

Fake News, Propaganda and Harmful content: Can AI and NLP help us here?

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December 05, 2024

The background of the image features a complex network of interconnected nodes, represented by small dots of varying sizes and colors (purple and blue) connected by thin white lines, creating a sense of a global or digital web.

What is “Fake News”?

Is This “Fake News”?

STUDY: 94% of mRNA jab recipients found to have “metal-like objects” in their blood

Thursday, September 08, 2022 by: Ethan Huff

Tags: *badhealth, badmedicine, Big Pharma, Censored Science, COVID, Dangerous Medicine, discoveries, Graphene, medical experiments, metal-like objects, metallic structures, mRNA, pharmaceutical fraud, Plandemic, research, science deception, spike protein, tainted blood, vaccine damage, vaccine injury, vaccines*

This article may contain statements that reflect the opinion of the author

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<https://citizens.news/654952.html>

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9,430

VIEWS



Is This “Fake News”?



The Onion

@TheOnion

...

Trump Delays Easter To July 15 To Keep Promise On
Coronavirus trib.al/VZmghHv



11:03 PM · Mar 30, 2020 · SocialFlow

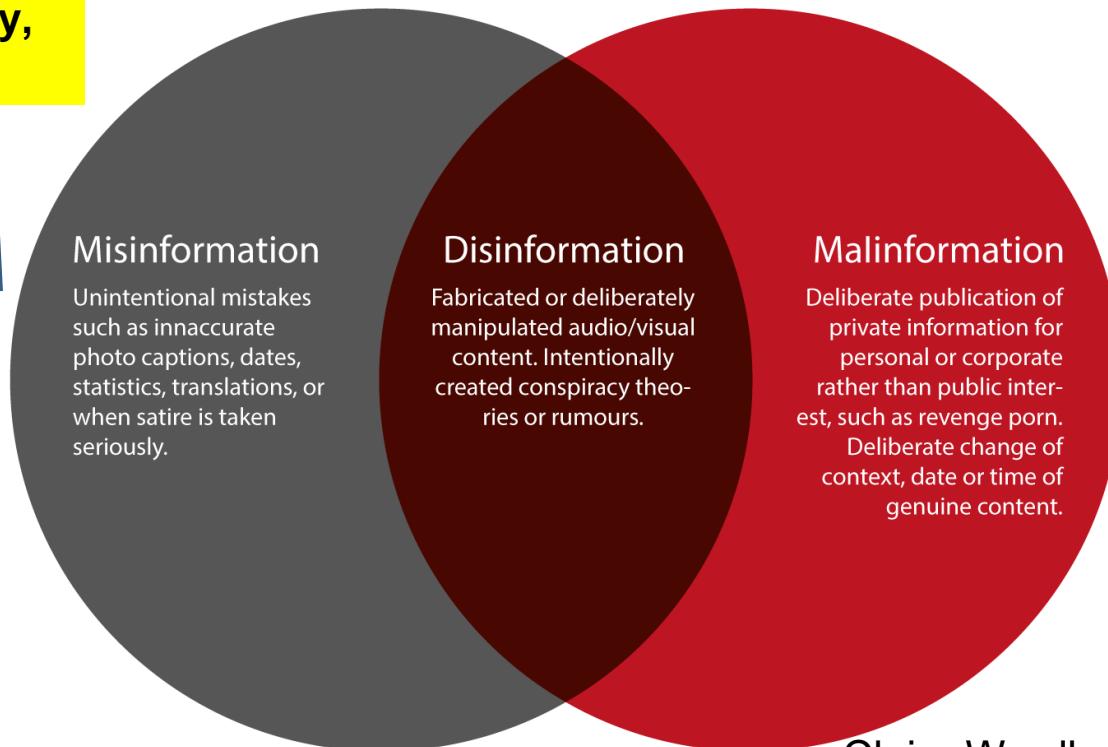
TYPES OF INFORMATION DISORDER

(Manual) fact-checking focuses on factuality, ignoring harm.



FALSENESS

INTENT TO HARM



<https://medium.com/1st-draft/information-disorder-part-3-useful-graphics-2446c7dbb485>

“We are not just fighting a pandemic;
we are fighting an infodemic.”





World Health Organization

To help alleviate suffering and save lives, WHO has been working night and day in five key ways:

1. Helping build countries' capacity to prepare and respond
2. Providing accurate information and fight the infodemic, together with numerous partners
3. Ensuring supplies of essential medical equipment for frontline health workers.
4. Training and mobilizing health workers.
5. Accelerating research and development.

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/events-as-they-happen>

The coronavirus is the first true social-media “infodemic”

Social media has zipped information and misinformation around the world at unprecedented speeds, fueling panic, racism... and hope.

by **Karen Hao** and **Tanya Basu**

February 12, 2020

On January 19—a week before the Lunar New Year—Tommy Tang left Shenzhen with his girlfriend to visit her family in Wuhan for the holiday. They had heard of the novel coronavirus (now officially known as COVID-19), but as far as they knew, it was localized to a small area. The local government had assured people that it would only affect those who visited a specific food market and contracted it directly from wild animals.

<https://www.technologyreview.com/2020/02/12/844851/the-coronavirus-is-the-first-true-social-media-infodemic/>

Evolution of the Terminology

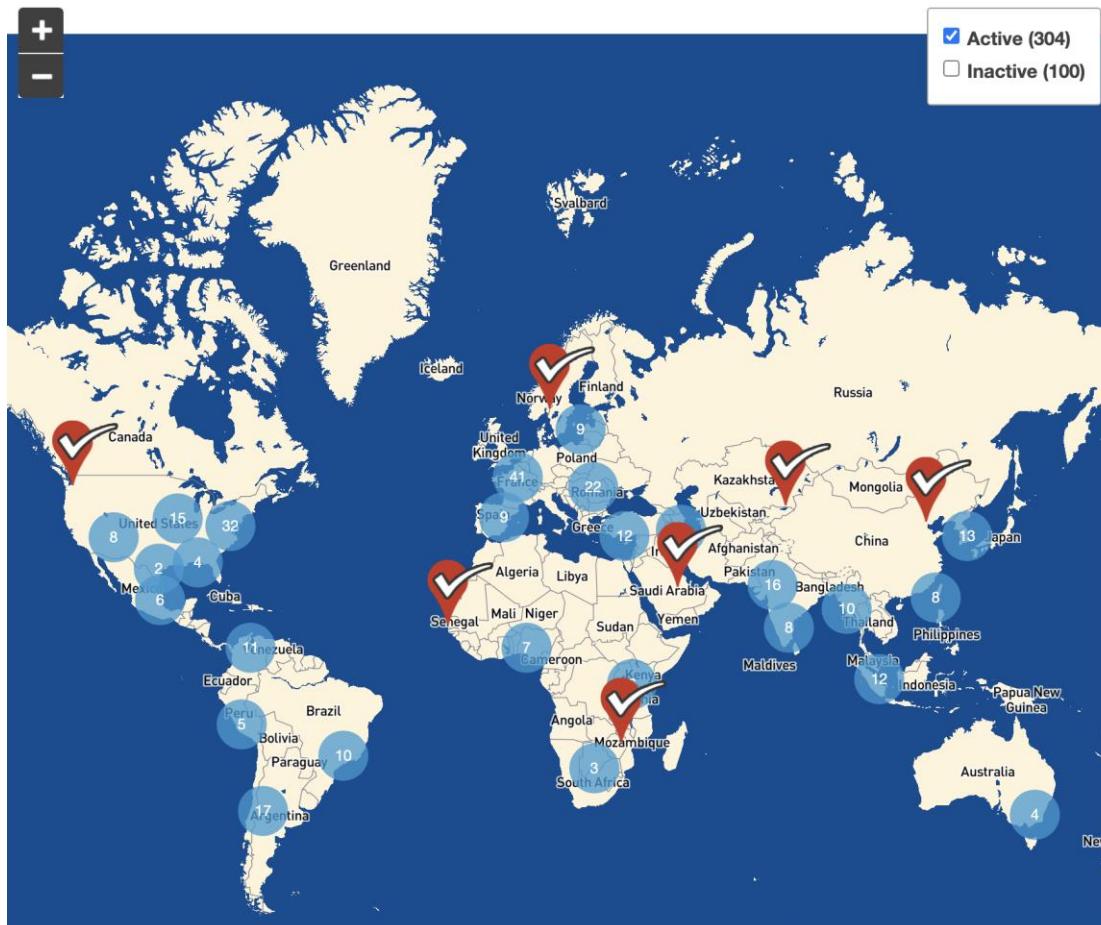
1. “Fake news”: focus on factuality
2. Disinformation: factuality + harm
3. “Infodemic”: focus on harm

The background of the slide features a complex, abstract network structure. It consists of numerous small, glowing purple dots of varying sizes scattered across a dark blue background. These dots are connected by a web of thin, light-colored lines, creating a sense of a vast, interconnected system. Some clusters of dots are more densely packed, while others are more isolated, mimicking the way information nodes might connect in a real-world network.

Is Fact-Checking the Solution to Disinformation?

The Fact-Checking Landscape

<https://reporterslab.org/fact-checking/>



FACT-CHECKING NEWS

FACT-CHECKING NEWS

Fact-checking count tops 300 for the first time

October 13, 2020

[SEE ALL FACT-CHECKING NEWS](#)

GLOBAL FACT-CHECKING SITES

The Reporters' Lab maintains a database of global fact-checking sites. You can use the map to explore sites around the world or use the menu below. (Here's more [how we identify fact-checkers](#).)

BROWSE IN LIST ►

How Much Has Been Manually Fact-Checked?

Statistics

Property	Global	Snopes	Politifact	Africa Check	Truth or Fiction	Check your Fact	FactsCan	Fullfact	AFP Factcheck	AFP Factuel (FR)
Number of claims	33,261	12,812	16,476	520	1,311	823	125	250	678	266

- ClaimReview schema: 77K
- Twitter Birdwatch: 12K

<https://data.gesis.org/claimskg/>

Technology could help:

- make fact-checkers more productive (*~translation memories*)
- automate the entire process (*~full machine translation*)

What Do Fact-Checkers Want?

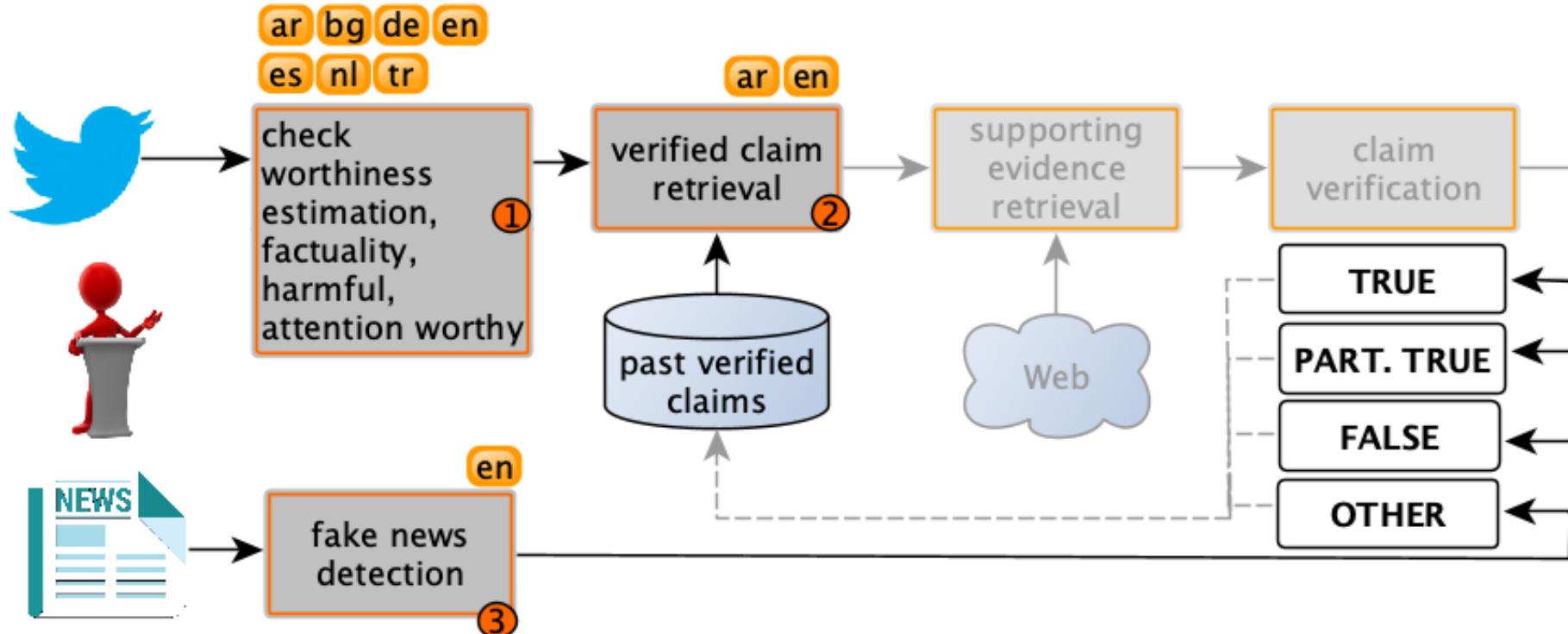
1. To know what is the most important claim to check today
2. To know when somebody says something that they have already checked
3. To check claims as quickly as possible

IJCAI-2021: Automated Fact-Checking for Assisting Human Fact-Checkers.

