

COVID-19 Disinformation and Racism as Strategies Used in the Culture Wars for Inflaming the Grievances of the Alt-right Closed Propaganda Feedback Loop

[<https://www.personal.kent.edu/~tfroehli/workshop/Froehlich.ASIST.pdf>; https://video.kent.edu/media/1_emrob6d9]

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Introduction

- In order to show how the alt-right uses COVID misinformation and racism as flashpoints in their culture wars, a framework is required to explain how the alt-right, particularly alt-right media, entices, seduces and traps their believers in a disinformation ecology or filter bubble.
- There are two major kinds of dis/mis/information seekers in the Age of Disinformation:
 1. Those that live in a “closed propaganda feedback loop” (Benkler et al., 2018), filter bubble or disinformation ecology and
 2. Those that don’t, those who are open to considering different perspectives on an issue and willing to learn, understand, evaluate, and argue for a position.
- There is a third group, the disengaged, who by default tend to acquiesce to the dominance of the first group.
- The first group is roughly 30%+ Americans (mainly Republicans and right-leaning independents) who believe such things as Trump was an excellent president, that the last election was stolen from him, that the alt-right (or “conservative”) ideology is the only orientation that should govern the country.
- They live in a “closed propaganda feedback loop,” filter bubble of misinformation and disinformation, or a disinformation-misinformation ecology. Disinformation differs from misinformation because it requires the intent to deceive. Most of the misinformation in the filter bubble serves the purposes of disinformation and control.



Closed Propaganda Feedback Loop

- The first group lives in a disinformation ecology or filter bubble. It is composed of media authorities (*Fox News* and aligned media, e.g., OANN, Newsmax), religious authorities (e.g., many white evangelical leaders), social media authorities (e.g., Breitbart), a political party (e.g., Trump Republicans and their politicians at whatever level), their political rallies and allies, like-minded persons in their political and social circles, like-minded friends and associates.
- They echo each other's beliefs and most importantly, those of their authorities, self-righteously holding that they possess the truth. It is ecology or echo system that reinforces itself through such feedback.
- The loop or filter bubble is closed because they are trained to believe that any sources other than their own are "fake news" and they have full well-embraced this position through ideological leaders or emotional manipulation of the followers.
- The measure of their success is indicated by a cognitive bias called the disinformation bias (Mooney, 2011), whereby any attempt to challenge their views is met with a barrage of arguments that show that the challenge is false, and their beliefs are justified without providing any real evidence for them. It is also shown by the anger they wield at those that oppose them.



Cognitive Media Authority

- There are many cognitive authorities (Wilson, 1987) in their filter bubble, but those that provide a profound amount of influence are cognitive media authorities like OANN, Fox News, and Newsmax.
- A cognitive authority is an entity from whom we derive second-hand knowledge. Because our experience is limited, we get a lot of knowledge from others, second-hand knowledge that we gain from persons or institutions that we regard as credible, trustworthy and who have expertise. (Wilson, 1983; Rieh, 2010; Froehlich, 2019). One can have multiple cognitive authorities (New York Times, MSNBC) and for many different subject domains.
- We will focus on Fox News, because of its broad reach and massive impact on those who think of themselves as “conservatives,” particularly Republicans and older Republicans (Gramlich, 2020)
- According to Eric Wemple, the influence of Fox News cannot be underestimated:
There’s simply no outlet that dominates any other part of the political spectrum in the way Fox News dominates the right. With that dominance, Fox News has done great damage. It’s not as if Fox News’s influence extends to only however many millions may be viewing in prime time. There’s what experts call a “media ecosystem” out there, where people take nonsense uttered on Fox News, then share it on Twitter, on Facebook, with their neighbor. Nonsense has a high pass around rate (Wemple, 2019).



Context for the emergence of the success of Fox News

- There are many environmental reasons for the emergence and success of Fox News.
- Information overload. Every day there is a barrage of information streams from a variety of sources (print, cable, audiovisual sources, search engines, social media (Facebook, Twitter), friends, religious authorities, political authorities, etc., a lot of which is pushed at one (e.g., email alerts, Facebook posts).
- The rapid change of the political and social context. Over the past twenty years or so, people lived in an environment where white people dominated (e.g., few ads or shows on television featuring black people), where sexual identities were a simple dichotomy (there were no men kissing on television or getting married), where protests were few or did not intrude in their lives, etc.
- Their version of history was a simplified and inaccurate portrayal of the complexity and diversity of America (no reported riots of and by black people), etc. It did not reflect the reality for the most part of the flaws of American society: overt and structural racism, homophobia, unequal justice for all, unequal education and opportunity for all, etc.)



