

Algorithm accountability is easier said than done | Columbia Journalism Review

By Mathew Ingram

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Over the past several years, Congress has [held](#) a seemingly [never-ending series](#) of [hearings](#) concerning “Big Tech,” the handful of companies that control much of our online behavior: Facebook, Twitter, and Google. Congressional committees have looked into whether the platforms [allowed foreign agents to influence](#) the 2016 election, whether their algorithms suppress certain kinds of speech, and whether they [harm young women](#); in many cases, the hearings have also been [a forum](#) for grandstanding. This week saw the latest in the series, a hearing by the House Energy and Commerce Committee, called “Holding Big Tech Accountable: Targeted Reforms to Tech’s Legal Immunity.” [The subject of the hearing](#) was a piece of legislation that has been an ace in the hole for the platforms in all of their other congressional appearances: [Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act](#). [...]

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