Preslav Nakov, David Corney, Maram Hasanain, Firoj Alam, Tamer Elsayed, Alberto Barrón-Cedeño, Paolo Papotti, Shaden Shaar, Giovanni Da San Martino

The CheckThat! Lab at CLEF 2018-2023

<https://sites.google.com/view/clef2022-checkthat>





CHECKTHAT! LAB AT CLEF 2023

Tasks

Task 1 Check-Worthiness in Multimodal and Unimodal Contents

Task 2 Subjectivity in News Articles

Task 3 Political Bias of News Articles and News Media

Task 4 Factuality of Reporting of News Media

Task 5 Authority Finding in Twitter

The background of the slide features a complex, abstract network structure. It consists of numerous small, glowing purple dots of varying sizes scattered across a dark blue gradient background. These dots are connected by thin, translucent purple lines that form a dense web of triangles and polygons, resembling a molecular or neural network. The overall effect is one of depth and interconnectedness.

What is Worth Fact-Checking?

Fact-checking Donald Trump, Joe Biden in the final presidential debate

NATIONAL

DEBATES



Donald Trump and Joe Biden at the final 2020 presidential debate. (AP)

<https://www.politifact.com/article/2020/oct/23/fact-checking-donald-trump-joe-biden-final-preside/>

Donald Trump: (07:37)

How are you doing? How are you?

Kristen Welker: (07:58)

And I want to say a very good evening to both of you. This debate will cover six major topics. At the beginning of each section, each candidate will have two minutes, uninterrupted, to answer your first question. The Debate Committee will then turn on their microphone only when it is their turn to answer. And the Commission will turn it off exactly when the two minutes have expired. After that, both microphones will remain on. But on behalf of the voters, I'm going to ask you to please speak one at a time.

Kristen Welker: (08:27)

The goal is for you to hear each other and for the American people to hear every word of what you both have to say. And so with that, if you're ready, let's start. And we will begin with the fight against the coronavirus. President Trump, the first question is for you. The country is heading into a dangerous new phase. More than 40,000 Americans are in the hospital tonight with COVID, including record numbers here in Tennessee. And since the two of you last shared a stage, 10,000 Americans have died from COVID. So please be specific. How would you lead the country through this next stage of the coronavirus crisis? Two minutes, uninterrupted.

Kristen Welker: (09:03)

.. during this next stage of the coronavirus crisis. Two minutes uninterrupted.

Donald Trump: (09:04)

So as you know, 2.2 million people modeled out, were expected to die. We closed up the greatest economy in the world in order to fight this horrible disease that came from China. It's a worldwide pandemic. It's all over the world. You see the spikes in Europe and many other places right now. If you notice, the mortality rate is down 85%. The excess mortality rate is way down and much lower than almost any other country. And we're fighting it and we're fighting it hard. There is a spike. There was a spike in Florida and it's now gone.

Donald Trump: (09:41)

There was a very big spike in Texas. It's now gone. There was a spike in Arizona. It's now gone. And there was some spike in other places, they will soon be gone. We have a vaccine that's ready. It's going to be announced within weeks. And it's going to be delivered. We have Operation Warp Speed, which is the mission to distribute the vaccine.

Donald Trump: (10:04)

I can tell you from personal experience, I was in the hospital and got better. And I will tell you that I had something that the therapeutic, I guess they would call it. Some people could cure, but I was in for a short period of time. And I got better, wouldn't be here tonight. And how they say I'm immune. Whether it's four months or a lifetime, nobody's been able to say, but I'm immune. More and more people are getting better. We have a problem that's a worldwide problem. This is a worldwide problem, but I've been congratulated by the heads of many countries on what we've been able to do. If you take a look at what we've done in terms of goggles and masks and gowns and everything else, and in particular ventilators we're now making ventilators all over the world, thousands and thousands a month distributing them all over the world. It will go away. And as I say, we're rounding the turn. We're rounding the corner. It's going away.

Kristen Welker: (11:04)

Okay. Former Vice President Biden to you. How would you lead the country out of this crisis? You have two minutes uninterrupted.

Joe Biden: (11:13)

220,000 Americans dead. You hear nothing else I say tonight, hear this. Anyone who is responsible for not taking control. In fact, not saying I take no responsibility initially. Anyone is responsible for that many deaths, should not remain as president of the United States of America. We're in a situation where there are a thousand deaths a day now. A thousand deaths a day. And there are over 70,000 new cases per day. Compared to what's going on in Europe as the New England Medical Journal said, they're starting from a very low rate. We're starting from a very high rate.

Joe Biden: (11:56)

The expectation is we'll have another 200,000 Americans dead between now and the end of the year. If we just wore these masks, the president's own advisors have told him, we can save a 100,000 lives. And we're in a circumstance where the president thus far and still has no plan, no comprehensive plan.

Joe Biden: (12:19)

What I would do is make sure we have everyone encouraged to wear a mask all the time. I would make sure we move into the direction of rapid testing, in rapid testing. I would make sure that we set up national standards as to how to open schools and open up businesses so they can be safe and give them the wherewithal, the financial resources to be able to do that.

Joe Biden: (12:41)

We're in a situation now where the New England Medical Journal, one of the serious, most serious journals in the whole world said for the first time ever that this president has responded to this crisis has been absolutely tragic. And so folks, I will take care of this. I will end this. I will make us have a plan.

Kristen Welker: (13:01)

President Trump, I'd like to follow up with you and your comments. You talked about taking a therapeutic. I assume you're referencing Regeneron. You also said a vaccine will be coming within weeks. Is that a guarantee?

Donald Trump: (13:13)

No, it's not a guarantee, but it will be by the end of the year. But I think it has a good chance. There are two companies, I think within a matter of weeks and it will be distributed very quickly.

Kristen Welker: (13:22)

Can you tell us what companies?

Donald Trump: (13:23)

Johson & Johnson is doing very well. Moderna is doing very well. Pfizer is doing very well and we have numerous others. Then we also have others that we're working on very closely with other countries, in particular Europe.

Kristen Welker: (17:03)

President Trump, your reaction?

Let me follow up with you and thank you for this information. You have

Donald Trump: (15:24)

Frankly, he ran the H1N1 swine flu and it was a total disaster. Far less lethal, but it was a total disaster. Had that had kind of numbers, 700,000 people would be dead right now, but it was a far less lethal disease. Look, his own person who ran that for him, who, as you know, was his chief of staff said, "It was catastrophic." It was horrible. We didn't know what we were doing." Now he comes up and he tells us how to do this.

Donald Trump: (16:01)

Also, everything that he said about the way every single move that he said we should make, that's what we've done. We've done all of it. But he was way behind us.

Kristen Welker: (16:10)

Vice President Biden, your response.

Joe Biden: (16:12)

My response is he is xenophobic, but not because he shutdown access from China. And he did it late after 40 countries had already done that. In addition to that, what he did, he made sure that we had 44 people that were in there in China trying to get the virus to determine what exactly the source was. What did the president say in January? He said, "No." He said, "He's being transparent. The president of China is being transparent. We owe him a debt of gratitude. We have to thank him."

Joe Biden: (16:58)

And then what happened was we started talking about using the Defense Act to make sure we go out and get whatever is needed out there to protect people. And again, I go back to this. He had nothing, he did virtually nothing. And then he gets out of the hospital and he talks about, "Oh, don't worry, it's all going to be over soon." Come on. There's not another scientist in the world who thinks it's going to be over soon.

Kristen Welker: (17:03)

President Trump, your reaction?

Let me follow up with you and thank you for this information. You have

Donald Trump: (16:58)

Excuse me. I take full responsibility. It's not my fault that it came here. It's China's fault. And you know what? It's not Joe's fault that it came here either. It's China's fault. They kept it from going into the rest of China for the most part, but they didn't keep it from coming out to the world, including Europe and ourselves.

Kristen Welker: (19:16)

Vice President Biden.

Joe Biden: (19:17)

The fact is that when we knew it was coming, when it hit, what happened? What did the president say? He said, "Don't worry, it's going to go away." It'll be gone by Easter. Don't worry. Warm weather. Don't worry. Maybe inject bleach." He said he was kidding when he said that, but a lot of people thought it was serious. A wide range of things the President has said, even today, he thinks we are in control. We're about to lose 200,000 more people.

Kristen Welker: (19:43)

President Trump.

Donald Trump: (19:44)

Look, perhaps just to finish this, I was kidding on that, but just to finish this, when I closed he said I shouldn't have closed. And that went on for months. Nancy Pelosi said the same thing. She was dancing on the streets in Chinatown, in San Francisco. But when I closed, he said, "This is a terrible thing, you xenophobe." I think he called me racist even, because I was closing it to China. Now he says I should have closed it earlier. Joe, it doesn't.

Joe Biden: (20:13)

I didn't say either of those things.

Donald Trump: (20:14)

You certainly did. You certainly did.

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We Can Learn From Human Fact-Checks

been told through investigative reporting that he owes about \$650 million to Wall Street and foreign banks. Or maybe he doesn't want the American people, all of you watching tonight, to know that he's paid nothing in federal taxes, because the [redacted] body's ever seen were a couple of years when he had to [redacted] authorities when he was trying to get a casino license, and they showed he didn't pay any federal income tax.



We rated this claim Mostly False.
<http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/statements/2016/sep/27/hillary-clinton/debate-hillary-clinton-tax-claim-ignores-years-whe/>

TRUMP: That makes me smart.

CLINTON: So if he's paid zero, that means zero for troops, zero for vets, zero

US Presidential Debates 2016: NPR

We need strong borders. In the audience tonight we have four mothers of, I mean these are unbelievable people that I've gotten to know over a period of years, whose children have been killed, brutally killed, by people that came into the country illegally. You have thousands of mothers and fathers and relatives all over the country. They are coming in illegally. Drugs are pouring in through the border. We have no country if we have no border. Hillary wants to give amnesty she wants to have open borders. The border secure as you know the border patrol agents sixteen thousand five hundred plus, ICE endorsed me. First time they've ever endorsed a candidate.

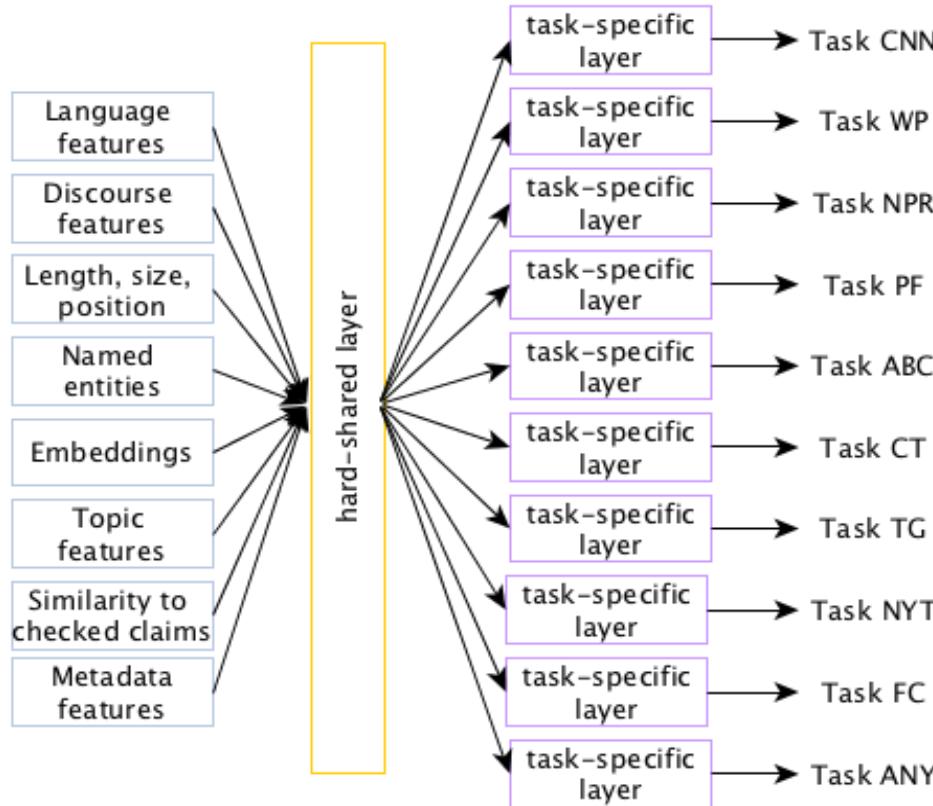
A union of immigration and customs enforcement officers [endorsed Trump in September](#), not the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement bureau.

