

Researchers win grant to combat misinformation | WSU Insider

By WSU Insider

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Washington State University researcher Porismita Borah is part of a project to study the most effective methods of combating misinformation online that recently received a \$750,000 grant from the National Science Foundation's Convergence Accelerator.

Borah, an associate professor in WSU's Murrow College of Communication, joins a cross-disciplinary team undertaking the effort which includes researchers in journalism and engineering from University of Wisconsin-Madison and Georgia Tech.

"This project is a neat mix of theory and practice," said Borah, a co principle investigator on the grant. "We will detect misinformation on social media platforms and test messages with experimental research to address the pressing issue. We hope to aid professional fact checkers and journalists with our findings on misinformation correction."

Misinformation on social media has presented significant threats to both public health during the COVID-19 pandemic and democracy throughout the 2020 U.S. presidential election, and the researchers hope the effort will help curb its effects.

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