

CONTENT WARNING

This presentation engages with sensitive material, including examples of hate speech and hate groups.

Your discretion is advised and encouraged.

Google

toward a new digital civics|

Google Search

I'm Feeling Lucky

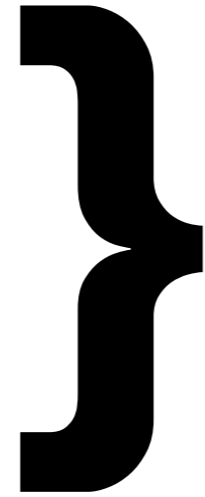
HOW DO I KNOW WHAT I KNOW?



I JUST DO!

epistemic practices

how we encounter
consume
produce



knowledge

**Opinion dressed up as fact: who can we trust
for our news?**

Nicole Anderson/Macquarie University (April 1, 2018)

digital civics

how to use digital tools for

civic participation

debate

social activism



***confronting digital
extremism***

**(disinformation,
hate-based ideologies)**

media literacy

learning to identify media types

messages

biases

You Think You Want Media Literacy... Do You?



danah boyd

Follow

Mar 9, 2018 · 26 min read

Data & Society Institute/Medium

It's one thing to talk about interrogating assumptions when a person can keep emotional distance from the object of study. It's an entirely different thing to talk about these issues when **the very act of asking questions is what's being weaponized**. This isn't historical propaganda distributed through mass media. Or an exercise in understanding state power. This is about making sense of an information landscape where the very tools that people use to make sense of the world around them have been strategically perverted by other people who believe themselves to be resisting the same powerful actors that we normally seek to critique.

fact checking

good, but...

... the *process* of coming to know something is as important as the knowledge itself

The Washington Post

Fact Checker • Analysis

President Trump announces a major U.S. Steel expansion – that isn't happening



By **Glenn Kessler**
June 28, 2018

Four Pinocchios



Donald J. Trump ✓
@realDonaldTrump

Follow

The [#AmazonWashingtonPost](#), sometimes referred to as the guardian of Amazon not paying internet taxes (which they should) is FAKE NEWS!

9:06 AM - 28 Jun 2017

CNN Money

April 29, 2006



Stephen Colbert, White House Correspondents' Association Dinner (C-SPAN, April 26, 2006)
Source: CNN Business (April 26, 2016)

“Poe’s Law”

is it parody? or sincerity? how do you know?

Aug 10, 2005

#58



Nathan Poe

Well-Known Member

Messages: 32,224

Ratings: +1,557

Politics:

US-Democrat

Faith: Agnostic

Pete Harcoff said:

Good thing you included the winky. Otherwise people might think you are serious.

POE'S LAW:

Without a winking smiley or other blatant display of humor, it is utterly impossible to parody a Creationist in such a way that *someone* won't mistake for the genuine article.

Nathan Poe, Aug 10, 2005

#58

Like x 4 List

Source: Christian Forums



AMERICA'S LAST LINE OF DEFENSE

INFORMATION YOU PROBABLY SHOULDN'T TRUST

Everything on this website is fiction. It is not a lie and it is not fake news because it is not real. If you believe that it is real, you should have your head examined. Any similarities between this site's pure fantasy and actual people, places, and events are purely coincidental and all images should be considered altered and satirical. See above if you're still having an issue with that satire thing.

Source: weareallthelod.com c. 2018

“Share if you're outraged!” his posts often read, and thousands of people on Facebook had clicked “like” and then “share,” most of whom did not recognize his posts as satire. Instead, Blair's page had become one of the most popular on Facebook among Trump-supporting conservatives over 55.

“Nothing on this page is real’: How lies become truth in online America”
(Eli Saslow/Washington Post, November 17, 2018)



The Matrix (The Wachowskis/Warner Bros., 1999)
Source: "Welcome to the Red Pill" (Rebecca Reid/The Telegraph, November 13, 2015)

what is to be done?



Source: Joey Haar/Trendhunter, from Wall Street Journal's "Red Feed, Blue Feed" (January 3, 2017)



Source: Bethania Palma/Snopos (September 1, 2017)



doing grey sweatpants challeng... 

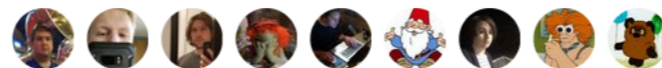
@ByYourLogic

Following 

Donald Trump is a chestmaster and part of that is giving up at exactly the right time so you win the next game!

12:43 PM - 25 Jan 2019

45 Retweets 1,081 Likes



 21  45  1.1K 

Manipulating metadata can be seen as a skill set, a kind of data craftwork that plays with the features and automated operations of platforms.