Phil Ewing

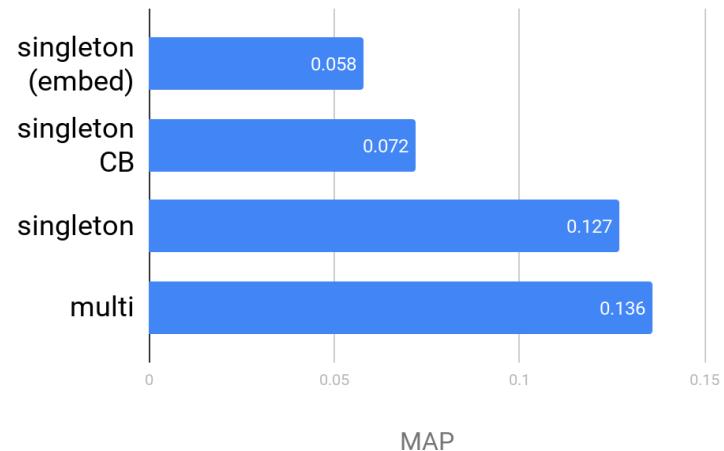
NPR National Security Editor

<https://www.npr.org/2016/10/19/498293478/fact-check-trump-and-clinton-s-final-presidential-debate>

Multi-Task Learning



Results averaged over nine fact-checking organizations



Detecting Check-Worthy Claims

This tool identifies automatically which claims in a given document are most worthy and should be prioritized for fact-checking, e.g., by investigative journalists.



- 0.46: We have an awful lot of vacant houses in this city.
0.05: They're in good shape and structurally sound.
0.55: In the last three years we've taken 3,000 vacant houses, taken them away from the homeowners who neglected them, sold them on the web site BuildingDetroit.org, and moved families back in. Three thousand families occupied.
0.15: Senator Young says he wants to sell side lots.
0.44: He's a little late to the party.
0.46: We've sold 8,200 side lots to next -door neighbors who are maintaining them so they could add swing sets and slides and gardens.
0.28: And then what we are doing is taking a strategy that works so well in Midtown, and we call it the Strategic Neighborhood Fund.
0.39: We are starting to go to 10 neighborhoods across the city and investing all kinds of money.
0.52: We've lined up now \$60 million of private money and this week in West Village we just opened the Coe.
0.26: They built beautiful new apartments and retail.
0.46: We're doing the same thing in the Fitzgerald neighborhood at McNichols and Livernois, where we're renovating 115 houses and then out in Old Redford.
0.45: We're about to kick off a program: we're going to renovate 50 houses around the old Holcomb school.
0.07: We're going from neighborhood to neighborhood and then for the storefronts.
0.02: We need to create beautiful areas where businesses want to invest.
0.49: And I'm very proud to say yesterday Detroit City Council approved my proposal for a \$125 million bond issue.
0.46: We're going to put \$80 million into it.
0.37: Twenty three neighborhood quarters your shopping Court is making the beautiful flowers and walkways and the like and recreate those old shopping districts.
0.44: That's the plan we have for the next four years.

Enter new text

Mimic source: General

Sort

NAACL'2018 (demo): ClaimRank: Detecting Check-Worthy Claims in Arabic and English.
sraa Jaradat, Pepa Gencheva, Alberto Barrón-Cedeño, Lluís Màrquez, Preslav Nakov

Eric Trump 
6,630 Tweets



...

Follow

Eric Trump 
@EricTrump

Executive Vice President of The [@Trump](#) Organization. Husband to [@LaraLeaTrump](#).
Large advocate of [@StJude](#) Children's Hospital [@TrumpWinery](#)
[#MakeAmericaGreatAgain](#)



Eric Trump  @EricTrump · Sep 20
Thank you Williamsport, Pennsylvania!!!! 



Eric Trump  @EricTrump · Sep 19
Thank You Milford Pennsylvania: you are incredible and we love you!!! I can't wait to see you again soon!!! Let's [#KeepAmericaGreat](#) [#USAUSAUSA](#) 



Eric Trump  @EricTrump · Sep 18
Mr. Governor - it was great to be with you today! Our family loves Maine and your incredible Lobstermen and [@realDonaldTrump](#) will never let you down! Let's [#KeepAmericaGreat](#) 



Paul R. LePage  @PaulRLePage1 · Sep 17

Thank you @EricTrump for meeting our Lobstermen at Camp Ellis in Maine today. We know that your father is working hard for these small businesses and our entire lobster industry. His efforts are paying off! [#mepolitics](#) [@realDonaldTrump](#)



527

1.9K

8.6K

↑

Check-Worthiness



Eric Trump
@EricTrump

Since this will never get reported by the media, I wanted to share a copy of this check. [@realDonaldTrump](#) is once again **donating his salary back to the United States Government** – This quarter, it will be donated to [@HHSGov](#) to confront, contain, and combat [#Coronavirus](#).



Donald J. Trump

11:11 PM · Mar 3, 2020 from Manhattan, NY · Twitter for iPhone

D. Trump is donating his salary to combat COVID19?

This is
check-worthy!



USA
TODAY

NEWS TO YOUR INBOX
Start the day smarter ☀

PASSAGES
Notable deaths in 2023

TIGRAY CONFLICT
The world's largest w:

For You

U.S.

Sports

Entertainment

Life

Money

Tech

Travel

Opinion



Donald Trump

Add Topic +

FACT CHECK

Fact check: President Donald Trump donates his salary, but he still makes money



Molly Stellino

USA TODAY

Published 12:37 p.m. ET July 11, 2020 | Updated 12:42 p.m. ET July 11, 2020



<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/factcheck/2020/07/11/fact-check-donald-trump-donates-salary-but-he-still-makes-money/5410134002/>

What Makes a Tweet Check-Worthy?

- Q0: viral?
- Q1. contains verifiable factual claim?
- Q2. likely to be false?
- Q3. of public interest?
- Q4: harmful?
- Q5. worth fact-checking?

	One-task	Multi-task
Q2	69.2	72.9
Q3	82.5	71.6
Q4	56.0	67.9
Q5	62.0	76.8

EMNLP'2021 (Findings): Fighting the COVID-19 Infodemic: Modeling the Perspective of Journalists, Fact-Checkers, Social Media Platforms, Policy Makers, and the Society. Firoj Alam, Shaden Shaar, Fahim Dalvi, Hassan Sajjad, Alex Nikolov, Hamdy Mubarak, Giovanni Da San Martino, Ahmed Abdelali, Nadir Durrani, Kareem Darwish, Abdulaziz Al-Homaid, Wajdi Zaghouani, Tommaso Caselli, Gijs Danoe, Friso Stolk, Britt Bruntink, Preslav Nakov.

Detecting Check-Worthy Tweets

Tweet Classifier

Tweet Analytics

Masks don't stop transmission. Vaccines don't stop transmission. Don't allow anyone to coerce you into thinking these ridiculous measures work. Stop the allowance of mandates for ludicrous reasons.

Random Sample

Classify Tweet

Summary

Does the tweet contain a verifiable factual claim?

Yes

Does the tweet appear to contain false information?

No, probably contains no false info

Will the tweet have an effect on or be of interest to the general public?

Yes, probably of interest

Is the tweet harmful to the society/person(s)/company(s)/product(s)?

Yes, probably harmful

Do you think that a professional fact-checker should verify the claim in the tweet?

No, too trivial to check

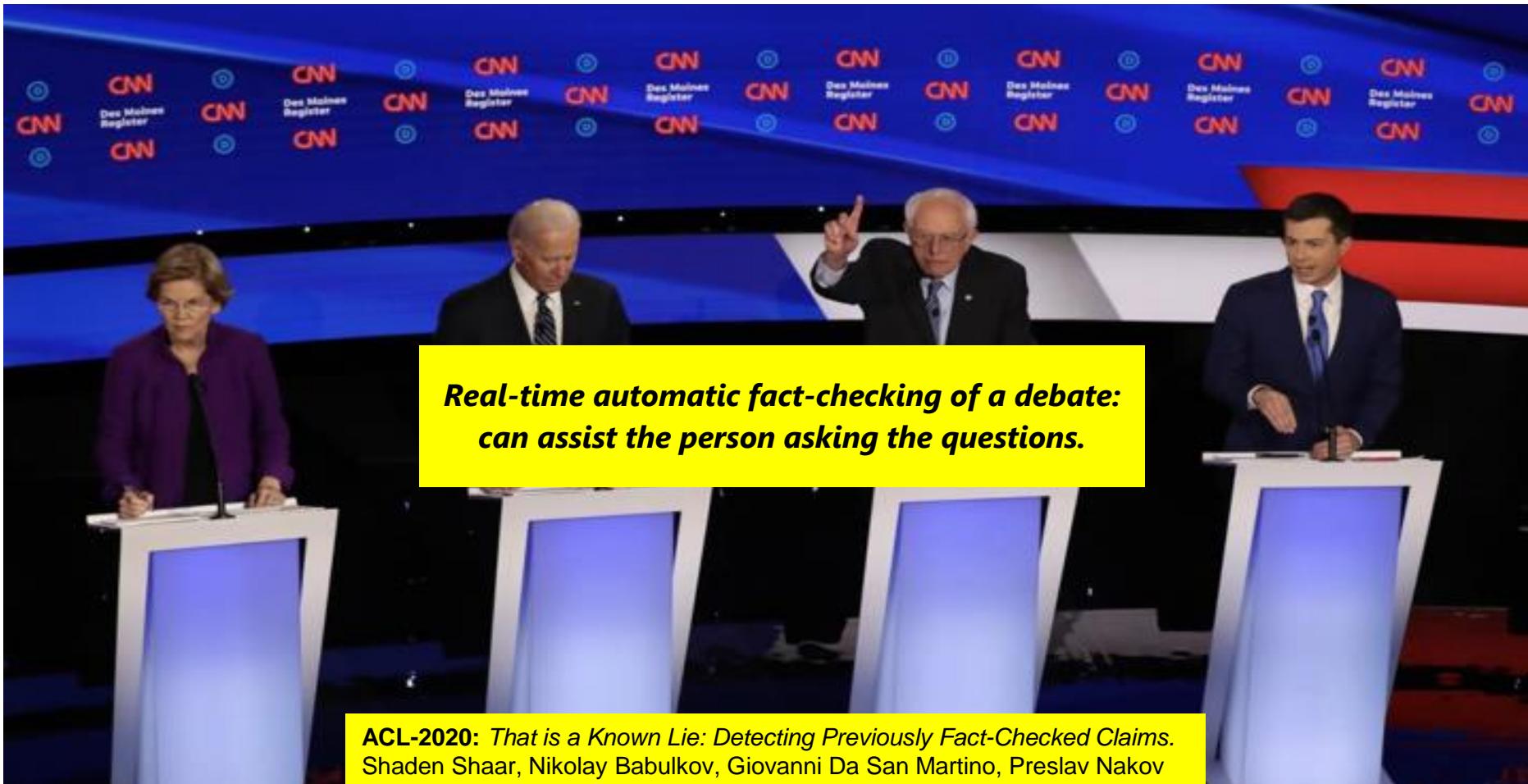
Detecting Previously Fact-Checked Claims

Automatic Fact-Checking

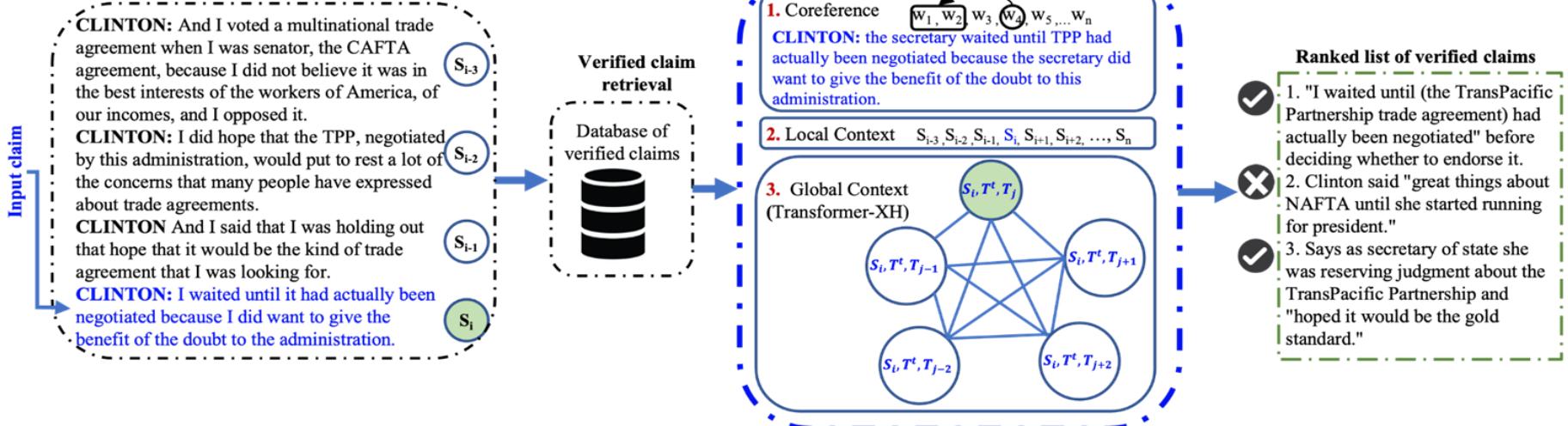
- **Problem:** people do not trust automatic methods
 - Yet, they trust human fact-checkers
- **Proposal:** Look for previously fact-checked claims
 - people tend to repeat the same claims!



