

# Huge MIT Study of ‘Fake News’: Falsehoods Win on Twitter | The Atlantic

By Robinson Meyer

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“Falsehood flies, and the Truth comes limping after it,” Jonathan Swift once wrote.

It was hyperbole three centuries ago. But it is a factual description of social media, according to [an ambitious and first-of-its-kind study](#) published Thursday in *Science*.

The massive new study analyzes every major contested news story in English across the span of Twitter’s existence—some 126,000 stories, tweeted by 3 million users, over more than 10 years—and finds that the truth simply cannot compete with hoax and rumor. By every common metric, falsehood consistently dominates the truth on Twitter, the study finds: Fake news and false rumors reach more people, penetrate deeper into the social network, and spread much faster than accurate stories.

Source: [Huge MIT Study of ‘Fake News’: Falsehoods Win on Twitter – The Atlantic](#)