News Item

COVID Skeptics Don't Just Need More Critical Thinking | Slate

By Rebecca Onion

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> Over six grim pandemic months, from March to September of 2020, researchers at the MIT Visualization Group tried to find out how COVID-19 skeptics were talking about science and data. They identified Twitter users who had clustered together into communities around COVID-related topics and collected the graphs, charts, and maps each community tended to share. (The group has put together a visual presentation of their resulting paper, where you can see which images each group favored.) At the same time, they found anti-mask groups on Facebook and "deep lurked" there, watching comment threads and observing Facebook Live streams where people taught one another how to use public health data to come to their own conclusions, independent of government interpretation.
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