

INFORMATION VERIFICATION IN SOCIAL NETWORKS: THE ROLE OF TRUST AND EXTREME IDEOLOGY

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ABSTRACT

More than half of US citizens use Social Network Sites (SNSs) as a news source. While SNS allows for mass propagation of news significantly faster than traditional media, they lack the quality control mechanisms commonly incorporated in conventional news outlets. This has led to the widespread use of SNSs for the distribution of “fake news.” Thus, articulating the process by which SNS users identify potentially misleading news and seek independent corroborating information to verify its veracity is extremely valuable. This research investigates SNS users’ news verification behaviors as it relates to their trust, fake news awareness, and extreme political views.