

Gatekeeping fake news discourses on mainstream media vs. social media / Ahmed Al-Rawi

Abstract: This study analyzes mainstream media (MSM) coverage of fake news discourse and compares it with social networking sites (SNS) users who reference the term "fakenews" in their tweets. The study employs computational methods by analyzing over 8 million tweets and 1350 news stories using topic modeling. Building on the theory of (networked) gatekeeping and Herman and Chomsky's propaganda model, the results show that SNS users follow networked gatekeeping practices by mostly associating fake news references to the alleged bias of mainstream media. On the other hand, mainstream media coverage tends to link fake news to SNS's negative role in spreading misinformation. I argue here that there is a networked flak activity on Twitter which is defined as a collective negative response to mainstream media in order to discipline it, change its tone and editorial stance, or undermine the public's trust in it.

The internet as a context: Exploring its impacts on national identity in 36 countries / Jia Lu & Xin Yu

Abstract: The rise of the internet brings up a debate about its role in eroding or strengthening national identity. Taking the perspective of media ecology, this paper saw the internet as a context and explored its impacts on social context in which national identity is constructed. Using the data from the World Values Survey (2010-2014), this paper carried out multilevel analyses with 50,240 respondents in 36 countries. The results illustrate how online distribution of information, power, and freedom affect cognition, affection, and action of national identity. National identity is eroded by information distribution but is strengthened by power distribution. Power distribution and freedom distribution work together to neutralize and regulate the effects of information distribution.

Falling prey to online romantic alternatives: Evaluating social media alternative partners in committed versus dating relationships / Irum Saeed Abbasi

Abstract: Social media represents an integral platform that is currently used to maintain and develop new social connections including alternative romantic partners. Over engagement with online friends and pursuing alternative partners can potentially threaten the primary romantic relationship. In the present study, we examined if the partners' relationship status is a predictor of relationship satisfaction, quality of online romantic alternatives, online infidelity related behaviors, social media addiction, and the total number of SNSs accounts. In a cross-sectional study, romantic partners (N= 578, 378 females, 200 males) completed a battery of self-report scales. We divided the partners into two groups based on their relationship status: those who reported to be in a committed relationship (n = 330) and those who reported to be in a casual dating relationship (n =248). Results revealed that there is a significant between group

difference in the way both groups evaluated the quality of potential alternative partners and level of SNSs addiction. However, there was no between group difference in relationship satisfaction, SNSs infidelity behaviors, or the total number of SNSs accounts. The dating group reported significantly more sexual alternatives than the committed group. However, the number of potential committed alternatives was not significantly different. Implications and limitations of the study are discussed.

Paper, Email, or Both? Effects of contact mode on participation in a web survey of establishments / Joseph W. Sakshaug, Basha Vicari, & Mick P. Couper

Abstract: Identifying strategies that maximize participation rates in population-based Web surveys is of critical interest to survey researchers. While much of this interest has focused on surveys of persons and households, there is a growing interest in surveys of establishments. However, there is a lack of experimental evidence on strategies for optimizing participation rates in Web surveys of establishments. To address this research gap, we conducted a contact mode experiment in which establishments selected to participate in a Web survey were randomized to receive the survey invitation with login details and subsequent reminder using a fully-crossed sequence of paper and email contacts. We find that a paper invitation followed by a paper reminder achieves the highest response rate and smallest aggregate nonresponse bias across all-possible paper/email contact sequences, but a close runner-up was the email invitation and paper reminder sequence which achieved a similarly high response rate and low aggregate nonresponse bias at about half the per-respondent cost. Following up undeliverable email invitations with supplementary paper contacts yielded further reductions in nonresponse bias and costs. Finally, for establishments without an available email address, we show that enclosing an email address request form with a prenotification letter was not effective from a response rate, nonresponse bias, and cost perspective.

Adaptive heuristics that (could) fit. Information search and communication patterns in an online forum of investors under market uncertainty / Niccolò Casnici, Marco Castellani, Flaminio Squazzoni, Manuela Testa, & Pierpaolo Dondio

Abstract. This paper examines information-search heuristics and communication patterns in an online forum of investors during a period of market uncertainty. Global connections, real time communication, and technological sophistication have created an unpredictable market environment. As such, investors try to deal with semantic, strategic and operational uncertainty by following heuristics that reduce information redundancy. In this study, we have tried to find traces of cognitive communication heuristics in a large-scale dataset including eight years of online posts (2004-2012) for a forum of Italian investors. We identified various market volatility conditions on a daily base to understand the influence of market uncertainty on cognitive and communication processes. We found that investors communicated more dynamically when the market was unstable, while they were more prone to anchor heuristic when market uncertainty was invariant. Furthermore, abnormal market trends triggered more availability-based communication patterns. We also found that expertise matters. This

would suggest that online communities need intelligent, context-specific tools to support partner selection and stimulate non-redundant communication.