Psychological Factors

There are a lot of psychological factors the predispose the members of the disinformation ecology into the acceptance of disinformation

- Gullibility
- Cognitive Biases



Gullibility

- Gullibility is “a failure of social intelligence in which a person is easily tricked or manipulated into an ill-advised course of action” (Forgas & Baumeister, 2019, p. 2).
- Gullibility can occur in one of two situations: “Either an individual’s beliefs are manifestly inconsistent with facts and reality, or an individual’s beliefs are at variance with social norms about reality” (p. 2).
- The psychological foundation of gullibility “appears to be the universal human capacity for trust – to accept second-hand information we receive from others as a proxy for reality” (p. 5).
- This is really key. We are born naturally to trust people about things we do not know (second-hand knowledge), and this propensity is exploited by various authorities, frequently alt-right or conservative religious authorities to take an ill-advised course of action, such as accepting and propagating propaganda about COVID-19.



Cognitive Bias

- There are hundreds of cognitive biases that are relevant to disinformation adherents. See in particular, “A disinformation-misinformation ecology: the case of Trump” (Froehlich, 2020) for an analysis of 13 that play into disinformation campaigns.
- We will look at four important ones that rank high in disinformation campaigns. The explanation of these factors with examples from the Trump administration should not obscure the fact that all persons, of any political stripe, are vulnerable to them. However, people who are on the right (Ingraham, 2019) and those who are more simple-minded are more prone to act on them and not recognize their influence in their thoughts and actions.
- *Confirmation bias* involves interpreting information that supports our existing beliefs, even when presented with conflicting evidence. Trump supporters hold all sorts of improbable beliefs because they concord with their pre-existing beliefs and the “information” (or lack thereof) they get from Fox News: e.g., that Trump was a great president, was successful in curbing the coronavirus and its infection and death rate, cared about poor people, drained the Washington swamp, was a great businessman, that his tax cuts helped all Americans, and that he had a great plan for healthcare, all of which were patently false.



Cognitive Bias

- The *Dunning-Kruger effect* is the tendency to overestimate one's abilities. Persons with low critical thinking skills overestimate their capabilities in assessing current events.
- They are unaware of the limits of their critical skills so it makes it more difficult to assess current events fully or to see that other people can have legitimate alternate views about the same event. They lack the ability to think critically about their critical thinking abilities.
- The *affect heuristic* reflects the tendency to rely on emotions in our initial decisions regarding some action, event, or information. Rather than reflecting on the long-term consequences of a decision, one relies on their emotional state.
- Conservative politicians know phrases like "Make America Great Again" reacting strongly to the idea of protecting the country, which is a positive thing, but it should not obscure flaws to the country, such as lack of police accountability.
- Partisan bias skews one's perception of the world: once we are part of a group, we think like our teammates. It is almost instinctual, and our group identity become part of our individual identities, and when facts or events are hostile to our group, the more we want to avoid it. (Belluz & Resnick, 2017).



Cognitive Bias

- The *availability heuristic* is a mental shortcut that relies on immediate examples that come to the mind of a person when assessing a particular topic, idea, or decision. It relies on placing greater value on information that comes to mind quickly, based on the assumption that it must be important and more trustworthy than countervailing information. A person's judgments weigh their assessments based on more recent information, meaning new opinions rely on the latest news (Availability Heuristic).
- An example is a "welfare queen," a notion pushed by Regan. While welfare queens, those that exploit the welfare system, are not that frequent, the image invokes a sense of massive abuse (Dreyfus, 2017).
- Trump's story of Mexican rapists reflects the same strategy with the same impact on his supporters, who come to believe that immigrants have a high level of criminality in spite of strong evidence to the contrary. Salient images stick in the minds of his supporters and readily come to mind.



The nature of *Fox News*

- *Fox News* appears to be a legitimate cognitive authority by appearing to have the characteristics of a good cognitive authority:
 - An entity which supplies second-knowledge that is credible, trustworthy and has legitimate expertise (Wilson (1983), Rieh (2010)).
 - This is what their viewers/audience *believe*.
 - While this is true of cognitive authorities such as the *Washington Post* as well, the focus here is right-wing media. See (Froehlich, 2021) for a comparison table.
- Its viewers may believe that it follows the principles of good journalism (<https://americanpressassociation.com/principles-of-journalism/>). See the next slide (table).



