

Protest misinformation is riding on the success of pandemic hoaxes | MIT Technology Review

By Joan Donovan

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In one version, tens of thousands of protesters are marching to force accountability on the US justice system, shining a light on policing policies that protect white lives and property above anything else—and are [being met with the same brutality and indifference they are protesting against](#). In the other, driven by Donald Trump, US attorney general Bill Barr, and the MAGA coalition, an alternative narrative contends that [anti-fascist protesters](#) are traveling by bus and plane to remote cities and towns to wreak havoc. This notion is inspiring [roving gangs of mostly white vigilantes](#) to take up arms.

These armed activists are demographically very similar to those who spread misinformation and confusion about the pandemic; the same Facebook groups have spread hoaxes about both; it's the [same older Republican base](#) that shares most fake news.

[...]

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