

BLUF

BOTTOM LINE UP FRONT



Misinformation

The **BLUF** highlights what we at **The Threat Lab** are watching, listening to, reading, and thinking about. This month, we present three artifacts that discuss why misinformation spreads so far so fast, what makes people especially susceptible to misinformation, and how we can recognize and avoid spreading misinformation.



VIDEO

From Sinan Aral's talk, **How we can protect truth in the age of misinformation**, "Fake news can sway elections, tank economies and sow discord in everyday life. Data scientist Sinan Aral demystifies how and why it spreads so quickly -- citing one of the largest studies on misinformation -- and identifies five strategies to help us unweave the tangled web between true and false."

Watch the video

https://ted.com/talks/sinan_aral_how_we_can_protect_truth_in_the_age_of_misinformation?language=en#t-9903



BRIEF

From the brief by Cameron Martel, Gordon Pennycook, and David G. Rand, **Reliance on Emotion Promotes Belief in Fake News**, "The role of emotion in susceptibility to believing fake news is of ongoing concern. We explore the relationship between experiencing specific emotions and believing fake news...Results show evidence that reliance on emotion increases a belief in fake news and decreases the ability to discern fake news from real."

Read the brief

https://ide.mit.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/RBrief_Rand_Fake-News_final.pdf



ARTICLE

From Zara Abrams' article, **Controlling the spread of misinformation**, "Psychological studies of both misinformation (also called fake news), which refers to any claims or depictions that are inaccurate, and disinformation, a subset of misinformation intended to mislead, are helping expose the harmful impact of fake news—and offering potential remedies. But psychologists who study fake news warn that it's an uphill battle, one that will ultimately require a global cooperative effort among researchers, governments, and social media platforms."

Read the article

<https://www.apa.org/monitor/2021/03/controlling-misinformation>

The Defense Personnel and Security Research Center (PERSEREC) founded **The Threat Lab** in 2018 to realize the DoD Counter-Insider Threat Program Director's vision to incorporate the social and behavioral sciences into the mission space. Our team is headquartered in Seaside, California, and includes psychologists, sociologists, policy analysts, computer scientists, and other subject matter experts committed to workforce protection.

To be added to our distribution list, please email dodhra.ThreatLab@mail.mil

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