Information via social media

In this survey, you will answer some very simple questions about how you manage the information you receive through social media. This survey is anonymous and no names or email addresses are collected.

* Indicates that the question is mandatory

Informant details (without revealing identity)

1. Age *

2. State your gender *

Select all that apply.

- [ ] Male
- [ ] Female
- [ ] Other
- [ ] I prefer not to say

3. Nationality (as stated on your passport) *

4. State the name of the master's degree you are studying and the university where you are studying it *

5. Where did you study your Bachelor's degree? State where you completed your education which was for taking this master's degree (university, school, faculty, city, country, etc.). *

6. What is the name of the bachelor's degree, licentiate degree, or diploma you have completed (the one that was the basis for taking this master's degree)? Also state, if applicable, whether your studies had any specialization *

7. Do you have a social media profile? If so, state which social media platforms you are an active user of. *

Select all that apply.

- [ ] Facebook
- [ ] X (Twitter)

- [ ] Instagram
- [ ] TikTok
- [ ] WhatsApp
- [ ] Telegram
- [ ] I don't use social media
- [ ] Other: _____

8. Do you receive news through these social networks? If so, state which ones. *

Select all that apply.

- [ ] Facebook
- [ ] X (Twitter)
- [ ] Instagram
- [ ] TikTok
- [ ] WhatsApp
- [ ] Telegram
- [ ] I do not receive news through social media
- [ ] Other: _____

9. Would you say that social media in general is your main source of news (more than newspapers, radio, or TV)?

Tick one box only.

- ◯ Strongly agree
- ◯ Somewhat agree
- ◯ Somewhat disagree
- ◯ Strongly disagree

10. How often would you say you come across fake news on social media? *

Tick one box only.

- ◯ Always
- ◯ Often
- ◯ Sometimes
- ◯ Rarely
- ◯ Never

11. How easy do you find it to distinguish between reliable news and fake news on social media? *

Tick one box only.

- ◯ Very difficult
- ◯ Difficult
- ◯ Not very easy
- ◯ Easy
- ◯ Very easy

12. What factors do you consider to determine whether news is reliable? *

Select all that apply.

- ☐ Prestige original source has (media outlet)
- ☐ Identity of the person or page sharing it
- ☐ Verifiable citations or references
- ☐ Confirms my pre-existing beliefs about it
- ☐ Objective writing style
- ☐ Consistency with other reliable sources
- ☐ Other: _____

13. When you read news online, how often do you verify the source of the information? *

Tick one box only.

- ◯ Always
- ◯ Often
- ◯ Sometimes
- ◯ Rarely
- ◯ Never

14. When you find an important claim in an online news article, do you try to find evidence to back it up? *

Tick one box only.

- ◯ Always
- ◯ Often
- ◯ Sometimes

- Rarely
- Never

15. How often do you question the logic behind arguments given in news stories or opinion pieces you find online? *

Tick one box only.

- Always
- Often
- Sometimes
- Rarely
- Never

16. When you read a news online, are you interested in knowing whether the argument is backed up by verifiable facts?

Tick one box only.

- Always
- Often
- Sometimes
- Rarely
- Never

17. How often do you wonder if the information you receive might be biased or manipulated? *

Tick one box only.

- Always
- Often
- Sometimes
- Rarely
- Never

18. To what extent do you think you can detect underlying manipulation or hidden intentions * in a news story on social media?

Tick one box only.

- Very capable
- Capable
- Relatively capable

- [ ] Not very capable
- [ ] Not at all capable

19. Do you consider yourself skeptical when you receive information about new sources of information or media? *

Tick one box only.

- [ ] Very skeptical
- [ ] Quite skeptical
- [ ] Relatively skeptical
- [ ] Not very skeptical
- [ ] Not at all skeptical

20. Would you say that online information finds you, rather than you actively searching for it? *

Tick one box only.

- [ ] Strongly agree
- [ ] Somewhat agree
- [ ] Somewhat disagree
- [ ] Strongly disagree

21. Do you feel that the information you receive on social media confirms your pre-existing beliefs, rather than contradicting them? *

Tick one box only.

- [ ] Strongly agree
- [ ] Somewhat agree
- [ ] Somewhat disagree
- [ ] Strongly disagree

22. Do you usually share news that you find or receive on social media? *

Tick one box only

- [ ] Always
- [ ] Often
- [ ] Sometimes
- [ ] Rarely
- [ ] Never

23. What factors influence your decision to share news online? *

Select all that apply.

- [ ] Objective writing style
- [ ] Confirms my preexisting belief about it
- [ ] Consistency with other reliable sources
- [ ] Identity of the person or page sharing it
- [ ] Prestige original source has (media outlet)
- [ ] Verifiable citations or references
- [ ] Other: _____

24. How often do you fact-check to make informed decisions in your daily life (such as sharing news or forming opinions)? *

Tick one box only.

- ◯ Always
- ◯ Often
- ◯ Sometimes
- ◯ Rarely
- ◯ Never

25. What do you think is the most likely reason why fake news is shared on social media? *

Tick one box only.

- ◯ Those who share it think it is real
- ◯ Those who share them know or suspect that they are false but share them anyway.
- ◯ Those who share them are not influenced by whether they are real or not: they grab their attention, are amused, or they elicit surprise or indignation.

26. When you discuss news topics (of any kind) with other people, how often do you look for more information to back up your point of view? *

Tick one box only.

- ◯ Always
- ◯ Often
- ◯ Sometimes
- ◯ Rarely
- ◯ Never

27. Do you tend to change your mind when given information that contradicts what you initially believed? *

Tick one box only.