Principles of Good Journalism (https://americanpressassociation.com/principles-of-journalism/)	Actuality of Fox News
<p>The obligation to present the truth (or the best representation thereof, by providing evidence and upgrading narrative as facts and errors emerge)</p>	<p>For four straight months, they pushed misinformation every single day (Sullivan, 2019). Trump’s failure or incompetence in dealing with the coronavirus epidemic was never mentioned, and in fact he was praised for his superior leadership. The second-hand “knowledge” they provide is often false belief or even delusion.</p>
<p>Its first loyalty is to citizens</p>	<p>Their loyalty is toward its partisan viewers, not to all citizens, though they hope to make converts</p>
<p>Practitioners must maintain an independence of those they cover</p>	<p>The most obvious case is that of Donald Trump. They never criticize his speech or behavior and claim the he was the best president that the US has ever had. While they briefly had to admit that Biden won the last election (because of a lawsuit), they now continue to push the lie that the 2020 election was stolen from Trump.</p>
<p>Serve as an independent monitor of power</p>	<p>See the above; most commentary and commentators support right-wing causes: unfettered capitalism, oligarchy, pro-business, anti-labor agenda, etc. They have become voice of the Republican party and the ultra-right agenda, often ignoring previous principles of conservatism (e.g., anti-communism, fiscal responsibility).</p>
<p>Its practitioners (e.g., pundits) must be allowed to exercise their personal conscience.</p>	<p>When reporting, one should include their viewpoint reflecting their own moral conscience. Certainly, many of Fox News pundits do so: Sean Hannity, Tucker Carlson, Jeanine Pirro, et al. take that view, but there are serious questions that about telling their viewers loudly and aggressively to oppose vaccine and mask mandates in the community and business, while failing to mention that Fox News itself demands the use of masks and vaccination (or daily testing) throughout its facility. A personal conscience that urges child separation from parents, urges the old to sacrifice themselves to the economy, twists pro-life to mean only pro-birth, etc. does not seem much of a conscience</p>

The nature of *Fox News*

- For a quick overview of the nature of *Fox News*, see the following slide, one part of a communication model that I am developing for media literacy, the other parts being the message and the receiver-interpreter:



- For a work-in-progress model, see:
<https://www.personal.kent.edu/~tfroehli/workshop/media.literacy.update.pdf>



Sender-Agent-Creator	
Sender-Agent-Creator	<i>Fox News</i> through their pundits (e.g., Tucker Carlson, Sean Hannity) and the absence of any anti-”conservative” criticism, sources, events, observations (their motivated audience/viewers never hear of Trump’s incompetence or grifting so they think and continue to think he was an excellent president)
Predisposition of Sender-Agent-Creator	Confirmation bias (radical right ideology), economic self-interest (e.g., make money for <i>Fox News</i> – 8 billion a year (Stelter, 2020, p. 20)), political power –”owning the libs” (those opposed to the “tradition”)
Intention of Sender-Agent-Creator	To cause harm by promoting disinformation (e.g., COVID-19 sickness or death), to create civil unrest so as to overthrow of democracy for a single party rule (Trump Republican party rule)
Motivation of Sender	To manipulate, seduce or control the political position of their viewers and converts through emotional engagement – inflaming the biases of their audiences
Method of Persuasion	Sophistry, projection; Aristotle’s rhetoric of pathos (appeal to emotions), rather than ethos (appeals to the character of the speaker) or logos (rational argument, clarity of the claim) while pretending to be the latter two
Authority	Who are their cognitive authorities? Themselves, capitalism without a conscience, alt-right-wing ideology; right-wing political and thought leaders and its echo system
Cognitive State	What is its cognitive state? True belief in an ideology, but actually false belief or delusions (e.g., conspiracy theories) pushed as authoritative second-hand knowledge
Intended Target	<i>Fox News</i> audience and converts, all those in the alt-right echo system

Fox News Strategies (Sophistry)

- Fox News and their pundits use many strategies to connect to their believers. We will illustrate with two: the Straw Man and False Dichotomy/Either-Or/The Black or White Fallacy
- In the straw man fallacy, one tries to strengthen his/her own arguments by anticipating the arguments that one's opponent may make.
- One creates a version of the opponent's argument that is easy to knock down.
- One distorts the opponent's position and frames it into easily refutable terms.