Detecting Previously Fact-Checked Claims



Not an Easy Task: Need Contextual Understanding!

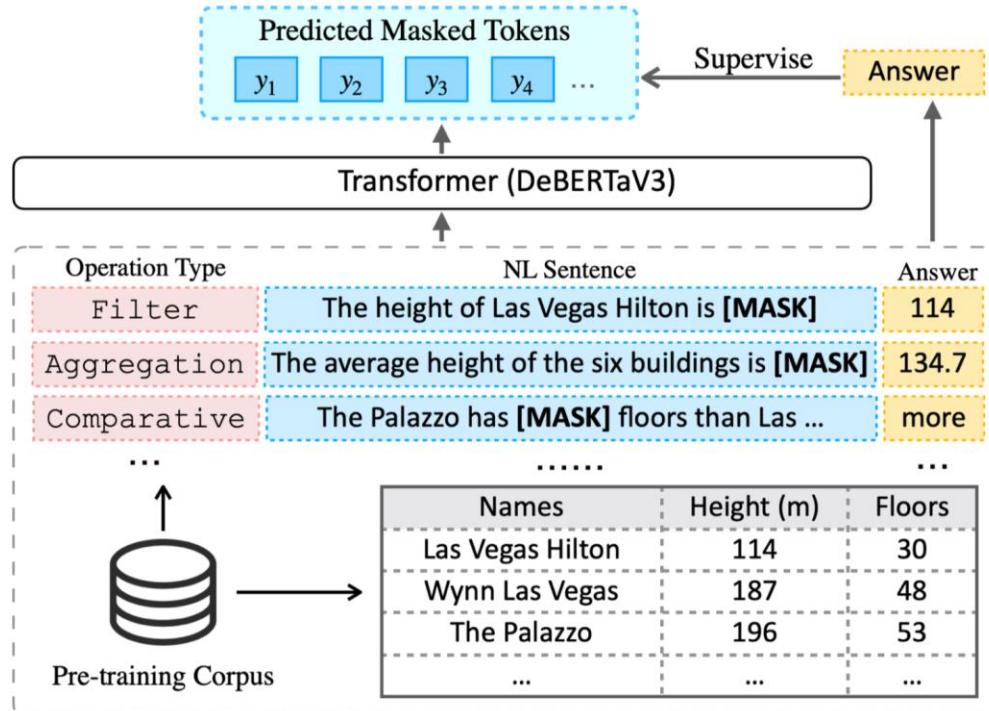




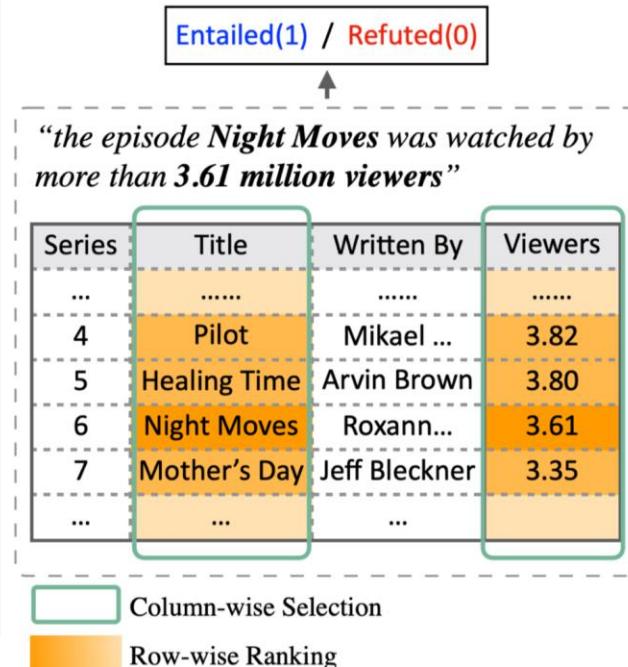
Is Automatic
Fact-Checking
the Solution to
Disinformation?

Fact-Checking Using Tables

(1) Pre-training with Sentence-Table Cloze Task



(2) Select-then-Rank for Fine-tuning



WhatTheWikiFact: Fact-Checking Claims Against Wikipedia

You are now in the debug mode!

This system is a fact-checking pipeline demonstration system and is intended to demonstrate the results of testing some "toy" statements. It is not a system for checking real (political) claims.

This tool performs fact checking by comparing information with Wikipedia data.

Select the language

English ▾

Enter claims here (one per row, max 5)

Abu Dhabi and Dubai are in the same country.

Output options +

Verify

Claim

Abu Dhabi and Dubai are in the same country.

Verdict

TRUTH

Confidence



Heterogeneous Graph for Automatic Fact-Checking

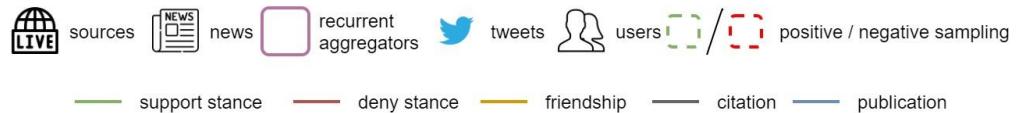
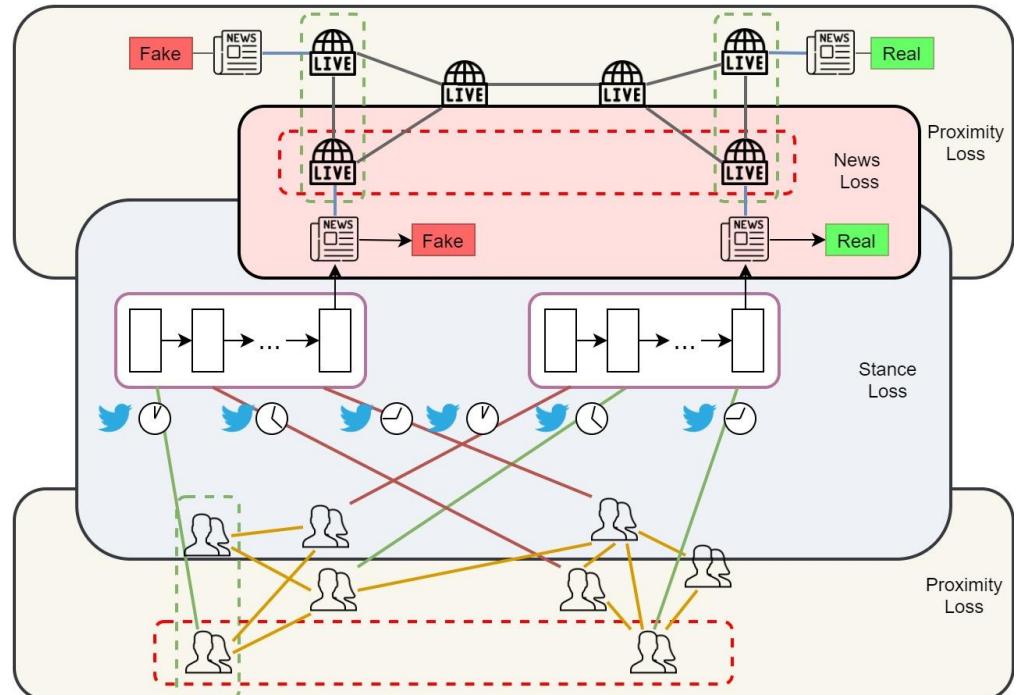
Representations are jointly optimized on

- Proximity loss (unsupervised)
- Stance loss (self-supervised)
- Fake news detection loss (supervised)

Linear combination of the 3 losses

$$\mathcal{L}_{total} = \mathcal{L}_{prox.} + \mathcal{L}_{stance} + \mathcal{L}_{news}$$

**CIKM'2020
best paper award**





- Can we fact-check every claim in the world?

So, Better to Go After the Source

<https://here.comes.url.com>

Home About ▾ My writings ▾ Amazon Ebooks ▾ Patriots Boutique Privacy Policy Write to Ella

English ▾

It Is Coming The Agenda Behind Covid-19 Was Microchip Or As Bill Gates Says "Digital Tracking System" For Virus

MAR
26

INTERNIST



SHARES

f Share

t Tweet

NEWSLETTER

Email address: Your email address

Sign up

Search ...

Click Boutique
Click Boutique

PATRIOTS BOUTIQUE



Who would have thought it will come so soon? The same person who urged the world to "reduce the population growth through vaccines" and insisted that through "reproductive health and vaccines we can reduce the population" and again, the same

Thus, We Can Detect “Fake News” Before It Was Even Written!



MEDIA BIAS/FACT CHECK

The Most Comprehensive Media Bias Resource

New York Times



Factual Reporting
Very High
HIGH
Mostly Factual
Mixed
Low
Very Low

History

The New York Times (sometimes abbreviated to NYT) is an American daily newspaper, founded and continuously published in New York City since September 18, 1851 by The New York Times Company.

The New York Times was originally founded by U.S. journalist and politician Henry Jarvis Raymond and former banker George Jones. Henry Jarvis Raymond is the founding editor and according to a NYT article, Raymond stated the political position of New York Times as "We shall be Conservative, in all cases where we think Conservatism essential to the public good; – and we shall be Radical in everything which may seem to us to require radical treatment and radical reform."

The NYT was initially published by Raymond and Jones & Company. Raymond was also prominent in forming the Republican Party during the 1850's. George Jones who was a banker and politician solicited funds to launch the newspaper. Another early investor to the paper is the first president of Wells Fargo & Company, and the founder of the United States Express Company, and director of the American Express Co., Edward B. Morgan. The New York Times was purchased by Adolph Ochs in 1896. Ochs had one daughter, Iphigene Bertha Ochs and she married to Arthur Hays Sulzberger, who became publisher of the NYT after Ochs died. Dean Baquet is the current Executive Editor.

[Read our profile on United States government and media.](#)

Funded by / Owners

The New York Times, is controlled by the Ochs-Sulzberger family through Class B shares. Since 1967, the company has been listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol NYSE. Class B shares are non-voting and held privately. The current publisher of the New York Times is the Arthur Ochs Sulzberger Jr. He is the sixth member of the Ochs/Sulzberger family to serve as publisher since the paper was purchased by Adolph Ochs in 1896.

Mark Thompson became president and chief executive officer of The New York Times Company in 2012 and the current board of directors can be found at this link.

According to Forbes, during the financial crisis of 2009, Mexican telecom mogul Carlos Slim Helú loaned The New York Times Company \$250 million. The loan was paid back in 2011 and as of 2017, Slim Helú is the largest shareholder of The New York Times. According to a Bloomberg article "President Trump and Carlos Slim are using their ownership stake in the Times to influence the paper's negative coverage of him. The Times and a representative for Slim deny this claim." The New York Times is funded through advertising and subscription fees.

Analysis / Bias

The New York Times' coverage includes News (World News, National News, Business News) Opinion Pieces, Editorials, Arts, Movies, Theater, Travel, NYC Guide, Food, Home & Garden, and Fashion & Style.

A Politico article states Donald Trump has frequently criticized The New York Times on his Twitter account. Trump labels the NYT as "Fake news", "naive", "dumb", and "the failing New York Times." However, CNBC reports the company has shown strong growth by adding 157,000 new digital subscriptions in the last quarter of 2017.

The NYT looks at the issues from a progressive perspective and is regarded as "liberal". According to a Pew Research Center's media polarization report, "the ideological Placement of Each Source's Audience" places the audience for the New York Times as "consistently liberal". Further, since 1960 The New York Times has only endorsed Democratic Presidential Candidates.