I call this "data craft": practices that create, rely on, or even play with the proliferation of data on social media by engaging with new computational and algorithmic mechanisms of organization and classification.

Data Craft: The Manipulation of Social Media Metadata
(Amelia Acker/Data & Society Institute 2018, 3)



Barack Obama ✓
@BarackObama

Dad, husband, President, citizen.

Washington, DC

obama.org

Joined March 2007

Born August 4, 1961

Tweets	Following	Followers	Likes	Lists
15.6K	616K	104M	11	3



Barack Obama ✓ @BarackObama · Jan 21

I've always drawn inspiration from what Dr. King called life's most persistent and urgent question: "What are you doing for others?" Let's honor his legacy by standing up for what is right in our communities and taking steps to make a positive impact on the world.

13K 162K 758K

(2019)

Fig. 2

Reading Metadata

The chart captures a step by step process for reading metadata from social media content. The goal for each step is to evaluate different types of "red flags"—characteristics which can, when taken together, indicate likely manipulation and coordinated inauthentic behavior. None of these red flags can be interpreted as concrete evidence on their own. However, when taken together all of the following metadata categories—including interaction between other accounts—allows readers, researchers, and users to see the traces of manipulative data craft. By examining the interaction between accounts and their followers, steps 4 and 5 allow readers to locate evidence of manipulation and disinformation resulting from coordinated engagement strategies that generate inauthentic behavior.

1 Account Names

Red Flag

To Verify

Donald J. Trump

@realDonaldTrump

2 Recycled Banner, Borrowed Profile Pics

Wikipedia, Internet Archive, or other sources

social media accounts

than "original" content

content over time

uses with reverse image search tools

ed or original image sources

phrases with "quotes" to discover

ed content

files from other platforms with

names

Elizabeth Tacher

@BethTacher

Ana Girardot | actress.camera ...

Source: films7.com

3 Content Tags

Location check-ins or geotags that contradict the content of posts

Tweets 13

Following 8

Followers 1

Likes 2

original upload

Use APIs or other tools to verify geotags and client source

Joey Brooklyn @Joe_America1776 · 37s

Police Union Just Made a SHOCKING Demand... And it's About YOUR Second Amendment Rights

thepoliticalinsider.com/police-union-p...

#TCOT #WakeUpAmerica #PJNET

Joey Brooklyn @Joe_America1776 · 2m

McConnell booted by convention delegates

[thehill.com/blogs/blog-bri ...](http://thehill.com/blogs/blog-bri...) #TCOT #WakeUpAmerica #PJNET #RedNationRising

Joey Brooklyn @Joe_America1776 · 4m

Baton Rouge Cop Killer has Stunning Connection to Obama via Rev. Wright and Black Liberation Theology

youngcons.com/baton-rouge-co... #TCOT #PJNET

Joey Brooklyn @Joe_America1776 · 7m

NY Rag, Er, Mag: NRA Endangers Women by Promoting Armed Self Defense #TCOT #WakeUpAmerica #PJNET

tammybruce.com/2016/07/ny-rag...

archive of account to determine

sample of followers to ensure account engagement

TWEETS 126K

check out my webpage!")