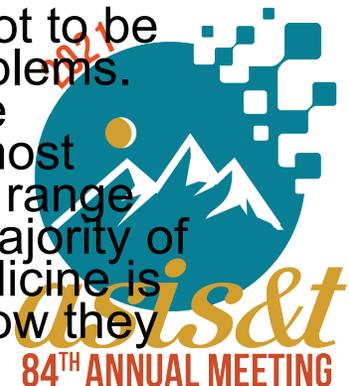
Example of Straw Man

- Early on in the pandemic and continuing to today, Dr. Anthony Fauci became the whipping boy for the coronavirus because *Fox News* claimed that he was recklessly damaging the economy and prevented the use of wonder cures as hydroxychloroquine, leading to critics asking for his job.
- He was the straw man, by magnifying and misreading his expertise and by a deliberate misconstrual of the scientific process. His analysis of the pandemic evolved over time based on accumulating scientific evidence (not to mention he had to be careful about his assertions, given Trump's ignorance and need for absolute control). His critics accused him of being wishy-washy about the pandemic, its sources and his changing recommendations to the public about what to do.
- Tucker Carlson (May 12, 2020) devoted an entire segment to Fauci's recommendation for a sustained lockdown, calling it a recipe for "national suicide." "Want to keep Americans from dying before their time? Don't impoverish them. For all his credentials, experience and apparent decency, Dr. Fauci doesn't seem to understand that. We should never let someone like that run the country." (Halon, 2020) "He should not be the one person in charge" (Carlson, 2020).
- Carlson assumes that the central problem of the pandemic was the economy. Fauci never believed that he was running the country; rather he was providing expertise about how to deal with the pandemic as scientific understanding evolved: in his view and that of scientific understanding of the nature of COVID-19 sending people to work might provide temporary relief for their economic problems, but the largescale possibility of death and terrible disease might prove disastrous (as it ultimately did).



Straw Issue or False Dichotomy

- There is another tactic, that could be called a straw issue or the fallacy of false dichotomy
- Straw issue: one creates a version of the opponent's argument that is easy to knock down (e.g., Black Lives Matter implies only Black Lives Matter)
- The false dichotomy has several names: False Dichotomy/Either-Or/Black or White Fallacy.
- It assumes that only two positions exist on the matter at hand, obscuring legitimate alternatives.
- It is designed to seduce the uninformed or simple-minded, who may be unable to think of alternatives.
- Example:
 - When there are any problems with anyone getting vaccinated, vaccinations are not to be trusted at all. If it works, it should work for everybody and no one should have any problems. Since it does not, it must be rejected. This deliberately misunderstands the whole scientific process. The whole reason for clinical trials is to see how safe it is for most people – the trials indicate the degree of safety of a particular vaccine (in the 90+ range for all three major vaccines). That means that it is safe and useful for the large majority of people, but it is not so for the remaining group of people. No vaccine and no medicine is 100% safe – it cannot anticipate all the genetic variations of human beings and how they may have been affected by their environments.



False Dichotomy: Racism

- Various forms of racist attacks have emerged from alt-right media and Fox News in particular: attacks on immigrants (particularly of color), Jews, Blacks, Latinex, indigenous races, Asians, and Muslims.
- The examples in Fox New are legion, but our focus will be on the current hot topic, Critical Race Theory.
- Critical race theory is academic legal framework for studying systemic and institutional racism. Its origin is an obscure legal theory from the 1970s that is not actually taught in K–12 schools.
- Fox News and the alt-right have characterized it an attack on “traditional” white history and distorting actual history. The real motive is belief in white supremacy.
- It is a false dichotomy because it assumes that any variations of the interpretation of racist history is an attack on all traditional interpretations of history, interpretations that misrepresented the actuality of race history. Proof of the dangerous materials forced on students are reports by enraged parents who discovered what their children were reading.
- It has culminated on the passing of state laws of Republican controlled states from teaching it (and a “balanced” view of other controversial subjects, such as the Holocaust) and requires anyone that teaches alternative histories should be reported. Teachers are not only reported but are now harassed by alt-right vigilantes for stand for “patriotic education” and against multiculturalism.



The chicanery of Fox News

- Memes and tropes become flash points for anger. They are constructed on a hourly basis on *Fox News* and aligned media to keep their base addicted and inflamed.
- Ivermectin, bleach, hydroxychloroquine, monoclonal antibodies (100s times the cost of a vaccination) and now Flonase are cures for COVID the government does not want you to know about.
- It does not really matter what the narrative, meme or trope is – its point is to keep their viewers angry, to feed their self-righteousness in rejecting the “libs.”.
- To be sure, *Fox News* viewers are not simply victims, but they are willing participants.