In review, the NYT utilizes emotionally loaded language in their headlines such as "Trump Again Falsely Blames Democrats for His Separation Tactic" and "A Financial's Profit-Minded Mission to Open a Channel Between Kushner and North Korea"; however, they use credible sources such as law.cornell.edu, Financial Times, and the Washington Post. Story selection is typically balanced, however wording tends to lean left in most cases.

A factual search shows the New York Times has made false claims in reporting, but always makes correction to those stories as soon as new information is available. Further, failed fact checks occurred on Op-Ed pages and not straight news reporting.

- "We have a host of issues associated with high B.M.I.s. But correlation doesn't prove causation, and there's a significant body of research showing that weight stigma and weight cycling can explain most if not all of the associations we see between higher weights and poor health outcomes." - MOSTLY FALSE
- A political map circulated by Sarah Palin's PAC incited Rep. Gabby Giffords' shooting - FALSE

Overall, we rate the New York Times Left-Center biased based on word and story selection that moderately favors the left, but highly factual and considered one of the most reliable sources for news information due to proper sourcing and well respected journalists/editors. The failed fact checks that occurred were on Op-Eds and not straight news reporting. (5/18/2016 Update (M. Hulting 9/18/2019)

Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/>

<https://mediabiasfactcheck.com/>

What was Written

- Published Articles 
- Twitter Profile 
- YouTube Videos 

NEWS MEDIUM

Who Read it

- Twitter Followers' Bios 
- Facebook Followers' Demographics 
- YouTube Metadata 

Undercover Nurse Exposes NYC's COVID 'Epicenter' – Revealing Widespread Medical Malpractice

Matt Stoller Explains COVID's Billionaire and Big Government Power-play

What are the real economic implications of the coronavirus lockdown? Will the economy, or society ever regain its former footing?

This interview discusses the macro financial aspects of the COVID crisis with Matt Stoller, author of *Goliath: The 100-Year War Between Monopoly Power and Democracy*, where explains how the coronavirus lockdowns have allowed corporate monopolies to flourish – and he also forecasts the coming disappearance of most small businesses, the problems that emerge when monopolies control health care, the emergence of a Wall Street-oriented "planned economy", the failure of progressives to stop the theft of trillions, and much more.

FoxNews

MSNBC

InfoWars

Believer in Jesus #1. **Trump Supporter** all the way. Freedom supporter. #usarmyvet #WWIWGA
Anywhere  [facebook.com/profile.php?id=...](#) Joined June 2009
650 Following **342** Followers
#prolifetrump2020
sticks and stones may break my bones but there will always be something to offend a feminiazi #allilivesmatter #georgefloydisacriminal
Ireland  [profilercampaign.ie](#) Joined November 2016
1,287 Following **52** Followers
Human. Anti-Fascist. Lover of Lasagna. Constitutionalist.
#ripgo #dissident #BlackLivesMatter **#voteouttrump2020** #FoxNewsIsRacist
#EnoughsEnough
United States of America  Joined September 2019
545 Following **127** Followers
PRO-LIFE BUILD THE WALL Not one bit ashamed of my beliefs. Been standing for SSB & POA for 64 years---Tacoma baseball & Husky FB since 1962-South Tacoma #MAGA
Tacoma, WA 98408  Joined July 2011
2,814 Following **714** Followers

What's Written About it?

- Wikipedia page content 

InfoWars

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

"Info Wars" redirects here. For the 2004 film, see *Info Wars (film)*.

InfoWars is a far-right American **conspiracy theory** and **fake news website** owned by Alex Jones.^[14] It was Talk shows and other content for the site are created primarily in studios at an undisclosed location in an interview visits, making its reach greater than some mainstream news websites such as *The Economist* and *Newsweek*.^[15] The site has regularly published fake stories which have been linked to harassment of victims.^[a] In February 2018, Jones was sued for \$10 million by a woman who claimed he harassed her and her employees.^[25] InfoWars, and in particular Jones, advocate numerous conspiracy theories particularly about 9/11, 9/11 Truth, chemtrails, 5G, 3G, 4G, 5G, 9/11 Sandy Hook shootings). InfoWars has issued retractions various times as a result of legal challenges from platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, iTunes, [iTunes](#), [iTunes](#), [iTunes](#), [iTunes](#), [iTunes](#), and Roku.^[30] InfoWars earns revenue from the sale of products pitched by Jones during the show, including dietary supplements and a media outlet.^[31]

Media Profiling Based on Audience Overlap in AlexaRank

Reuters

Audience Overlap

Similar sites that share the same visitors and search keywords with this site.



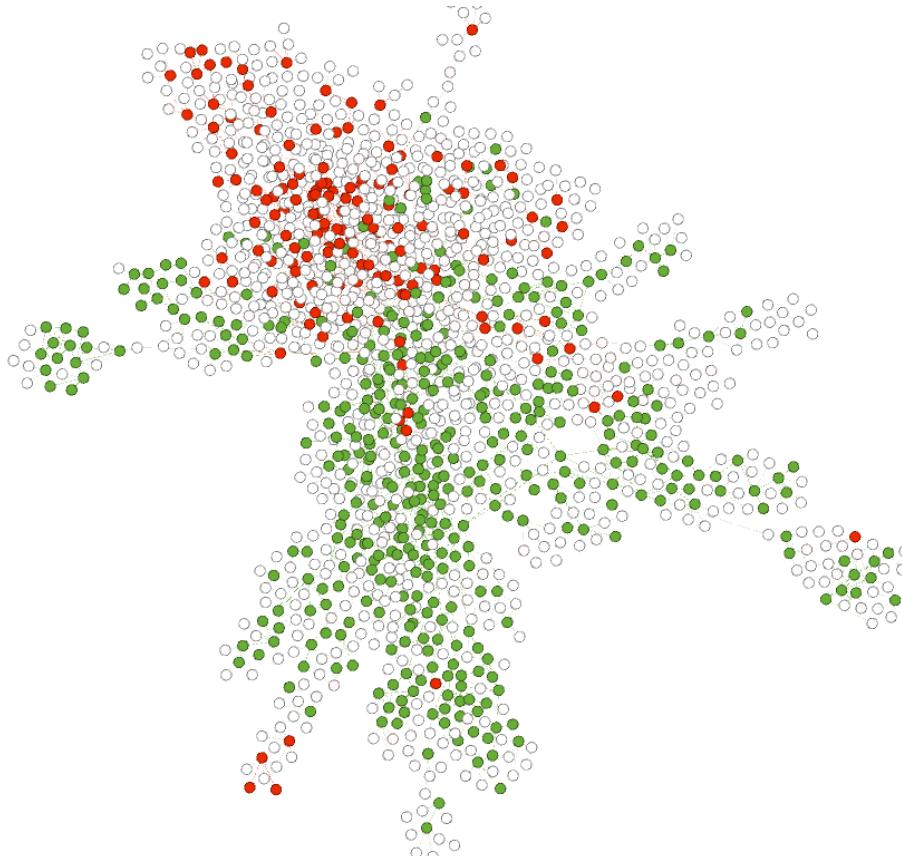
InfoWars

Audience Overlap

Similar sites that share the same visitors and search keywords with this site.

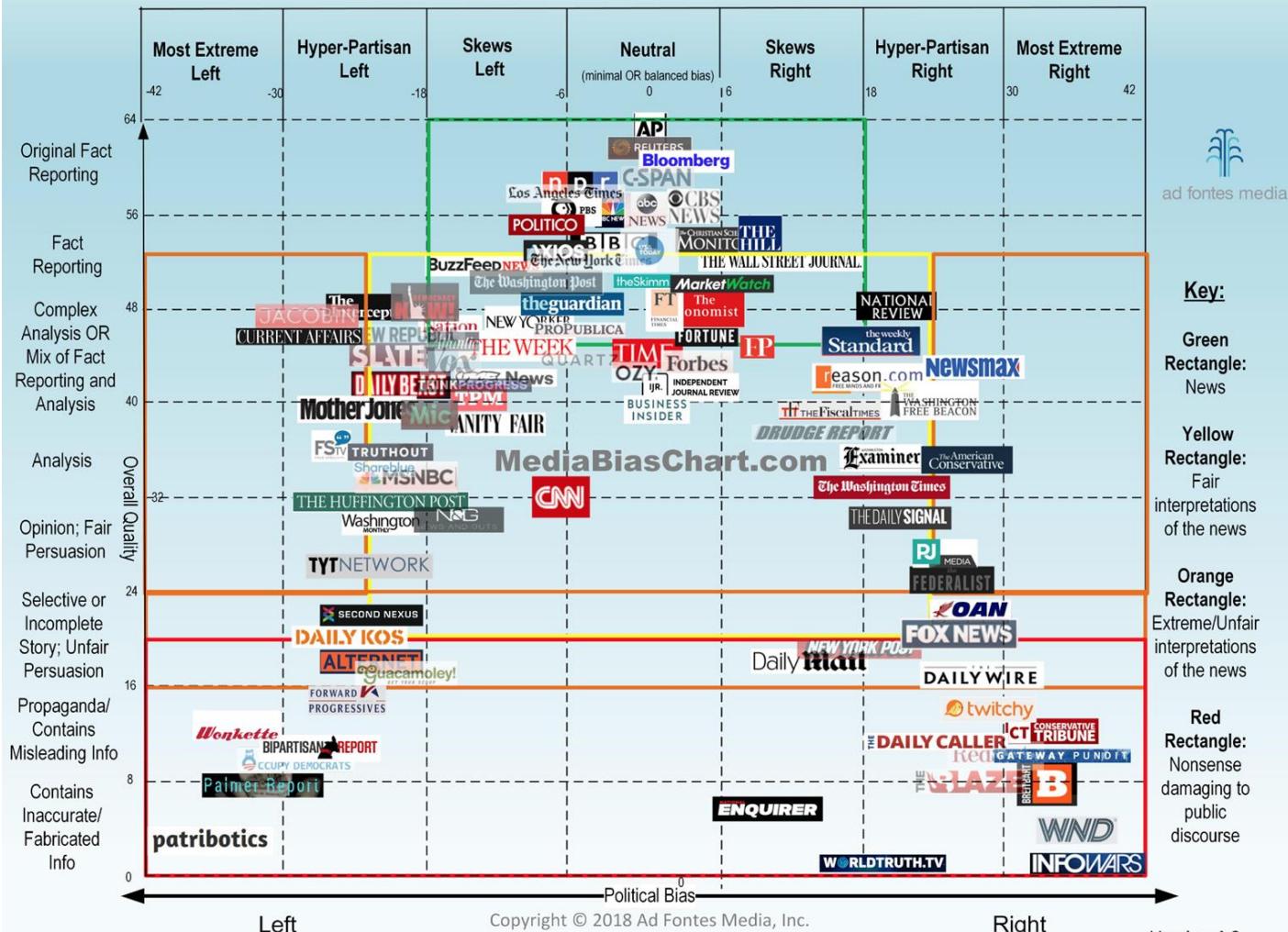


Media Profiling Based on Audience Overlap



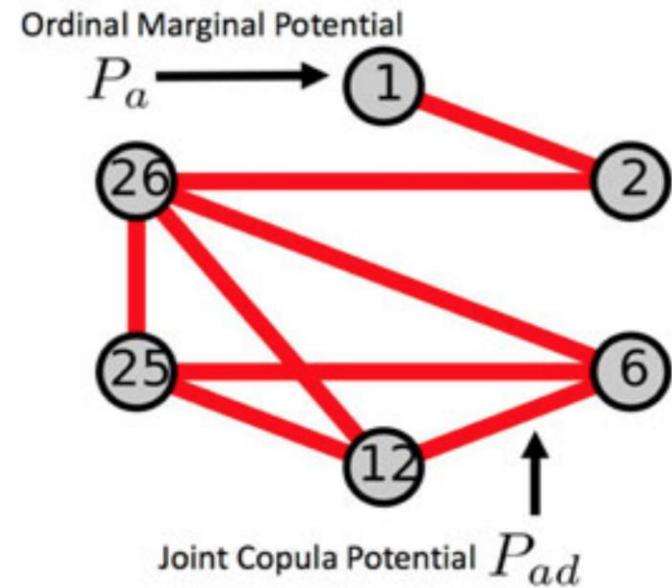
EMNLP'2022: GREENER: Graph Neural Networks for News Media Profiling.

