

Paper

1 Introduction

How citizens manage to stay informed about politics—or not—has been a long-standing concern of political science (Lippmann 1922; Berelson, Lazarsfeld, and McPhee 1954). In a complex world, people must turn to others for such information. Today, the Internet’s “many-to-many” structure (Tucker et al. 2017) makes it harder to know what sources to turn to: trust in professional media has been waning in many Western democracies (Gallup 2019; PricewaterhouseCoopers 2018) and is increasingly related to partisanship (Arceneaux, Johnson, and Murphy 2012; Tsfati and Ariely 2014). At the same time, the spread of misinformation is rampant (Guess, Nyhan, and Reifler 2018; Vosoughi, Roy, and Aral 2018). How do news sources affect belief and sharing of information in this environment?

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