

Special Issue

Surviving Disinformation: The Role of Journalism and Fact-Checking

Message from the Guest Editors

Online disinformation, in multiple formats, continues to threaten contemporary societies, negatively affecting public and democratic institutions.

Faced with a media ecosystem in total disarray, it is important to discuss the role of journalism in the midst of a disinformation crisis where the truth is eroded and journalists are losing authority. Personal convictions based on stereotypes and prejudices seem increasingly decisive when it comes to making judgments about information. The journalist is no longer the exclusive gatekeeper of news. Due to programmatic ad distribution, disinformation competes with digital journalism for the audience's attention on the same platforms, with similar business models.

Confronted with the chaotic scenario of communication, fact checking emerged as a movement to restore the public's trust, but also to reform the role of journalism in the construction of public knowledge. If the Western model of journalism is to play a role in 21st century liberal democracies, fact checkers are an essential step in overcoming the poisonous disinformation environment that social media has created around it.

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