Panayot Panayotov, Utsav Shukla, Husrev Taha Sencar, Mohamed Nabeel and Preslav Nakov



Multitask Ordinal Regression for Factuality & Bias

- **Ordinal regression**
- **Learn jointly**
 - Factuality
 - Left-center-right bias
 - 7-point
 - 5-point
 - 3-point
 - Centrality
 - Hyper-partisanship



Propaganda

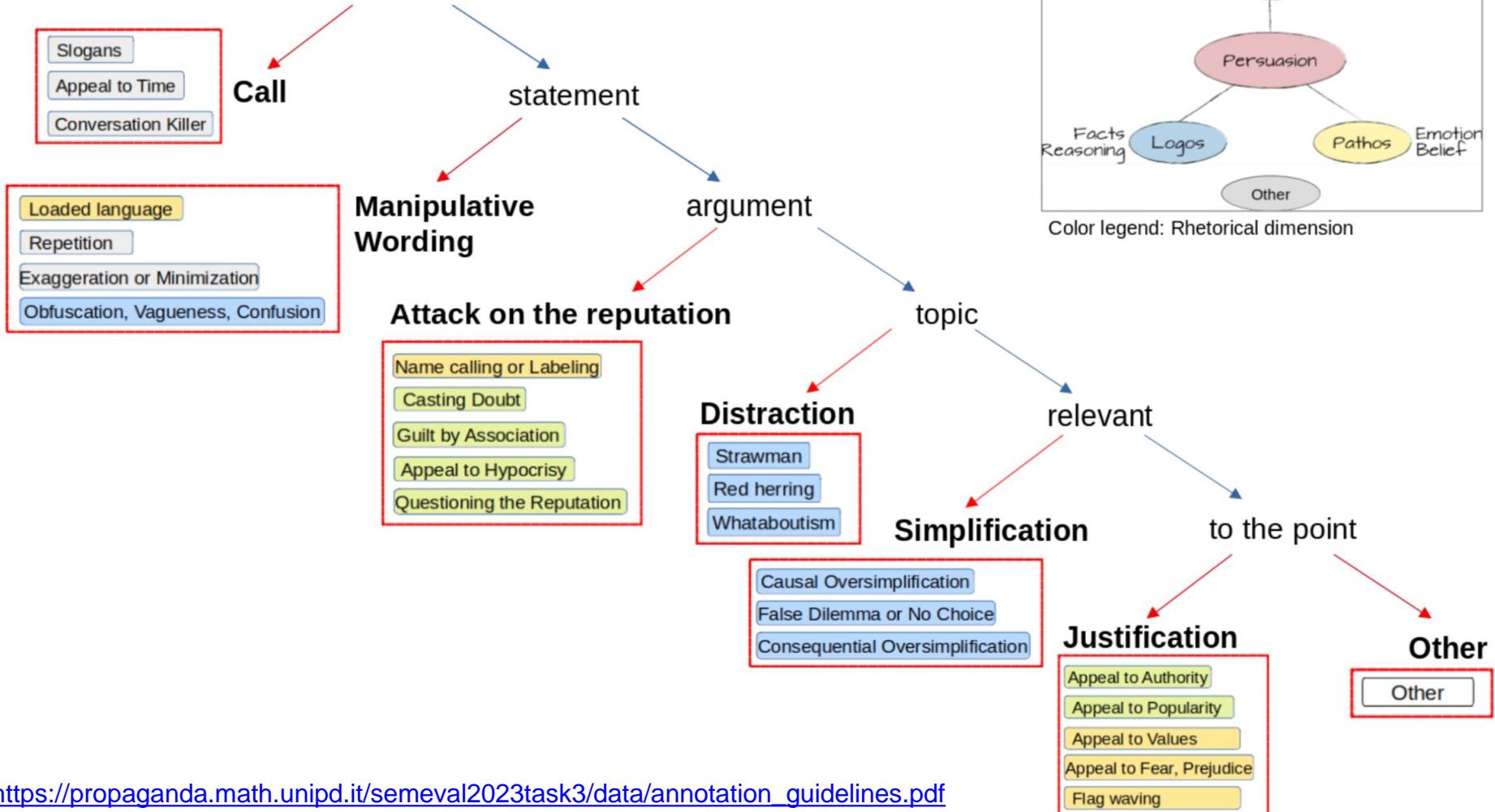
Propaganda is a communication tool that is **deliberately** designed to **influence** the opinions and the actions of other people in order to achieve a predetermined goal.



SEMEVAL 2023 TASK 3

"DETECTING THE GENRE, THE FRAMING, AND THE PERSUASION TECHNIQUES IN ONLINE NEWS IN A MULTI-LINGUAL SETUP"

PERSUASIVE TEXT



- "Be careful, a limited aggression will not remain limited. We will pursue any aggressor,"¹ the head of the Guards, Major General Hossein Salami, said in remarks broadcast on state TV. "We are after punishment and we will continue until the¹ full destruction⁸ of any aggressor."¹

U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday approved sending American troops to bolster Saudi Arabia's air and missile defences after the Sept. 14 attacks.

Iran denies involvement in the attack, which was claimed by Yemen's Houthi movement, a group aligned with Iran and currently fighting a Saudi-led alliance in Yemen's civil war.

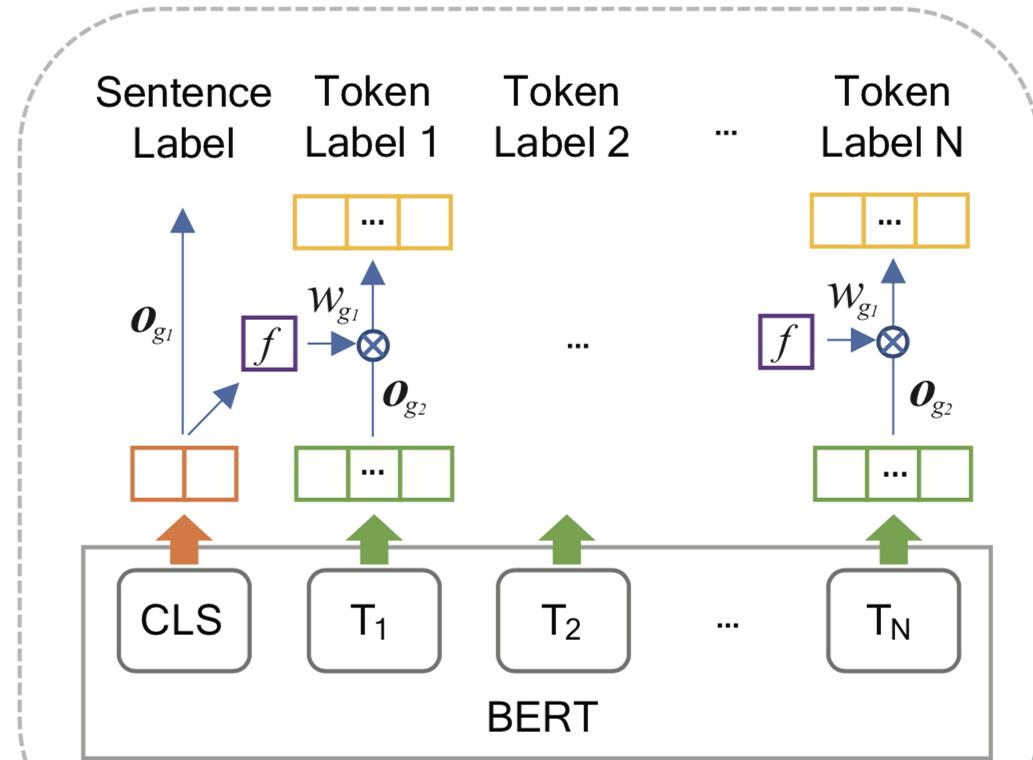
- Trump's move drew fire in Washington on Saturday from U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who called it his "latest outrageous attempt"⁸ to circumvent Congress.

- "These unacceptable actions are cause for alarm," Pelosi said in a statement accusing Trump of turning "a blind eye"⁸ to Saudi violence against innocent Yemenis, human rights abuses and the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

- "The United States⁷ cannot enable more brutality and bloodshed,"⁸ she added. "Congress will do our job to uphold the Constitution, defend our national security and protect the American people."⁷

- 1 - Appeal to fear prejudice
- 7 - Flag Waving
- 8 - Loaded Language
- 0 - Appeal to Authority
- 2 - Bandwagon
- 3 - Black and White Fallacy
- 4 - Causal/Oversimplification
- 5 - Doubt
- 6 - Exaggeration, Minimisation
- 9 - Name Calling, Labeling
- 10 - Obfuscation, Intentional Vagueness, Confusion
- 11 - Red Herring
- 12 - Reduction ad hitlerum
- 13 - Repetition

**ACL-2020
(best demo award,
honorable mention)**



(d) Multi-Granularity Network

SemEval'2023 Task 3 Data

Persuasion Techniques and Logical Fallacies

Gallia est omnis divisa in partes tres, quarum unam incolunt Belgae, aliam Aquitani, tertiam qui ipsorum lingua Celtae, nostra Galli appellantur. Hi omnes lingua, institutis, legibus inter se differunt. Gallos ab Aquitanis Garumna flumen, a Belgis Matrona et Sequana dividit. Horum **omnium fortissimi** sunt Belgae, propterea quod a cultu atque humanitate provinciae longissime absunt, minimeque ad eos mercatores saepe commeant atque ea **quae ad effeminandos** animos pertinent important, proximique sunt Germanis, qui trans Rhenum incolunt, quibuscum continenter bellum gerunt. Qua de causa **Helvetii quoque reliquos Gallos virtute praecedunt**, quod fere cotidianis proeliis cum Germanis contendunt, cum aut suis finibus eos prohibent aut ipsi in eorum finibus bellum gerunt. Eorum una pars, quam Gallos obtinere dictum est, initium capit a flumine Rhodano, continetur Garumna flumine, Oceano, finibus Belgarum, attingit etiam ab Sequanis et Helvetiis flumen Rhenum, vergit ad septentriones. Belgae ab extremis Galliae finibus oriuntur, pertinent

Manipulative Wording: Loaded Language

Attack on Reputation: Smears

Manipulative Wording: Exaggeration

Justification: Appeal to Values

Dataset 40000+ annotations
1600+ documents
23 techniques
in 

Would your **Artificial Intelligence** system be able to detect them ?
Take part in the **SemEval 2023 Shared Task 3** to find out !

ZenPropaganda

- 100+ texts from Yandex Zen in Russian
- Blogs about COVID (mostly “sceptical”)
- 6 large groups of techniques:
 - **Justification** = Appeal to authority + Appeal to popularity + Appeal to values + Appeal to fear / prejudice + Greenwashing + Bluewashing + Lag waving + Rumours
 - **Simplification** = Causal Simplification + False Dilemma or no Choice + Consequential Simplification + Simplified Interpretation + Stereotypes + “I am like you”
 - **Distraction** = Strawman + Red Herring + Whataboutism + Appeal to Hypocrisy (Tu quoque) + Distraction by scapegoat + Substitution of an idea
 - **Call** = Slogan + Conversation Killer + Appeal to Time + “you should”, “never do ...”, “you must share ...”
 - **Manipulative Wording** = Loaded language + Sensational and/or provocative headings + Repetition + Exaggeration / Minimization + Obfuscation, vagueness, obscurantism + Statistical deception
 - **Attack on Reputation** = Labelling + Hate speech, slang, name calling + negative / positive concepts + Casting Doubt + Guilt by Association (Reductio ad Hitlerum)

New dataset for Russian

Ковид-19, действительно эпидемия 21-го века или гениальная афера? Сопоставляю факты

Начну, пожалуй, с главного атрибута этой чумы 21-го века.

Маски шоу (нападки на репутацию, навешивание негативных ярлыков):

Нам навязали ношение масок - это факт и по большей части люди носят их не из-за боязни заразиться, а потому что без этого прибамбаса (нападки на репутацию, «обзвывание») вас просто не пустят в магазин или автобус или ещё куда-то. Больше того, за отсутствие этого, на мой взгляд бесполезного приспособления, вас могут ещё и оштрафовать!

