





Dispatches from the

Digital **Planet**

November 2020

Fall is a time for reflection and change. A crucial US presidential election is in process and "truth", once again, is in combat with "truthiness" (a la Colbert) and even outright lies. As this unfolds, we at Digital Planet are reflecting upon what we, as a society, have learned about misinformation, and how we can develop the antibodies necessary to fight off this enduring pandemic of fake news and disinformation.

As platforms continue to struggle with how to slow the spread of misinformation, we have witnessed new attacks on the legitimacy of key institutions and on the vote. While there is no question that foreign actors like Russia, China, and Iran are attempting to sow divisions and meddle in the election, domestic purveyors of misinformation are beginning to eclipse foreign actors in their reach.

As American voters head to the polls today, we turn our focus to the United States for this edition of *Dispatches*, highlighting our most timely research, analysis, and conversations. We dove directly into the issue of misinformation: capturing the vulnerabilities of various communities across the United States and proposing new strategies for edifying our defenses to disinformation. We highlight growing inequities that have become more apparent during the pandemic: from gender pay gaps and racial disparities, to visualizing the differences in how states handled lockdowns and openings from the lens of the digital economy. We hosted conversations on these topics, and hope that our work continues to spark discussions on these important themes.

We hope that soon we can reflect on this season of change as more constructive than chaotic. What do you think is the best path forward to regain trust in institutions and battle misinformation? Let us know on Twitter.

Bhaskar Chakravorti Dean of Global Business, The Fletcher School

Executive Director, Institute for Business in the Global Context



Maelstrom: A Mapping of Vulnerability Across America New analysis from Digital Planet

The Misinformation

explores which states are most, and least, vulnerable to misinformation across five evidence-based indicators.



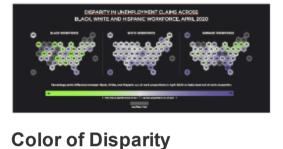
Gap Earning disparities widen as women bear

the brunt of the pandemic.



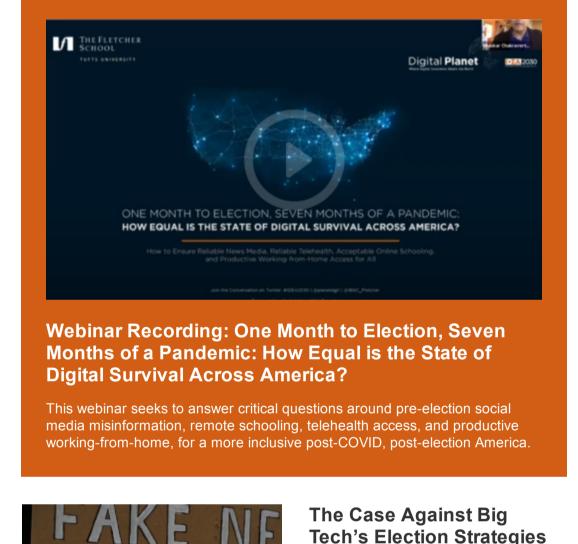
An analysis of Digital Readiness and the

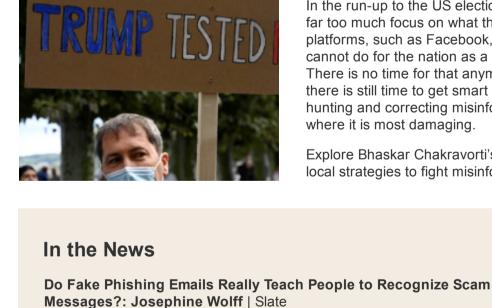
capacity to endure lockdowns.



Addressing extant racial gaps is key to

ensuring an inclusive recovery.





platforms, such as Facebook, can and cannot do for the nation as a whole. There is no time for that anymore. But

In the run-up to the US election, there is far too much focus on what the giant

there is still time to get smart about hunting and correcting misinformation where it is most damaging. Explore Bhaskar Chakravorti's op-ed on local strategies to fight misinformation.

Why Are Private Companies Telling Us More About Election Interference Than the Government Is?: Josephine Wolff | Slate

Foreign Policy

Al Jazeera

Antitrust Isn't the Solution to America's Biggest Tech Problem: Bhaskar Chakravorti | Harvard Business Review

Indian Express Remote Working Can't Last Forever: Bhaskar Chakravorti | Barron's

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Magazine Make Surveillance Capitalists Pay Their Dues: Bhaskar Chakravorti |

Some states more likely to be hit with misinformation during election | The Denver Channel

If the Democrats win the Senate, Big Tech better be ready for a bigger fight | MarketWatch

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House Democrats: FB, AMZN, GOOGL & AAPL enjoy 'monopoly power' | Yahoo! Finance

Digital Planet Research featured in CBS Moneywatch | CBS Moneywatch

What does technology leapfrogging really mean for Africa? | CIO Online

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Tampa The Next Phase: Change Accelerated | Coronavirus Brings Forward

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businesses, investors, and innovators.

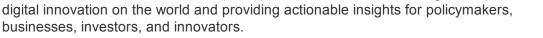
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