

This movie review is going to talk about two issues: Fake news spread much faster than truth on the internet, and the recommender system collects users' data to make a profit. Britney argued with the former and Bill discussed the latter.

In the movie, Tristan cited a study from MIT said that “fake news on Twitter spreads six times faster than true news.” (01:02:15). Besides, the movie introduced a lot of cases to prove the unethical effects of the spread of fake news on the internet, such as coronavirus, conspiracy, Pizzagate and so on. However, Britney did not agree with the point of view of the movie. From the perspective of deontological ethics, she argued that social media was invented and developed with a will of more convenient and faster information exchange. Even the news is fake, it proved that the developers did their duty, they should not be blamed. Also, the spreader who did not know the truth should not be condemned as well, because they had a good motivation to let others know more. It is the fake news maker that needs to be accused. Apart from that, she stated that spreading news on the internet is a dirty hands case. There is no clue that shows fake news spread slower than truth before the advent of the internet. Moreover, although auxiliary tools such as fake news detectors exist, no one can guarantee not to spread false information. It is inevitable. Additionally, in the view of utilitarianism, Britney supposed that the effect of spreading the truth on the internet is much larger than fake news. She raised Pizzagate as one of the extreme cases of the spread of fake news, which just wasted people's time, while the spread of truth can save countless people's lives. One could prevent the high risk of being infected covid by checking the covid cases map online. Therefore, Britney believed that the spread of fake news on the internet is acceptable and not unethical.

The problem Bill discussed is about the recommender system. Bill advocated the point of view Tristan raised: “we've moved away from having a tools-based technology environment to an addiction and manipulation-based technology environment.” (30:28). In terms of duty ethics, Bill mentioned that the purpose of recommender system has changed from accurately recommending to attracting users by recommending. As the movie showed, Ben's family could not have dinner without their phones, and Ben could not control his addiction to his phone. Bill believed that this is a true scenario where people cannot stop playing with their phones while working or eating. This proved the success of software engineers tempting people, instead of purely recommending. Their intention became to make more profit, which is distorted and unethical. As to teleological ethics, from the user perspective, people does not gain more benefits from using the recommender system compared with doing meaningful things. In the movie, Ben lost his sleep to playing with his phone. Furthermore, people could become polarized and ignorant. Due to the recommender system, people always see what they want to see instead of the true world. It was mentioned in the film that political polarization has become more and more serious, and the internet is part of the reason. This is also terrible from the point of view of moral pluralism since people are less respected to different cultures, beliefs, and ethical positions. They rather attacked each other with their biased reason. Therefore, it is necessary to do changes to the modern recommender system as it is unethical to users.

To summarize, Britney and Bill agreed and disagreed on different issues addressed in the

movie. Britney did not think the spread of fake news on the internet is a big ethical problem. By contrast, Bill consent to the interviewee's view that the recommender system is snooping privacy and addicting people to use social networks, which has a great moral issue.