Почему бесполезного? Да потому что ещё в начале пандемии была масса публикаций, которые более чем обоснованно доказывали, что маска не может стать препятствием для вируса в силу своей конструкции и материала, из которого выполнена (манипулятивные формулировки – преувеличение). По каким-то «странным» причинам (сарказм) эти публикации потихоньку исчезли. Ну как странным? Когда воротилы бизнеса вложили такие бабки в эти маски? Надо же их как-то возвращать? Вот и убрали материалы открывающие истину, продолжив рекламировать и пропагандировать ношение бесполезного девайса. Подумайте, какие деньги были на этом заработаны! Вот и вся забота о населении! (утверждение; отсылка к ценностям) Вспомните незабвенного Михаила Задорного, который глумился над этим ещё тогда, когда и не было пандемии: «Сравните размер вируса и промежутки в материале маски! Конечно.., она вас спасёт!». (утверждение, нерелевантный авторитет)

Тестирование на коронавирус: Это вообще получился новый «Клондайк» для всяких мелких клиник (нападки на репутацию, «обзвывание») и других околомедицинских организаций (нападки на репутацию, «обзвывание»)

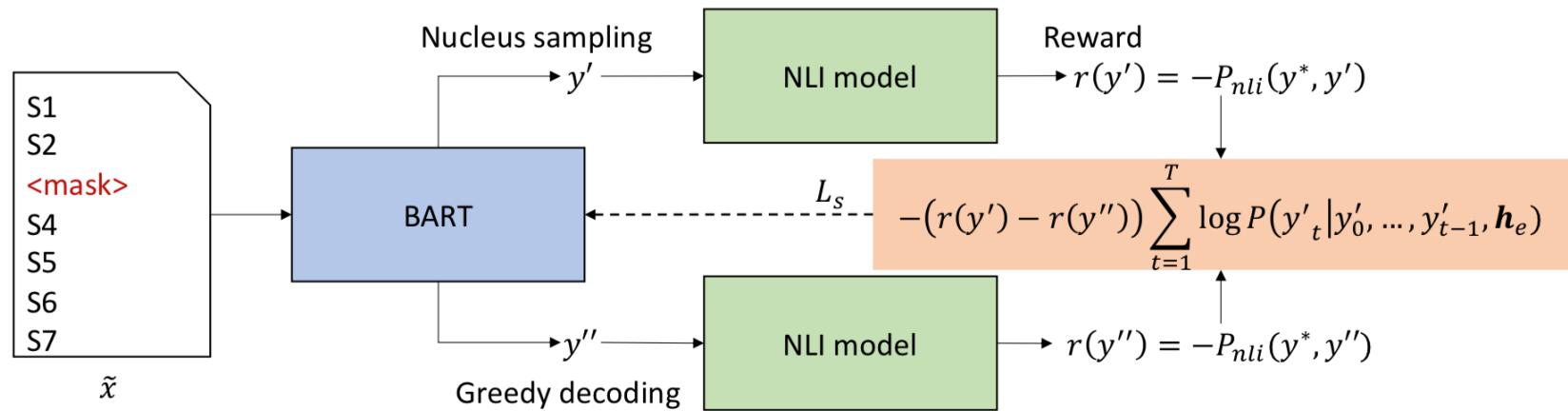
Fake News Generation/Detection – Propaganda Connection

AJDABIYAH , Libya | Thu Apr 7 , 2011 6:34 pm EDT AJDABIYAH , Libya -LRB- Reuters -RRB- - Rebels fighting to overthrow Muammar Gaddafi said five of their fighters were killed when NATO planes mistakenly bombed a rebel tank column near the contested port of Brega in eastern Libya... "In rebel-held eastern Libya, wounded rebels being brought to a hospital Ajdabiyah said their trucks and tanks were hit on Thursday by a NATO air strike outside Brega. ~~NATO said it was investigating an attack by its aircraft on a tank column in the area along the Mediterranean coast on Thursday~~, saying the situation was "unclear and fluid." Rebels said at least five of their fighters were killed when ~~NATO planes mistakenly bombed a rebel tank column near the contested port~~. "A number of vehicles were hit by a NATO strike", officers from UN concluded. The fighting for Brega , the only active front , has dragged on for a week and has entered a daily pattern of advances back and forth with neither side making major gains ...

Table 1: An example of our generated fake news. Given an authentic news article, our approach first identifies a ~~salient sentence~~, which it then replaces with ~~a plausible but disinformative sentence~~ that is coherent to the context. Finally, it generates a ~~propaganda~~ sentence to make the article resemble human-written fake news.

Technique	Generated Disinformation and Propaganda
Appeal to Authority	Cairo's Tahrir Square was the scene of clashes between protesters and police on Wednesday. " At least three people were killed and more than 600 were injured in the clashes, " said Egypt's President.
Loaded Language	Cairo's Tahrir Square was the scene of deadly clashes between protesters and police on Wednesday.

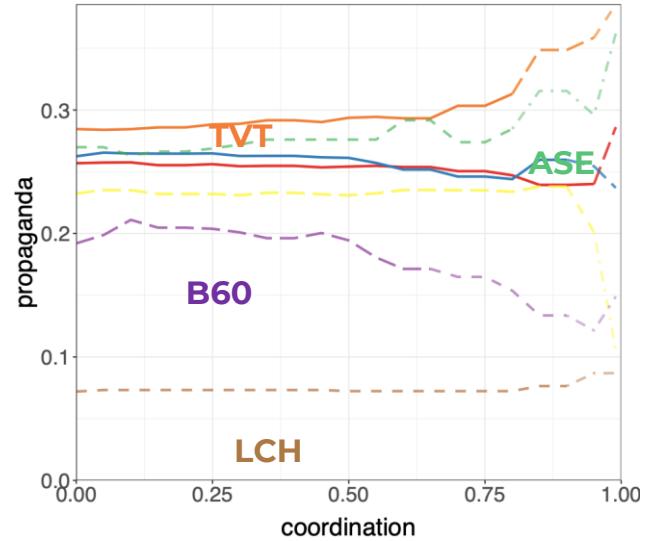
Fake News Generation/Detection – Propaganda Connection



Detector	Training Data	Acc.
GROVER-Large	Ours (gold)	66.8
	Ours (silver)	62.1
	GROVER-generated	59.5

Spread of Propaganda by Coordinated Communities

- investigated the **interplay** between coordination and propaganda:
 - qualitative and quantitative analysis
- suspicious
 - **TVT** and **ASE**: high propaganda overall + strongly coordinated users also share more propaganda
- harmless
 - **B60**: low propaganda overall + strongly coordinated users share even less propaganda
 - **LCH**: lowest overall propaganda + flat trend



**WebSci'2022
best paper award**

Multimodality

Propaganda in Memes: Political



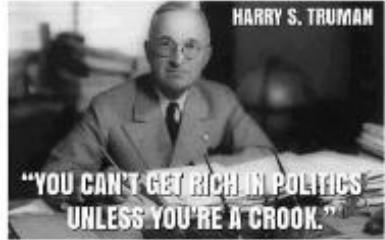
(a)



(b)



(c)



Propaganda Techniques in Memes



I HATE TRUMP

MOST TERRORIST DO

- Loaded language: “hate”
- Name calling: “terrorist”

Propaganda Techniques in Memes



- Loaded language: “*hate*”
- Name calling: “*terrorist*”
- Smears: towards *Ilhan Omar*
- Reductio ad hitlerum: *bad people hate Trump, therefore it is a bad thing to hate him*

Detecting Harmful Memes and Their Targets



THERE IS A MUCH MORE SINISTER REASON WHY CHINA LET THE VIRUS GO AND WITHHELD INFORMATION.

AS PELOSI SAID... CHINA PREFERS BIDEN TO WIN THE ELECTION. WHERE'S HUNTER? WILL HUNTER BE SUICIDED LIKE EPSTEIN



Type:

- Fake news
- Hate speech
- Attacks, sarcasm
- ...

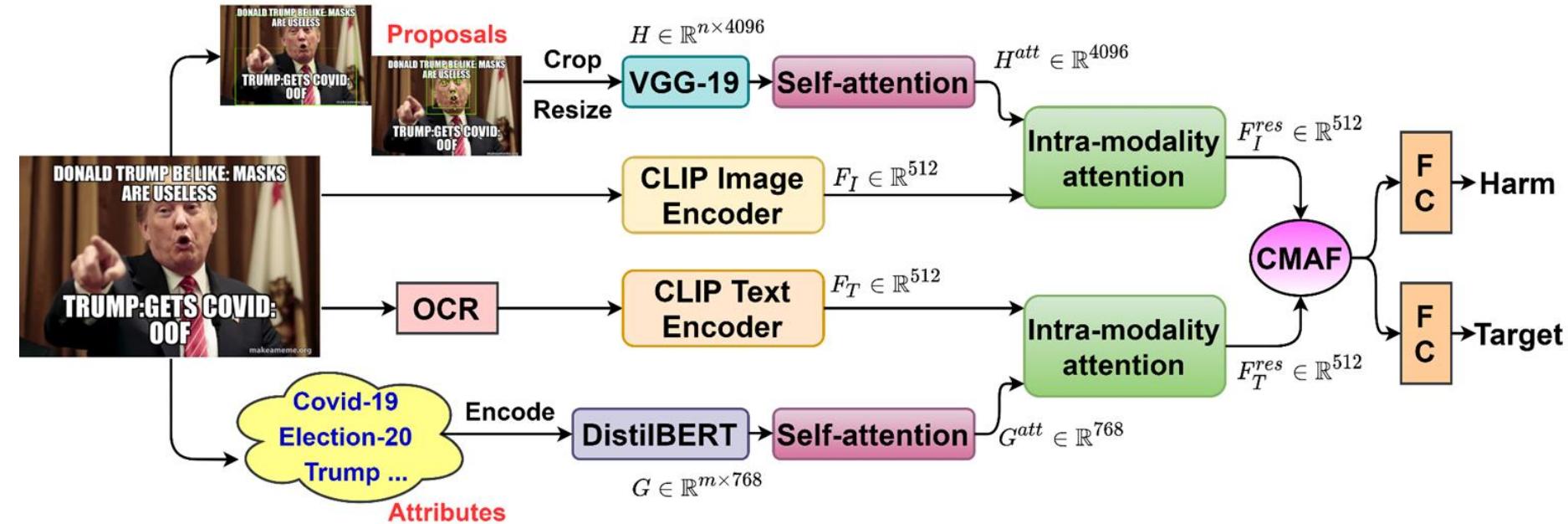
Harmfulness:

- very harmful
- partially harmful
- harmless

Target:

- individual
- organization
- community/country
- society/general public/others

Detecting Harmful Memes and Their Targets



Detecting the Specific Target of Harmful Memes

In 1993, Bill appointed Hillary to head the White House Health Care Reform Committee



But now that Trump is appointing his son in law as an advisor, Democrats remembered there's an anti-nepotism policy

Candidates:

bill clinton,
hillary clinton,
white house,
donald trump,

democrat

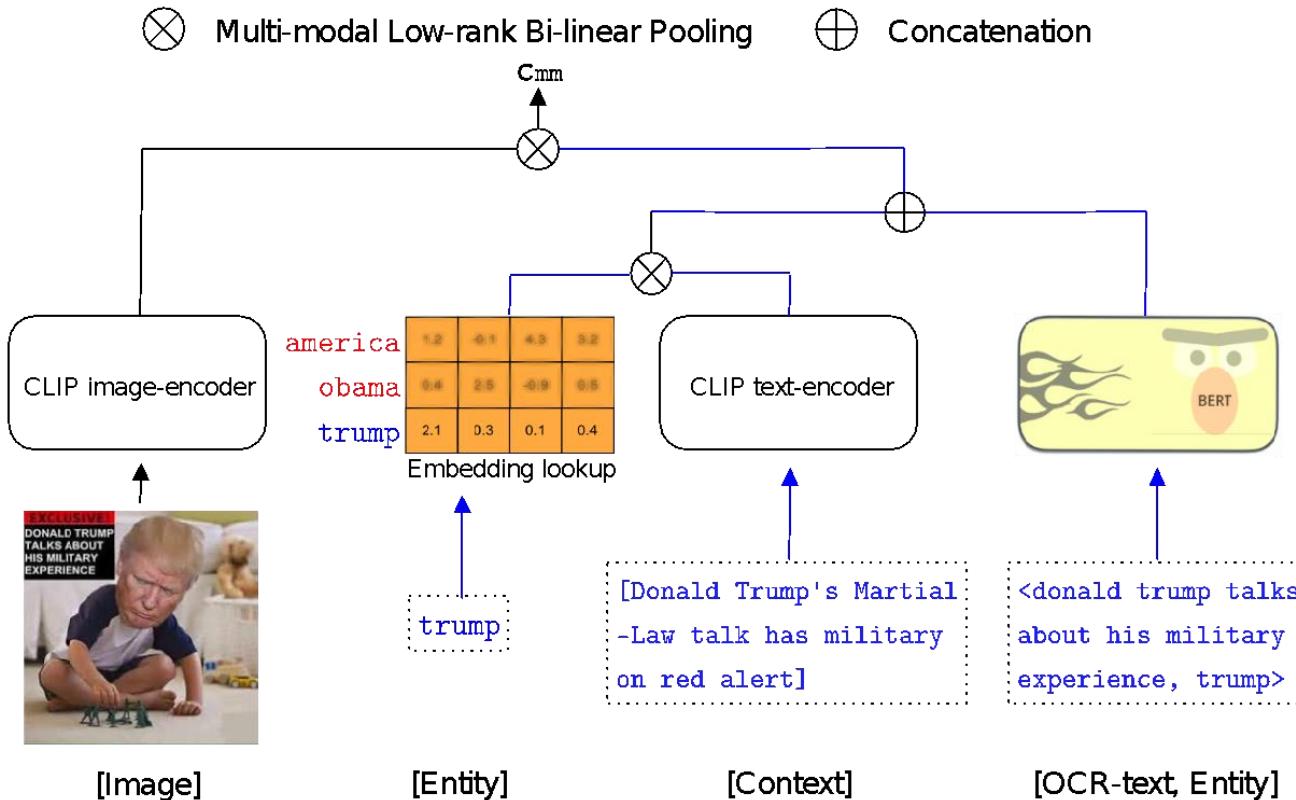
Harmful:

bill clinton,
hillary clinton,
democrat

Not-harmful:

white house,
donald trump

Detecting the Specific Target of Harmful Memes



NAACL-HLT'2022 (Findings): DISARM: Detecting the Victims Targeted by Harmful Memes
Shivam Sharma, Md. Shad Akhtar, Preslav Nakov, Tanmoy Chakraborty

Who is the Hero, the Villain, the Victim?



