Social media was used to both spread misinformation and for fact-checking during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a new study which explores how individuals perceive and make sense of information they encounter during times of global crisis. Psychologists at Nottingham Trent University (NTU) carried out 24 semi-structured interviews with people aged 18-56 to understand how they made sense of and interacted with news they suspected to be fake.

According to an Ofcom report commissioned in the first week of the UK lockdown, 49% of individuals used social media to access news and information about COVID-19, and 46% stated they had seen false or misleading information related to the pandemic.

[...]