The truth is, our Republican and right-leaning relatives are active parties in their own transformations. They chose to drink from the well of misinformation and hate on a regular basis. They decided to shut out critical discussion. They carried viewpoints to the polls. They made our world a worse place. And we have a responsibility to take them to task for it (Price, 2019).



Fox News' Addiction Process

- Tobin Smith, a former *Fox News* commentator, argues that *Fox News* programming fosters an addictive process based on fear, resentment and anger to: “tribal partisan pornography,” (Smith, 2019, pp. 460-465), though it is really addiction to alt-right tribal political pornography because the center and left do not mirror this behavior (Benkler et al., 2018, p.14).
- The behavior of the right-wing media ecosystem represents a radicalization of roughly a third of the American media system. The right and alt-right made polarization a winning strategy, especially for the last several political cycles. (Benkler, et al., 2018, p. 14).
- *Fox News* is regarded as a moral outrage machine, which has been a long-standing tradition of alt-right media (Rush Limbaugh (1984), Alex Jones, Geraldo Riviera), but *Fox News* now dominates. The outrage is moral only in the sense that it pretends to maintain the customs (mores) of an idealized past, but it is not ethical or moral to spread misinformation.
- It engages a special alchemy whereby any emotion, positive or negative, is coaxed into a sense of indignity and finally rage. That is the nature of its alchemy: transforming fears and resentments into stoked anger. It has turned the Age of Information into the Age of Inflamed Grievances.



Fox News as a Moral Outrage Machine

- One of the tricks of this alchemy is to take a complex problem and reduce it to simple, naïve solutions to suit the Dunning Kruger bias: convince people that there are no problems in their limited understanding of complex issues and there are no alternatives to the views that they have. They are told to think in terms of absolutes. Any subtlety in thought is a ploy of the liberals to confuse the core of an issue. Their authorities also supply *definite* answers making it easy to understand, embrace and weaponize.
- Examples of the alchemy
 - Patriotism is turned into simplistic interpretations of American history (there is no racism, slavery was an opportunity for black people to get out of poverty, white people were the only creators and inventors of the great wealth and prosperity)
 - Respect for the police and military is turned into rejection of any accountability for its treatment of the poor or minorities or its corruption.
 - Belief in capitalism is seen as a method for maintaining one's privileges and turning a blind eye to its failures: great economic disparity between the rich and the poor, great disparity in economic opportunity, unequal access to healthcare
 - Resentment for one's failures in life are turned into narratives of victimization: others who got education or training did not deserve it.



Fox News Alchemy to Create Rage

- One has the solemn right to reject vaccination or the use of masks, trumping any responsibility for public health or the common good (their threats to the trained healthcare officials, leaders and workers are driving them out of the profession).
- Their viewers (and their trickle-down echo system) believe that their assessment are due to their independent evaluation, but using certain information sources, that reflect, create, sustain, justify or inflame their beliefs. Their second-hand knowledge is trustworthy and reliable. But their independence is dependent on *Fox News*:
 - Where did they get the idea that all Democrats hate America, that they are all socialists or that you can hate and mock persons whose views are different than yours?
 - Where did they get the idea that one should shame and threaten health professionals or parents of children who wear masks?
 - Tucker Carlson “As for forcing children to wear masks outside, that should be illegal. Your response when you see children wearing masks as they play should be no different from your response to seeing someone beat a kid in Walmart. Call the police immediately. Contact Child Protective Services. Keep calling until someone arrives. What you’re looking at is abuse, it’s child abuse, and you are morally obligated to attempt to prevent it.”

<https://thehill.com/homenews/media/550403-tucker-carlson-contact-child-protective-services-if-you-see-children-wearing?ri=1>



