



- DISCUSSION GUIDE II -

FAKE NEWS AND UNVEILING MISINFORMATION

DYSTURB

* What does "fake news" mean to you? Have you come across an example of fake news recently, or even shared one? What was it about? Have people around you heard about it? How did you realize it was fake news?

FAKE NEWS

AND EXPOSING MISINFORMATION

WHAT IS THE REASON FOR FAKE NEWS?

• Fake news may serve a local or national political agenda (eg. cyber bullying, massive disinformation campaigns)

RESOURCE # 6

• Fake news may serve a financial agenda: articles online are associated with advertising revenues via services such as Google ads. The more the article is read and shared, the more it pays - the authors are motivated to create "click bait" headlines and sensational articles to attract readers and increase their revenue.

• Algorithms & Advertising: Our Web browsing history gives a lot of information about our tastes, consumption habits, history, gender, age, geographic location, and interests. What we see on social media, on search engine result pages, and the ads we are exposed to are all informed by these data points.

RESOURCE # 7

HOW DOES FAKE NEWS WORK?

• Bad actors use social platforms to post manipulative content. They take advantage of algorithms that are designed to addict us. Facebook and Instagram have strengthened partnerships with fact-checkers but their business model incentivizes the spread of fake news.

RESOURCE # 8

• Emotion and sensationalism: the more provocative and shocking an article or image, the more clicks it attracts.

• Appearance of credibility in design and names/titles (fake accounts are used on social media to disseminate fake news).

* Did you notice this phenomenon in the news and ads you see online?

Beware of the difference between **MISINFORMATION** and **DISINFORMATION**:

THE INTENT.

Misinformation is false or inaccurate information that is mistakenly or inadvertently created or spread; the intent is not to deceive. Disinformation is false information that is deliberately created and spread in order to influence public opinion or obscure the truth.

Disinformation and Misinformation are powerful weapons: they influence politics, society, culture, and the way we consume.

“ Systematically check the news you read, even when it aligns with your point of view ”

EXPOSING FAKE NEWS

Use lateral reading to answer these questions:



Who's behind the news

- A friend? A stranger? A company? An anonymous person? A political figure?
- Why are they sharing it?
- Are they qualified to talk about this subject?
- Does the publication respect the code of ethics of journalism and correct its editorial errors transparently?
- It is important to be aware of how the media you read is funded.



What evidence do they provide?

- The proof must come from a reliable source. Some news might appear legitimate with links or sources included, but they must be verified sources.
- A correlation of events does not imply that there is a causal connection between them
- Are they hiding a part of the story to make it say something else? (eg. an excerpt of a video can change the meaning without the full context of a depicted situation; an infographic can manipulate data)
- Does it confirm my pre-existing beliefs and therefore make me believe it?

RESOURCE # 9



What do other sources say about the person or entity that share(s) this information?

- Navigate with a blank open tab to check instantly
- Use Wikipedia (but this cannot be your only source)
- Use fact checking sites

RESOURCE # 10

- Identify credible sources and legitimate experts on the subject (while no source is individually reliable, there are relevant and useful resource sites for verifying information, such as Eurostat, ONS, World Bank, OECD, ILO, census.gov)

LATERAL READING

is checking a media outlet and its news content by searching those on other, separate sources.

VERTICAL READING

is using critical thinking skills to reflect on the claims made in a story, but not verifying those facts through outside sources. Vertical reading is less effective than lateral reading at spotting fake news.



**HERAT, AFGHANISTAN
APRIL 11, 2020**

In the female ward of COVID-19 hospital in Herat, each room holds 4 to 6 women. Some have tested positive and others are suspected cases, waiting for their test results. This way, those who are healthy are at high risk of being infected as well. On the male wing however, the positive and suspected cases are strictly kept separated.

PHOTO : **KIANA HAYERI**
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