

The Disinformation Pandemic Is Real. Fighting it Will Require Compassion. | Mother Jones

By James West

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Trump is gone. But assessing the wreckage wrought by his lies has only just begun. Emerging, battered, from a year advising the former president, Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, and Dr. Deborah Birx, the former coronavirus taskforce coordinator, both agree: Trump's embrace of disinformation and chaos made the pandemic worse. "I think if we had had the public health messages from the top right through down to the people down in the trenches be consistent, that things might have been different," Fauci told CBS on Sunday. On *Face the Nation*, Birx described working around Trump, and competing with "parallel data streams coming into the White House." In his first press conference as President Biden's top medical adviser, Fauci described the "liberating feeling" of letting "the science speak."

[...]

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