Rational Arguments Do Not Work

- The point is: those living in a closed propaganda feedback loop are not rational and no amount of information, media or digital literacy will have them leave their delusions.
- The level of their induced rage and anger and the self-assurance of the rightness of their cause are measures of the success of the alt-right in polarizing Americans and in manipulating their “free will” for support of scientific and political nonsense, which in turn is destroying democracy and turning America into an authoritarian state.
- There is no doubt or humility in what they know: Alt-right’s media proclamations (second-hand “knowledge”) are THE truth – any contrary information is not only rationalized away but also demonized as false. Their righteousness is marched into and deliberately disrupts the public sphere.
- There has emerged a fascism that claims that there is a fascism that is left or liberal. Charlie Kirk, an alt-right activist, on a tour for Turning Point USA, was hawking the dangers of Critical Race Theory, as a ploy of the left to brainwash America. A member of the audience asserted: “At this point, we’re living under corporate and medical fascism. This is tyranny. When do we get to use the guns? No, and I’m not — that’s not a joke.” Kirk walked back on the suggestions for the use of violence, but the emotional control of the brainwashed alt-right suggests that it is the next step in the overthrow of democracy. (Idliby, 2021).
- A report by Kevin Drum (2021) in *Mother Jones* argues that the real and major source of the rising rage in American Politics is *Fox News*. He argues that it is not the result of conspiracy theorists; not the result of social media (except that Fox News spills its talking rage points into that domain); not the result of the economy; it is not due to distrust in government. It is due to politically salient things and things that have changed dramatically over the past 2-3 decades: it is Fox News rage against what liberals are doing to the country, that has had an affect of mainstream media.



Anger Merchants

- Fox News is not only attention merchants, they are also anger or moral outrage merchants. But there are also other anger merchants.
- Facebook and other attention merchants, following the-profits-above-people motive, facilitate polarization and make people more extreme. YouTube's linking algorithm, in particular, engages disinformation seekers in a rabbit hole phenomenon that increases right-wing radical viewership, by leading disinformation seekers from one site with radical content to another with more radical content.
- There are also foreign actors (e.g., Russia, North Korea) who are interested in destabilizing democracies
- Also, click-bait entrepreneurs (who do not give a damn about the cause and they will play both sides of an issue or election to make money). A Macedonian teenager, "Dimitri," made \$60,000 making pro-Trump and anti-Hillary-Clinton posts before the 2016 election. (Smith & Bancic, 2016).
- There are also the persuasive technologies of Silicon Valley (Harris, 2107) and surveillance capitalism (Zuboff, 2020), that exploit psychological vulnerabilities that keep us distracted or solicit our consumption of attention and goods and services. And then there are social media apps or sites where connectivity leads to more isolation and harm instead of real intimacy and friendship (Turkle, 2012). The smartphone is really a make-dumb-and-lonely phone that allows us to avoid critical thought and real self-reflection about the effort required for a meaningful life.
- In the age of distraction or attention-grabbing, truth is "whatever makes you click" (Wijnberg, 2020) or whatever you allow to be pushed at you. In the Age of Inflamed Grievances, truth is whatever you are predisposed or inflamed to click, that sends you to sites that rile your biases.



Conclusion

- Goebbels, the Nazi propaganda minister, would have been proud of *Fox News* and aligned media. Without need of government control or uniforms, they have created Nazi storm troopers with uniformity of mind for an fictional state where there is only one voice, one religion and an authoritarian government that supports ethnic cleansing and corruption and suppresses any dissent. They have managed to have the oppressed become the voice of their oppressors, controlled by their rage, originating with their original or instilled resentment but enhanced by stories of false moral outrage about the horrors of white pollution, humanitarianism, or science that does fit their alt-right political agenda.
- There are plenty of things that Americans should be angry about: capitalism without a conscience (profits above people and the environment), tax evaders (who manipulate the system to avoid any responsibility for the environment or the infrastructure), climate-change deniers (who exploit the environment for personal or corporate gain and enrichment), science-deniers (e.g. *Fox News* “patriots” to the point of death when they don’t accept that they are dying of COVID-19) and most importantly, false cognitive authorities like *Fox News* who intend to destroy democracy in the name of democracy.
- Where is your moral outrage? Where is it turned into action?



Thanks/Ongoing Research

- Thank you for paying attention to the ravings of a mad man but the lunatics are running the asylum.
- For my research over the past five years focusing on disinformation, see: <https://www.personal.kent.edu/~tfroehli/>
- I am working on a book called *Twelve Lessons for the Age of Disinformation* and in the spring I am teaching a course on *The Age of Disinformation* (third iteration).



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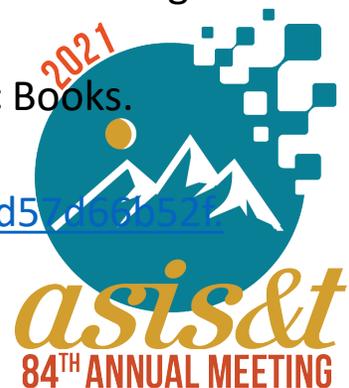
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