

Cambridge Analytica's use of fake social media accounts to influence the 2016 presidential vote in the United States of America

Ethical Quandry	Election Process	Citizens	Election Results	Foreign Relations	US Government	Social Media
Fake Accounts	X		X			X
Influence Vote	X	X	X	X	X	
Misuse of Tech	X		X		X	X
Spread Misinformation	X	X	X	X	X	

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Overall, whenever I think of a situation such as Cambridge Analytica's use of fake social media accounts to influence the 2016 presidential vote in the United States of America, there are only a few ethical quandaries that come to my mind. These being, the fake accounts, the influencing of our vote, the misuse of technology (namely social media), and spreading misinformation. Though all of these ethical quandaries have a noticeable and real effect on the systems described, each of them interacts with these systems in different ways.

Fake accounts are an ethical quandary, as obviously fake social media accounts in general are a touchy matter. However, these accounts weren't typical, and were set up with the intent to influence the vote (another ethical quandary). For this reason, the fake accounts clearly affect the Election Process, Election Results, and Social Media in general. On the flip side, the influencing of the vote was clearly inherently important to the Election Process and Results, Citizens, Foreign Relations, and our US Government. Two more ethical quandaries presented in this were the misuse of technology and spreading misinformation. Though similar in their results, they affected different systems. Misuse of technology had a clear impact on the Election Process and Results, along with this impacting our US Government. The Spread of Misinformation, however, had a farther reach and affected the Election Process and Results, Citizens, Foreign Relations, and our US Government. This is because the scope of misinformation spreads much farther and affects more people directly than just the creation of fake accounts (misuse of technology).

While there are certainly other systems and socio-technical systems affected by this event, in my opinion, these were the main bunch.