

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



The Misinformation Maelstrom: A Mapping of Vulnerability Across America

New analysis from Digital Planet explores which states are most, and least, vulnerable to misinformation across five evidence-based indicators.



The State of the Gender Pay Gap

Earning disparities widen as women bear the brunt of the pandemic.



The Big Easing

An analysis of Digital Readiness and the capacity to endure lockdowns.



Color of Disparity

Addressing extant racial gaps is key to ensuring an inclusive recovery.



Webinar Recording: One Month to Election, Seven Months of a Pandemic: How Equal is the State of Digital Survival Across America?

This webinar seeks to answer critical questions around pre-election social media misinformation, remote schooling, telehealth access, and productive working-from-home, for a more inclusive post-COVID, post-election America.



The Case Against Big Tech's Election Strategies

In the run-up to the US election, there is far too much focus on what the giant platforms, such as Facebook, can and cannot do for the nation as a whole. There is no time for that anymore. But 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.

In the News

[Do Fake Phishing Emails Really Teach People to Recognize Scam Messages?: Josephine Wolff | Slate](#)

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

[Antitrust Isn't the Solution to America's Biggest Tech Problem: Bhaskar Chakravorti | Harvard Business Review](#)

[Dear Sundar Pichai: There's a lot you take on when you take on the task of digitising India. Here are a few pointers: Bhaskar Chakravorti | The Indian Express](#)

[Remote Working Can't Last Forever: Bhaskar Chakravorti | Barron's Magazine](#)

[Make Surveillance Capitalists Pay Their Dues: Bhaskar Chakravorti | Foreign Policy](#)

[Some states more likely to be hit with misinformation during election | The Denver Channel](#)

[India sees 100,000 COVID-19 deaths: What happened and what now? | Al Jazeera](#)

[If the Democrats win the Senate, Big Tech better be ready for a bigger fight | MarketWatch](#)

[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](#)

[Researchers track spread of virus through social distancing | ABC News Tampa](#)

[The Next Phase: Change Accelerated | Coronavirus Brings Forward Important Shifts for Credit | Fitch Ratings](#)

About the Digital Planet

Digital Planet is an interdisciplinary research initiative of The Fletcher School's Institute for Business in the Global Context (IBGC) dedicated to understanding the impact of digital innovation on the world and providing actionable insights for policymakers, businesses, investors, and innovators.

Follow us on   