ing liked or shared by other accounts

ted by ad purchase

versations, interaction, and activity count and followers

r followers interacting with

ctivity are engaging in good faith,

option, or unique responses

plies are not simply automated

ares, or responses with links

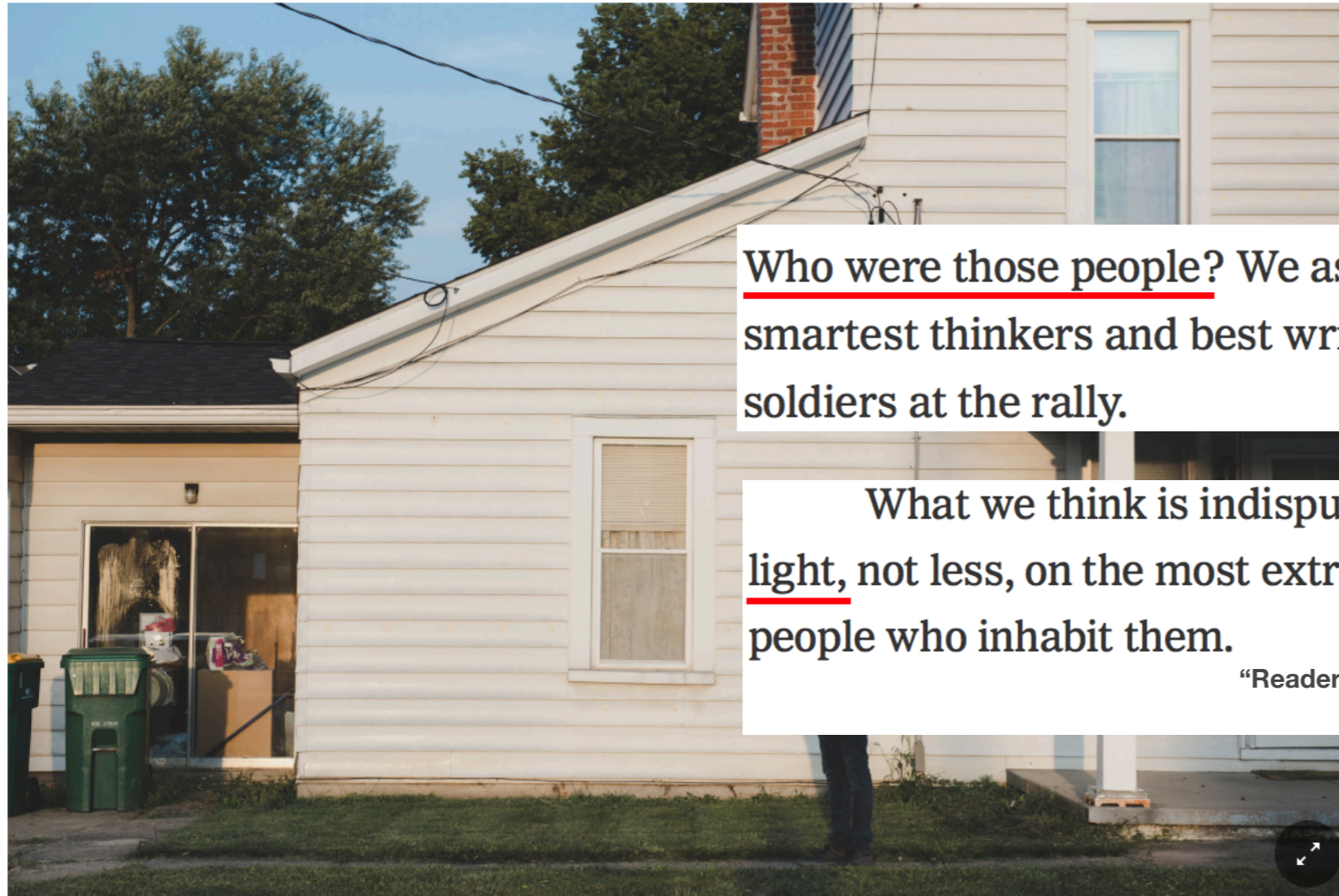
ipulation of Social Media Metadata

Amelia Acker/Data & Society, 2018)

We call this willingness to avoid amplifying extremist messages “strategic silence”.

“The case for quarantining extremist ideas”
(Joan Donovan & danah boyd/The Guardian, June 1, 2018)

The New York Times *A Voice of Hate in America’s Heartland*



Who were those people? We assigned Richard Fausset, one of our smartest thinkers and best writers, to profile one of the far-right foot soldiers at the rally.

What we think is indisputable, though, is the need to shed more light, not less, on the most extreme corners of American life and the people who inhabit them.

“Readers Accuse Us of Normalizing a Nazi Sympathizer; We Respond”
(Marc Lacey/The New York Times, November 26, 2017)

Tony Hovater at his home in New Carlisle, Ohio. George Etheredge for The New York Times

By Richard Fausset

Nov. 25, 2017

The case for quarantining extremist ideas

When confronted with white supremacists, newspaper editors should consider 'strategic silence'

Joan Donovan and
Danah Boyd

Fri 1 Jun 2018 13.46 EDT

Strategic silence is not a new idea. The Ku Klux Klan of the 1920s considered media coverage their most effective recruitment tactic and accordingly cultivated friendly journalists. According to [Felix Harcourt](#), thousands of readers joined the KKK after the [New York World ran a three-week chronicle of the group in 1921](#). Catholic, Jewish and black presses of the 1920s consciously differed from Protestant-owned mainstream papers in their coverage of the Klan, conspicuously avoiding giving the group unnecessary attention.

Contemporary Jewish community groups challenged journalists to consider not covering white supremacists' ideas. They called this strategy "quarantine", and it involved working with community organizations to minimize public confrontations and provide local journalists with enough context to understand why the American Nazi party was not newsworthy.

In regions where quarantine was deployed successfully, violence remained minimal and Rockwell was unable to recruit new party members. The press in those areas was aware that amplification served the agenda of the American Nazi party, so informed journalists employed strategic silence to reduce public harm.

