

Disinformation and democracy | ASU Now

By Madison Arnold

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From yellow journalism at the turn of the 20th century to conspiracy theories about COVID-19, disinformation is, and has always been, a risk of media consumption.

Researchers at Arizona State University study disinformation to understand how it shapes the social and political landscapes that influence daily life, and to help us recognize and avoid it.

“We would like to identify ways where we can both make the population more resilient to disinformation and create tools and technologies that allow detection, and essentially mitigation of the spread of disinformation,” said Nadya Bliss, executive director of ASU’s Global Security Initiative.

The institute works across disciplines to develop new approaches to security challenges that are “global in scale, borderless by nature, interdependent and often have no clear solutions.”

Research scientist Scott Ruston leads the institute’s Narrative, Disinformation and Strategic Influence research pillar. With over two decades of active and reserve service in the U.S. Navy, Ruston now helps strengthen the nation’s security through his expertise in narrative and strategic communication.

Ruston spoke with a Knowledge Enterprise writer to discuss his research on disinformation, how it spreads and how it affects our lives.

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Source: [Disinformation and democracy | ASU Now: Access, Excellence, Impact](#)