

Fake news and facts

How to differentiate fake news and facts

Materials created within Training Course „Think
before repeating and sending further" - within Erasmus
+ Programme

FACT

- Something that is known to have happened or to exist, especially something for which proof exists, or about which there is information [Cambridge Dictionary]

Examples

- "this sentence contains words" (linguistic fact)
- "Abraham Lincoln was the 16th President of the United States" and "Abraham Lincoln was assassinated" (historical facts)

OPINION

- a thought or belief about something or someone,
- the thoughts or beliefs that a group of people have,
- a judgment about someone or something,
- a judgment made by an expert

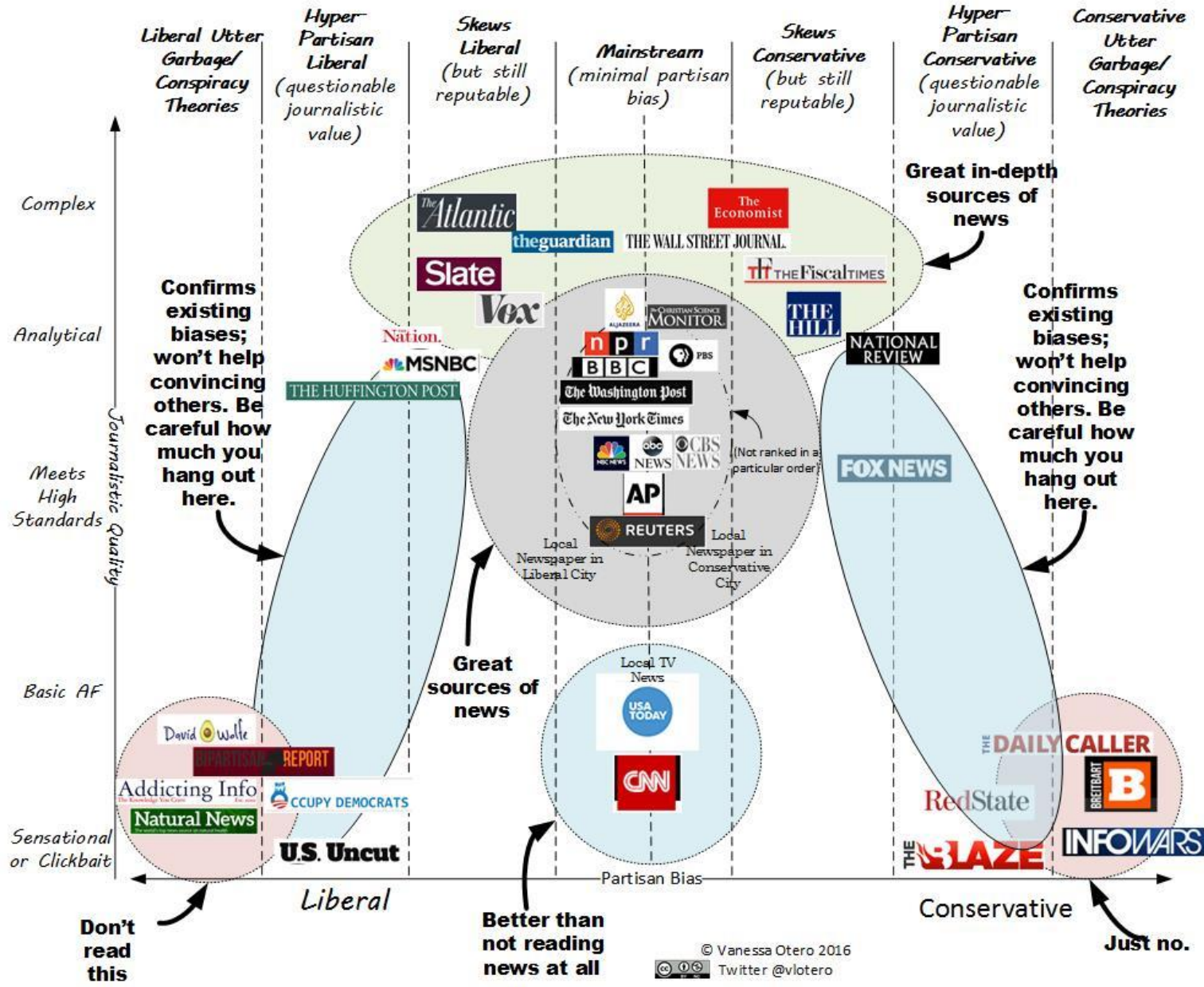
[Cambridge Dictionary]

FAKE NEWS

- Fake news (also known as junk news, pseudo-news, or hoax news) is a type of yellow journalism or propaganda that consists of deliberate disinformation or hoaxes spread via traditional news media (print and broadcast) or online social media.

Digital news has brought back and increased the usage of fake news, or yellow journalism. The news is then often reverberated as misinformation in social media but occasionally finds its way to the mainstream media as well.

- Fake news is written and published usually with the intent to mislead in order to damage an agency, entity, or person, and/or gain financially or politically, often using sensationalist, dishonest, or outright fabricated headlines to increase readership.



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Online tools for fact checking

The Full Fact Toolkit (provide free tools, information and **advice so that anyone can check the claims we hear from politicians and the media**)

1. Where's it from?

A trusted source is your safest option. If you don't know the source, check out the about page or ask yourself why they're sharing the story.

If there's no source, search for one. You can search for images to find out where they've been seen before or search for the story to see where it started.

If it doesn't look right, be careful. False news can be hidden on websites made to look like the real thing. Look for the little clues: phony URLs, bad spelling, or awkward layouts.

2. What's missing?

Get the whole story, not just a headline. One click can help you spot false news. Read the whole story and watch out for images, numbers, and quotes that don't have sources or that might have been taken out of context.

Images can be faked. False news stories often contain images or videos that have been changed. Even real images can be made to look like things they're not with a false date or caption.

Check what other people say. Check out the sources they give. See what trusted news sites or factcheckers are saying - breaking news is quickly picked up by different news sources. In an emergency, look for the official emergency services.

3. How do you feel?

People who make false news try to manipulate your feelings. They know that making you angry or worried means they're more likely to get clicks. If it's winding you up, stop and think how you could check it before you share.

If it looks too good to be true, it probably is. Hope can be used to manipulate us too. Most of the time, the miracle cure doesn't exist.

Don't be the one who doesn't spot the joke. Sometimes jokes and satire online aren't obvious. Funny or outrageous details, the way it's written, or the site it's on might give it away.

Online tools for fact checking c.d.

The following list of tools (in no particular order) will help you fact-check your online research, whether it be a video, an image or an article. These tools will help you tell the difference between fact and fiction:

- **Snopes.com** (verifies articles and claims the old fashioned way with human fact checkers who write up articles verifying news topics with their findings. For any information you'd like them to cover, you can email a link to the site. Their writers will offer up the sources they looked up, so you, yourself, can follow the trail and see how they came to their conclusions for yourself)
- **FindExif.com** (allows you to take the first step in trying to determine if the image you have is original or is wrapped in fake location tags, backdated or hiding something)
- **Hoaxy** (allows you to “visualize the spread of claims and fact checking”. You can ultimately see the spread of a hoax or claim and its corrections as it gets shared)
- **twXplorer** (Once you're logged in, you start by simply entering a search term. Then twXplorer generates results you can view in a few ways: the most recent tweets, tweets with common terms, tweets with hashtags, and via the links within those tweets. This helps you get a deeper look into the tweets on a certain topic being shared online.)