The Oxygen of Amplification

Better Practices for Reporting on Extremists, Antagonists, and Manipulators Online

By Whitney Phillips
Data&Society

■ Amplification relinquishes control of the narrative to bad actors and bad information. By publishing stories about sensitive or potentially misleading information, one editor of a technology section underscored, citing the **Pizzagate** conspiracy¹, reporters could set in motion even worse harassment or manipulation campaigns.

■ Amplification increases the likelihood that similar disinformation and harassment tactics will be used in the future.

■ Amplification risks normalizing and desensitizing people to harmful views.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

■ Amplification risks lending credence to false narratives.

The Oxygen of Amplification
(Whitney Phillips/Data & Society Institute 2018, 4)



Facebook bans Alex Jones, Infowars pages over violence, hate speech

The social network's ban comes after a 30-day suspension in late July that Jones was able to skirt.

BY SEAN KEANE | AUGUST 6, 2018 8:25 AM PDT



LILY HAY NEWMAN SECURITY 08.05.19 12:28 AM

CLOUDFLARE DITCHES 8CHAN. WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

THE INTERNET INFRASTRUCTURE firm Cloudflare said it would cut service on Sunday evening to 8chan, the infamous online forum that has housed numerous posts and manifestos linked to horrific mass shootings in the United States and around the world. The move comes nearly two days after a mass shooting at an El Paso, Texas, Walmart left 20 dead and dozens wounded.

One of the most prominent white supremacist and Nazi destinations online, Stormfront.org, went dark Friday, likely at the behest of its domain host Network Solutions. This is just the latest in a wave of online hate-group account deletions and website closures in the wake of the Charlottesville, Virginia, rally that turned violent earlier this month.



Milo Yiannopoulos Banned From Venmo and PayPal for Anti-Semitic Stunt Targeting Jewish Writer

Jon Levine | June 29, 2018 @ 6:40 AM



Major Ku Klux Klan and Nazi Website Stormfront Has Been Kicked Offline

By APRIL GLASER

AUG 27, 2017 • 5:28 PM

Milo Yiannopoulos's collapse shows that no-platforming can work

By Zack Beauchamp | @zackbeauchamp | zack@vox.com | Dec 5, 2018, 8:30am EST

Yiannopoulos openly concedes that his desperate financial situation — and that's what this is, braggadocio aside — is the result of the concerted campaign against him by his opponents. “I am pretty broke, relatively speaking,” he says. “Two years of being no-platformed, banned, blacklisted and censored...has taken its toll.”

In August, key social media platforms — Facebook, YouTube, and Apple News — **banned conspiracy theorist Alex Jones** and his factually challenged site Infowars. Jones claimed after the banning that it would only make him more popular, that “the more I’m persecuted, the stronger I get.”

But a **New York Times** investigation published in September showed that this wasn’t actually true: In the three weeks following the ban, the average views of Infowars and Alex Jones videos examined by the Times fell by half. Two days after the Times published its investigation, **Twitter permanently banned Jones** from its platform, likely leading to an even steeper decline in access to his content.

This cutoff really threatens Jones’s bottom line. His profit model centers on selling **medically dubious supplements** to a mass audience, a lucrative business that brought in **around \$20 million in revenue** in 2014 (the last year for which figures are readily available). If Jones is getting fewer people to buy into his worldview, he’ll have difficulty maintaining a mass audience for Infowars supplements.

Google And Twitter Are Facing Lawsuits For Discriminating Against Conservatives

January 9, 2018 Hannah Bleau

EXCLUSIVE: TWITTER SHADOWBANNING 'REAL AND HAPPENING EVERY DAY' SAYS INSIDE SOURCE

by MILO · 16 Feb 2016 ·

The National Review

would always be critical of many civil rights policies, especially affirmative action, but by the mid-1960s its repudiation of open racists was clear. Other elements denied access to the magazine by then included the John Birch Society, anti-Semites, and followers of Ayn Rand. Ostracism from the *National Review* effectively marginalized these tendencies from the respectable conservative movement and mainstream political discourse generally.

The Rise of the Alt-Right

(Thomas J. Main/Brookings Institution, 2018, 33-34)

The New York Times

Neo-Nazis Have No First Amendment Right to Harassment, Judge Rules

By **Karen Zraick** Nov. 15, 2018

A lawsuit accusing the publisher of the neo-Nazi site Daily Stormer of coordinating a “terror campaign” of online harassment against a Jewish real estate agent cannot be dismissed on First Amendment grounds, a federal judge in Montana ruled this week.

***technological solutions
are not the answer;
social actions are***