

News Item

Ridiculing the "tinfoil hats:" Citizen responses to COVID-19 misinformation in the Danish facemask debate on Twitter | HKS Misinformation Review

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We study how citizens engage with misinformation on Twitter in Denmark during the COVID-19 pandemic. We find that misinformation regarding facemasks is not corrected through counter-arguments or fact-checking. Instead, many tweets rejecting misinformation use humor to mock misinformation spreaders, whom they pejoratively label wearers of "tinfoil hats." Tweets rejecting misinformation project a superior social position and leave the concerns of misinformation spreaders unaddressed. Our study highlights the role of status in people's engagement with online misinformation.

[...]

Source: Ridiculing the "tinfoil hats:" Citizen responses to COVID-19 misinformation in the Danish facemask debate on Twitter | HKS Misinformation Review