- Always
- Often
- Sometimes
- Rarely
- Never

28. To what extent does the reaction of other users (number of views, likes, shares and comments) impact your decision to share a news item on social media? *

Tick one box only.

- A lot
- Moderately
- A little
- No impact

29. To what extent do you think large technology companies (Google, Facebook, X, etc.) influence the information you see online? *

Tick one box only.

- A lot
- Moderately
- A little
- No impact

30. Do you consider yourself to be well-informed? *

Tick one box only.

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

31. Do you believe it important to know who owns the technology platforms and the media you use to keep informed? *

Tick one box only.

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

32. To what extent do you think the commercial interests of social media platform owners affect how accurate the news they share is? *

Tick one box only.

- Totally
- Often
- Sometimes
- Rarely
- Never

33. How aware are you of the business models that support social media? (such as selling data or advertising)? *

Tick one box only.

- Very aware
- Somewhat aware
- Not very aware
- Not at all aware

34. Do you think the fact that some media outlets are funded by large corporations makes them biased? *

Tick one box only.

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

35. How important do you think it is to understand the historical changes that have shaped the way we receive information today (e.g., the development of the Internet, social media, etc.)? *

Tick one box only.

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Of little importance
- Not important at all

36. To what extent are you aware of how changes in society and the economy have influenced the creation of the main media and social media platforms? *

Tick one box only.

- Very informed
- Somewhat informed
- Not very informed
- Not informed at all

37. Do you think the history of media and information control has changed with the dawn of new technologies? *

Tick one box only.

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

38. To what extent do you think technology has affected the power dynamics between governments, businesses, and the general public over time? *

Tick one box only.

- Greatly
- Somewhat
- Little
- No impact

39. How important do you think it is to understand the historical relationships the media has with political or social change? *

Tick one box only.

- Very important
- Moderately important
- Not very important
- Not important

40. To what extent are you aware of how platform design (such as Facebook or X) influences the type of content you consume? *

Tick one box only.

- Very aware
- Somewhat aware
- Not very aware
- Not at all aware

41. Do you think that digital platforms (social media, search engines) promote certain types of content above others? *

Tick one box only.

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

42. To what extent do you feel you are influenced by the algorithms that select the content you see on social media? *

Tick one box only.

- Very
- Moderately influenced
- Not influenced much
- Not at all

43. In your opinion, does the relationship between users and technology help or hinder the development of critical thinking? Express your answer on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 represents the greatest difficulty and 5 the greatest ease. *

Tick one box only.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Difficult	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	Facilitates

44. To what extent do you think users have control over the content they consume on digital platforms? *

Tick one box only.

- ◯ A lot
- ◯ Some
- ◯ Little
- ◯ None

45. To what extent do you think users should be more aware of how digital technologies affect their decisions and opinions? *

Check only one box.

- ◯ Much more
- ◯ Somewhat more
- ◯ A little more
- ◯ They don’t need to be more aware at all

46. State whether you agree or disagree with this statement: "Fake news and misinformation in general on social media go hand in hand with hate speech." *

Tick one box only.

- ◯ Strongly agree
- ◯ Somewhat agree
- ◯ Somewhat disagree
- ◯ Strongly disagree

47. In terms of content moderation on social media, if 1 represents highest freedom of speech and 7 represents highest information accuracy where would the optimum point be? *

Tick one box only.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Freedom of speech	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	Information accuracy

48. In terms of content moderation on social media, if 1 represents maximum freedom of speech and 7 represents maximum respect for dignity and self-image, where would the optimum point be? *

Tick one box only.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Freedom of speech	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	Respect for dignity and self-image

49. In your opinion, what does critical thinking mean? *

Tick one box only.

- ◯ A kind of reflection that helps people judge easily and correctly.
- ◯ It is a cognitive ability used for problem solving and decision making.
- ◯ It means questioning, independent thinking, truthfulness, and aimed at influencing knowledge, as well as political and social development.
- ◯ It is using one’s cognitive power to address an issue logically, applying rigorous criteria.

50. For you, post-truth: *

Tick one box only.

- ◯ Does not exist and is something made up by philosophers, educators, or politicians.
- ◯ Is a deliberate distortion of reality to manipulate beliefs and emotions in order to influence public opinion and social attitudes.
- ◯ Is a set of prejudices or unchallenged thoughts, assimilated as being one's own, that render the subjective absolute truths even though these do not really exist.

- [ ] Means "after the truth" and refers to all the narratives that compete in an arena in which everyone chooses the one that suits them best.
- [ ] Means there's nothing new under the sun: it's just a fancy way to say "lie".

51. For you, fake news: *

Tick one box only.

- [ ] Does not exist and is something the media made up to promote professional journalism.
- [ ] Is disinformation deliberately fabricated for political or commercial purposes, thinly veiled as real news.
- [ ] Are parodies or send ups that distort real news, believed by those less politically savvy or lacking social media skills.
- [ ] Are the weapon post-truth uses to prevent false or distorted information from being challenged. That is, news stories present falsehoods as truth.
- [ ] Is how politicians evaluate the discourse of their opponents.
- [ ] Are fake or misleading headlines created by bots to make clickbait because there are commercial interests involved.

52. Do you know of any fact-checkers? If so, please state which ones. *

_____

53. Do you think digital technology should provide more tools so users can critically evaluate the content they consume? *

Tick one box only.

- [ ] Strongly agree
- [ ] Somewhat agree
- [ ] Smewhat disagree
- [ ] Strongly disagree

Thank you very much for responding to this survey as your input is greatly valued for the research we are conducting.