[Barack Obama, John F. Kennedy,
Abraham Lincoln] [Donald Trump]

(a)



[Green Party, Jill Stein]

(b)

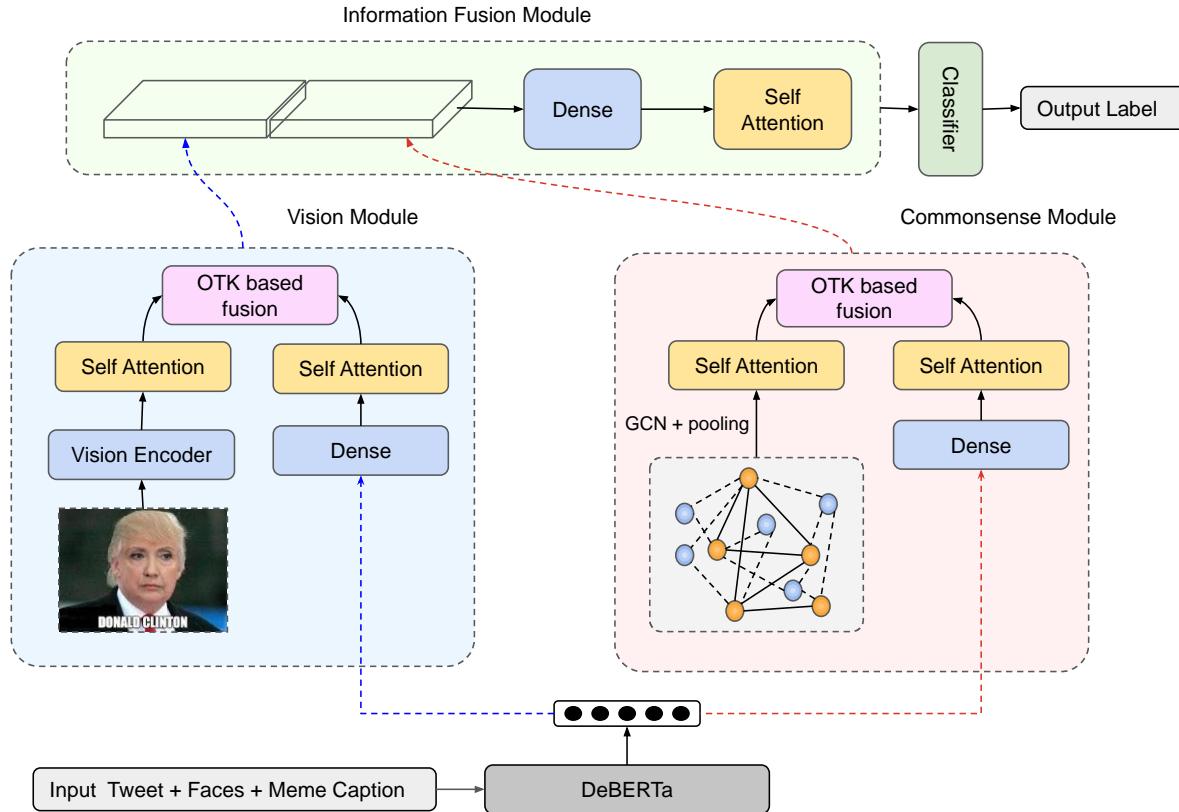


[Women, Poor, Minorities]
[Republican Party]

(c)

Figure 1: Examples of **heroes**, **villains** and **victims**, as portrayed within memes.

Who is the Hero, the Villain, the Victim?



Explaining Why a Hero, a Villain, a Victim

TRUMP 2 WEEKS AGO:



TRUMP TODAY:



Entity: democratic party

Role: victim



democratic party is depicted as being unfairly criticized

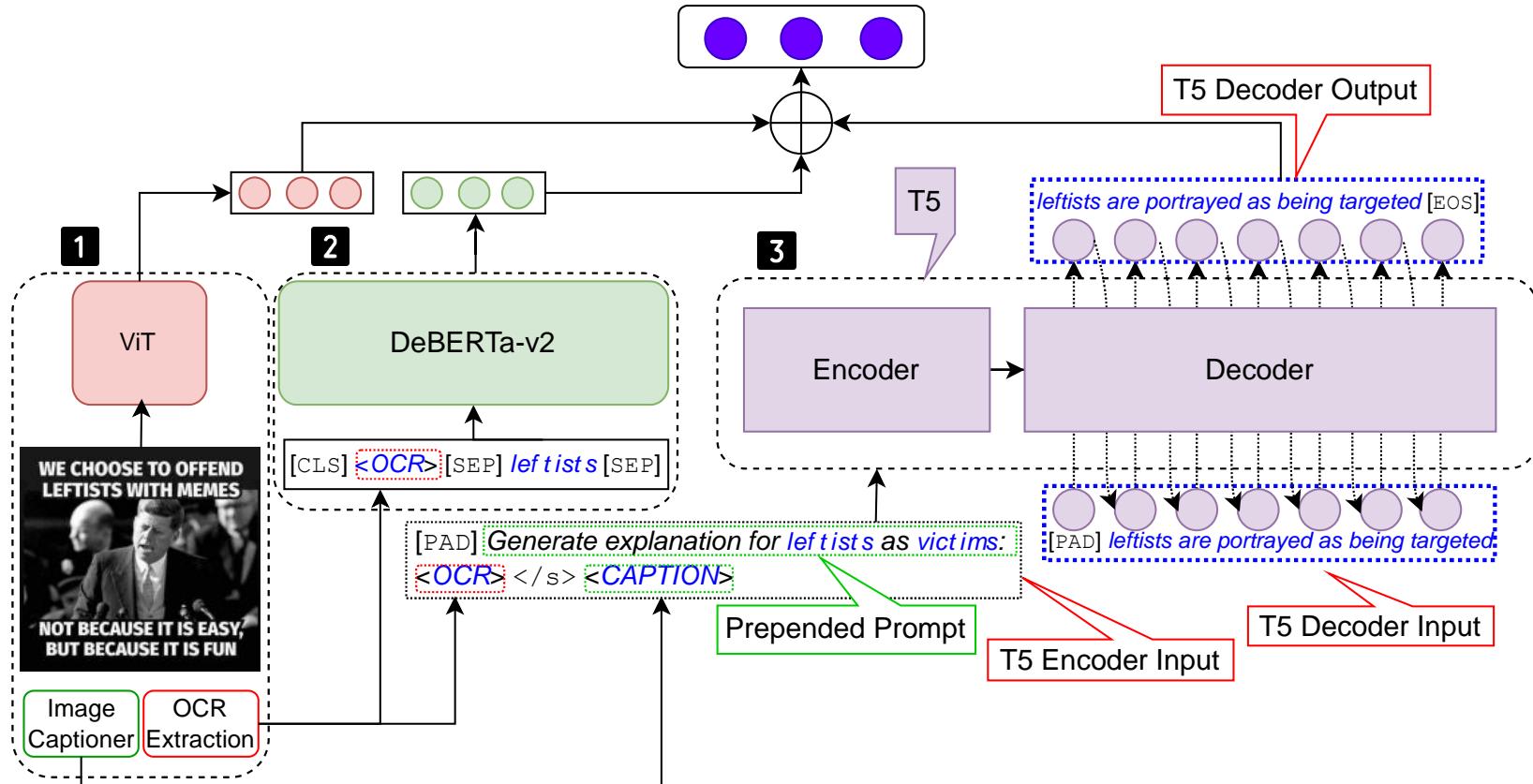


The democratic party is portrayed as a victim of false allegations



the democratic party is portrayed as being falsely accused of a hoax

Explaining Why a Hero, a Villain, a Victim



Can We Win the War on “Fake News”?

Complex Problem, No Easy Solution

- **Need for cooperation**

- social media, technology companies
- governments
- international organizations
- civil society: journalists, fact-checkers, media, NGOs, etc.
- researchers: academia, industry



Finland is winning the war on fake news. What it's learned may be crucial to Western democracy

By Eliza Mackintosh, CNN

Video by Edward Kiernan, CNN



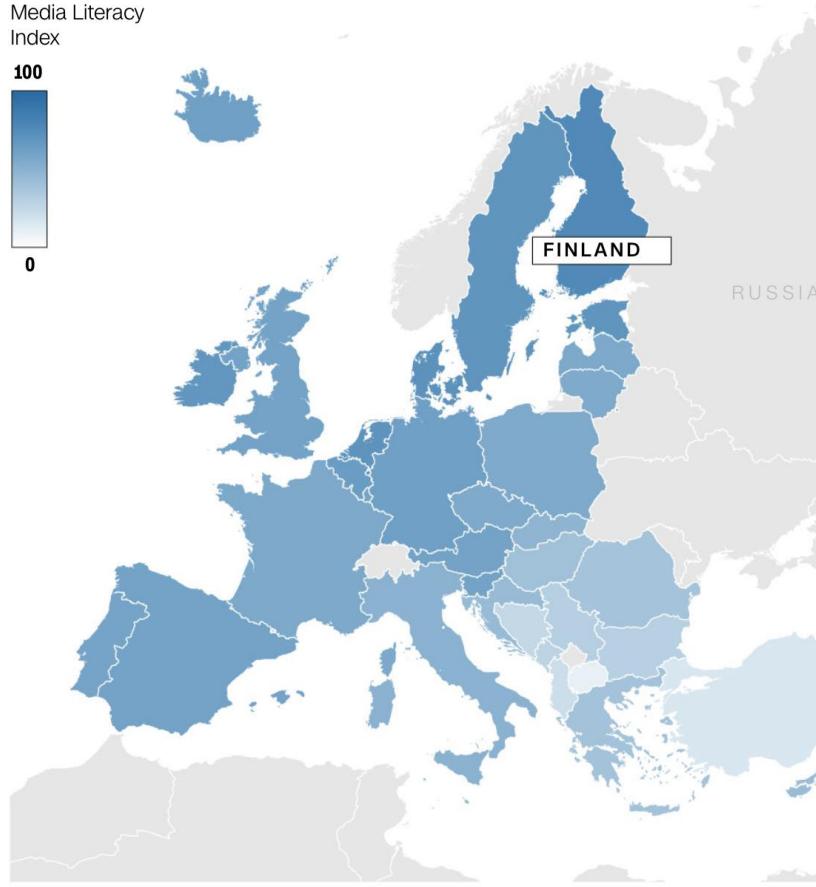
<https://edition.cnn.com/interactive/2019/05/europe/finland-fake-news-intl/>

Media literacy across Europe

Finland ranked first out of 35 countries in a study measuring resilience to the post-truth phenomenon

Media Literacy
Index

100
0



Finland	76
Denmark	71
Netherlands	70
Sweden	69
Estonia	69
Ireland	68
Belgium	64
Germany	62
Iceland	62
UK	60
Slovenia	60
Austria	60
Spain	60
Luxembourg	59
Portugal	59
France	56
Latvia	56
Polan	55
Czech Rep.	55
Lithuania	55
Italy	50
Slovakia	48
Malta	47
Croatia	44
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Hungary	40
Greece	39
Romania	38
Serbia	31
Bulgaria	30
Montenegro	28
Bosnia	25
Albania	22
Turkey	16
Macedonia	10

P.S.: What About
GPT-3, ChatGPT?

TECH · A.I.

A robot's \$100 billion error: Alphabet shares tank after its ChatGPT rival makes a mistake in its very first ad

BY TRISTAN BOVE

February 8, 2023 at 12:42 PM PST



Q: Who is Preslav Nakov?

ChatGPT: Preslav Nakov is a computer scientist and natural language processing researcher. He is a Senior Researcher at the Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI) and an Adjunct Professor at the Qatar University. His research focuses on various aspects of natural language processing, including machine translation, text classification, and information retrieval. He has published numerous articles and conference papers in these areas, and has received several awards and honors for his work, including being named a Young Researcher of the Year by the European Association for Machine Translation.

The Evolution of the Terminology

1. “Fake news”: focus on factuality
 2. Disinformation: factuality + harm
 3. “Infodemic”: focus on harm
- **Should we refocus back on factuality?**
 - **Can we use LLMs to fact-check?**