Journalism’s place in the fight against fake news

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Real news is under attack

- Losing audiences and revenues
- Political persecution
- Erosion of credibility
Fake news in the offense

- A form of online falsehood
- Financial and ideological motives
- Challenges real news for attention, digital ads, and audience belief

Revealed: Coronavirus is China’s biowarfare program?
Coronavirus may have originated in lab linked to www.youtube.com

https://youtu.be/QqBTfQwrWGs
The power of fake news

- False information
- Intentionally packaged
- To look like real news
The role of social media

How often do you:

- Read news on Facebook: 55.9%
- Read news on WhatsApp: 52.7%
- Watch local TV news: 48.5%
- Watch news videos on YouTube: 47.6%
- Read local TV news sites: 47.2%
- Read local newspaper websites: 44.9%
- Read mainstream online-only sites: 41.2%
- Listen to local radio: 41.1%
- Read print copies of local newspapers: 38%
- Read alternative online-only sites: 35%
- Read news on Instagram: 33%
- Read news on Facebook Messenger: 29.6%
- Read foreign news websites: 28.8%
- Watch cable TV news: 20.5%

Survey of 1,000 Singapore Residents (December 2019)

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Even during COVID-19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How often do you:</th>
<th>Survey of 1, 000 Singapore Residents (July 2020)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Read local news websites</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read news on Facebook</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watch local TV news</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read news from a mobile news app</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read updates from Government websites</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listen to local radio</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read news on WhatsApp</td>
<td>Medium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hear news from face to face conversations</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watch news videos on YouTube</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read print copies of local newspapers</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read foreign news websites</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watch cable TV news</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read news on Telegram</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Social media news use and belief in fake news

Survey of 1,000 Singapore Residents (May 2019)

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

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Avoiding COVID-19-related news

Two-wave panel survey: 767 Singapore Residents (March 2020); 540 Singapore Residents (April 2020)
Journalism’s role in fighting fakes

- Reassessing ethical standards
- Engaging in fact-checking
- Also needs to be protected

The Truth Is Paywalled But The Lies Are Free

The political economy of bullshit.

Nathan J. Robinson

blogs.ntu.edu.sg/in
The Information Integrity Initiative (*IN-cube*) brings together three research projects at the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information at Nanyang Technological University Singapore that focus on the different aspects of misinformation and disinformation.

Learn more about these projects here.
Thank you very much!

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