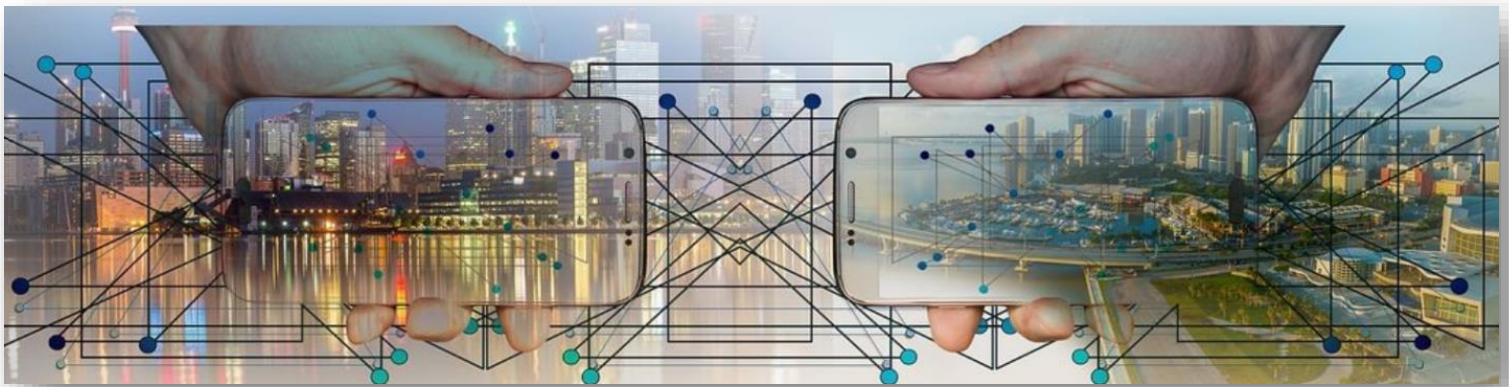


For an accountable Internet to improve information literacy

Newsletter Issue 1

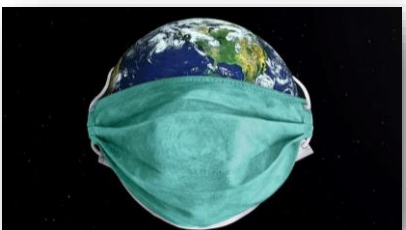
November 2020

LEADING FOR A BETTER WORLD**CTIC, the first (and only) center in Singapore to support research about misinformation**

Through adopting a unique model formed by the interconnection of three different lenses (technology, human, and policy) and bringing together a multidisciplinary team of researchers from varied fields such as computing, media, psychology, public policy and law, CTIC aims to acquire knowledge for developing a set of insights, tools, policies, and best practices around the use of the Internet. The ultimate goal of the research at CTIC is in combating the threat of misinformation and promoting citizens' digital well-being. [\(+ info\)](#)

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS**Misinformation in social media: how can AI help?**

Through this webinar, Professor Wynne Hsu, director of the Institute of Data Science and Principal Investigator of CTIC, presented two key lines of research for combating misinformation in social media: detection and mitigation of fake news. The detection aspect involves the verification of claims with independent evidence (e.g., scientific sources and credible news outlets), an analysis of conversation threads and fact-checking the multimodality consistency of the news piece. In turn, mitigation is achieved through the identification of top k-debunkers and breaking rumor echo-chambers in social networks. Learn more about these technological advances by watching the webinar. [\(+ info\)](#)

SHARING KNOWLEDGE**Fighting the COVID-19 infodemic: lessons from 3 Asian countries**

The spread of disinformation, rumors, and false data about the pandemic on the internet is even faster than the spread of the coronavirus itself. Because this danger must be tackled alongside the virus, our colleagues Elmie Nekmat (CNM-NUS) and Audrey Yue (CNM-NUS) have conducted a study to identify the five main strategies employed in the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic by China, Singapore and South Korea. They present a summary of their results on a news piece published by the World Economic Forum. According to it, a successful strategy in the battle against COVID-19 pandemic and infodemic considers five variables: law and punishment, correctional action and delivery, social responsibility and education, science and rationality, and cross-country. Get more information by accessing the article here [\(+ info\)](#).

LISTENING TO EXPERTS**Journalism challenges introduced by Artificial Intelligence**

Three scholars and one practitioner share their research results, knowledge and experiences on the introduction of automation, artificial intelligence and robots into the newsrooms. Most of their reflections are derived from three journal articles previously written by them. Listen to this enlightening podcast through Spotify: [The J Word: A podcast by Journalism Practice. Episode 3. The ins and outs of AI in global newsrooms](#)

Participants: Dr. Wu Shangyuan (CNM-CTIC), David Caswell (BBC-UK) and Dr. Sadia Jamil (Khalifa University-UAE). Conducted by Dr. Robert E. Gutsche, Jr. (Associate Editor- Lancaster University).
A production of Journalism Practice.

