

Russian disinformation in the time of Covid-19 | The Conversation

By Sophie Marineau

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Because platforms such as Facebook or Twitter do little content monitoring, they're a highly useful means of spreading disinformation. Under the cover of freedom of expression, unscrupulous actors spread false information according to three principles: speed, continuity and [inconsistency](#). An effective way to quickly spread information is to control, manually or by computers, multiple false accounts and profiles on social media. This type of account is called a [bot](#), and they can be found by the millions on social networks and are the main producers of large-scale misinformation.

To be effective, misinformation must spread quickly, before truthful and verifiable information is put online. Truth is not a determining factor, even though the majority of propaganda news contains some truth. Nevertheless, Harvard sociologist Kathleen Carley argues that [false news travel six times faster on social media than real news](#). At the same time, Christopher Paul and Miriam Matthews show that multiple sources are more convincing than a single source, and that the frequency with which one receives this information is critical. Therefore, numbers matter.

[...]

Source: [Russian disinformation in the time of Covid-19](#)