

# People do not trust that Facebook is a healthy ecosystem | Vox Recode

By Shirin Ghaffary

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New York University researcher Laura Edelson is at the center of the latest major Facebook controversy over the misinformation that's [eroding our democracy](#) and [encouraging Covid-19 vaccine hesitancy](#).

Earlier this week, Facebook abruptly [shut down the personal Facebook accounts and research tools](#) of Edelson and two of her colleagues at the NYU Ad Observatory, which studies political advertisements and misinformation on the platform.

Facebook says the Ad Observatory was violating people's privacy by tracking some users' data without their permission through its Ad Observer browser extension tool. Edelson denies this and said that her team only collected data from people who volunteered to share their information. Facebook's move drew condemnation from [free speech advocates](#) and [lawmakers](#), who accused Facebook of squelching independent research. The [FTC](#) criticized Facebook's decision, saying the company's initial rationale was "[inaccurate](#)."

[...]

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