

Information Presentation: Filter Bubbles & Echo Chambers

There has been a lot of discussion about the “filter bubble effect” and the rise of online “echo chambers”, where the connection of social media allows people to filter out information from opposing viewpoints, and undergo an extreme case of confirmation bias. People filter out opposing views by only connect with people who are already like them, so they only hear their own personal views echoed back. But some research claims that this is actually a completely fake phenomenon, and that social media actually increased exposure to diverse opinions. Your job is to present both sides of the argument for the class.

How to get started

David Robson’s article “The myth of the online echo chamber” does a good job of introducing the topic, but the title alone should tell you that the article is not entirely unbiased. You should follow some of the sources to see if there are strong counter-arguments to this point, or if more recent information is available.

<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20180416-the-myth-of-the-online-echo-chamber>