Access the participants' articles freely by following the link below:

- Caswell, D., & Dörr, K. (2019). Automating complex news stories by capturing news events as data. *Journalism Practice*, 13(8), 951-955. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17512786.2019.1643251>
- Jamil, S. (2020). Artificial intelligence and journalistic practice: The crossroads of obstacles and opportunities for the Pakistani journalists. *Journalism Practice*, 1-23. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17512786.2020.1788412>
- Wu, S., Tandoc Jr, E. C., & Salmon, C. T. (2019). When journalism and automation intersect: Assessing the influence of the technological field on contemporary newsrooms. *Journalism Practice*, 13(10), 1238-1254. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17512786.2019.1585198>



DIALOGUES IN COMMUNITIES

Positive actions for a healthy society: recommendations for solving two community problems

Recently, Dr. Carol Soon, Head of the Society & Culture Department of the Institute of Policy Studies and Principal Investigator of CTIC, published commentaries on two Asian news portals for suggesting possible mechanisms to attack two different community problems. Her first article deals with discord in neighborhood chat groups, a phenomenon aggravated by COVID-19 impositions. Dr. Soon applies scientific knowledge on social media behavior to understand the potential consequences of automatic emotional responses, disagreement and arguing in instant messaging groups. Her second article is a response to Singaporean leaders who have expressed the necessity to find common ground for sensitive issues such as race, religion or inequality. Dr. Soon not only suggests them to organize citizen's panel but explains how they must be useful to successfully confront such difficult affairs.

Read the entire article on community messaging here [\(+ info\)](#).

Read the article on citizens dialogue for difficult issues here [\(+ info\)](#).



COLLECTIVELY DESIGNING THE FUTURE

Singaporeans together with citizens and experts of 76 countries imagine the Internet of tomorrow

During the weekend, about 90 Singaporean citizens from all walks of life and CTIC experts joined an online global initiative to collectively imagine the future of Internet. Led by Dr. Natalie Pang, principal investigator of CTIC and Senior Lecturer at CNM, Singaporeans discussed with participants of 76 other countries relevant Internet issues such as uses, data retrieval, storage and privacy, artificial intelligence, digital inclusion and the digital public sphere. This global participatory consultation will deliver first-class qualitative and quantitative data to support meaningful and legitimate decision-making.

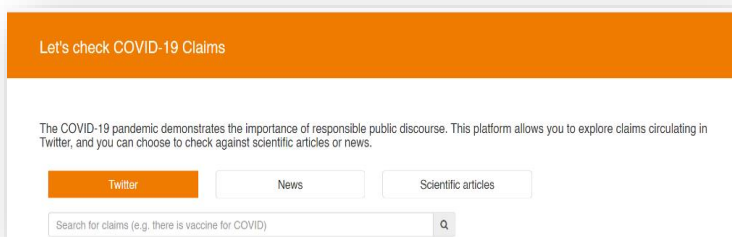


The event, called We, the Internet, has been promoted by Missions Publiques, a company that actively promotes dialogue in societies for achieving better collective choices. It has been supported by public entities such as UNESCO, the European Commission, the European Council and the Economical World Forum. Other important internet actors, such as Facebook or Google, also collaborated with it. [\(+ info\)](#)

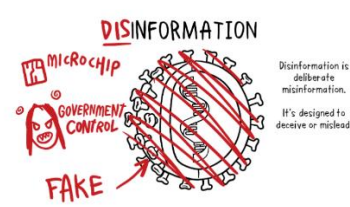
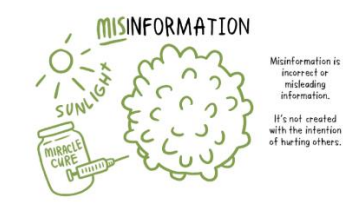
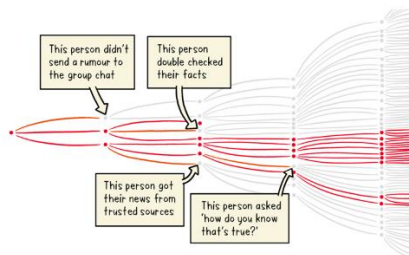
TOOLS FOR DIGITAL WELL-BEING

To trust or not to trust? Verify COVID-19 Twitter claims through Letscheck!

If you want to be sure that a tweet about COVID-19 or a claim about the virus is true, Letscheck is an automatic user-friendly platform for verifying it. Input a claim on a text box, click on the search button, and Letscheck will retrieve evidence from independent and authoritative sources to help one assess whether a piece of information is true or not. Led by Professors Lee Mong Li and Wynne Hsu, this useful platform has been developed by a team of researchers from NUS. Get access to LetsCheck here [\(+ info\)](#).



PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS



(CC) World Health Organisation

Navigate the COVID-19 pandemic safely: World Health Organization's tips on preventing misinformation or disinformation

The World Health Organization has recently formulated a set of simple practices to avoid being victims of fake news, misinformation, or disinformation. By following these easy recommendations, citizens will not only be correctly informed about the pandemic but share and distribute only credible information on social media networks as well. The set of promoted good practices include mechanisms for assuring that the source of the information is credible, reading beyond lines within the information text, properly identifying the source, examining adequately the supporting evidence, checking self-biases in analyzing the information and using automatic fast-checking organizations or systems. Get detailed recommendations here [\(+ info\)](#).

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