

The spread of true and false news online

Soroush Vosoughi, Deb Roy and Sinan Aral

Science **359** (6380), 1146-1151.
DOI: 10.1126/science.aap9559

Lies spread faster than the truth

There is worldwide concern over false news and the possibility that it can influence political, economic, and social well-being. To understand how false news spreads, Vosoughi *et al.* used a data set of rumor cascades on Twitter from 2006 to 2017. About 126,000 rumors were spread by ~3 million people. False news reached more people than the truth; the top 1% of false news cascades diffused to between 1000 and 100,000 people, whereas the truth rarely diffused to more than 1000 people. Falsehood also diffused faster than the truth. The degree of novelty and the emotional reactions of recipients may be responsible for the differences observed.

Science, this issue p. 1146

ARTICLE TOOLS

<http://science.sciencemag.org/content/359/6380/1146>

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

<http://science.sciencemag.org/content/suppl/2018/03/07/359.6380.1146.DC1>

RELATED CONTENT

<http://science.sciencemag.org/content/sci/359/6380/1094.full>
[file:/content](http://science.sciencemag.org/content/sci/359/6380/1094.full#)

REFERENCES

This article cites 32 articles, 1 of which you can access for free
<http://science.sciencemag.org/content/359/6380/1146#BIBL>

PERMISSIONS

<http://www.sciencemag.org/help/reprints-and-permissions>

Use of this article is subject to the [Terms of Service](#)

Science (print ISSN 0036-8075; online ISSN 1095-9203) is published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1200 New York Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20005. The title *Science* is a registered trademark of AAAS.

Copyright © 2018 The Authors, some rights reserved; exclusive licensee American Association for the Advancement of Science. No claim to original U.S. Government Works