/backgro...

Sidney Oberhaus
Bernie Sanders is citing an outdated and flawed 1997 study that surveyed only 200 people. The real % of guns sold without background checks is half this. While still concerning, it's important people know the real estimates. Full study: annals.org/aim...

Alan Ewing
Bernie Sanders often cites this debunked study. About 20% of guns are estimated to be

Anand Ranganathan
Oh my god. Indian scientists have just found HIV (AIDS) virus-like insertions in the 2019-nCov virus that are not found in any other coronavirus. They hint at the possibility that this Chinese virus was designed ["not fortuitous"]. Scary if true. biorxiv.org/content/10.110...

Sumita Thiagarajan
While it is true that the Coronavirus has some similarities to the HIV virus, so do many other viruses, and there's absolutely no indication it was man-made. See analysis here: massesci.com/hote...

Kevin McCarthy
Whistleblowers were required to provide direct, first-hand knowledge of allegations... but just days before the Ukraine whistleblower came forward, the IC secretly removed that requirement from the complaint form.

We won't rest until we have answers.

Intel Community Secretly Nixed Whistleblower Demand Of First-Hand Info
Federal records show the intel community secretly re...

thefederalist.com
RESEARCH REPORT

Countering Information Influence Activities

The State of the Art
Sponsored by

Good Systems
A UT Grand Challenge

Public Mini-Conference & Theory/Methods Workshop

Mapping Media Manipulation and Disinformation Campaigns

March 12 - 13, 2020
University of Texas at Austin
Learning Lab 1 @ Perry Castaneda Library (PCL)

What to expect?
• Hear from leading scholars and journalists covering media manipulation and disinformation campaigns
• Learn theories and hands-on methods for detecting, documenting, and analyzing media manipulation and disinformation campaigns

Register to attend:
https://catt.ly/misinfo_registration
Limited space for Day 2. Register NOW!!

Day 1
9 AM - 4 PM
Open to public
Media Manipulation and Disinformation Conference

Day 2
9 AM - 4 PM
Limited space for 25 people
A Theory/Methods Workshop for Critical Internet Studies

Featured Keynote Speaker

Dr. Joan Donovan
Editor of Technology and Social Change
Rothschild Center
"Drafted into the Meme Wars: Disinformation in US Elections"

Scan to Register!

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THANKS!

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