

With the loss of journalism outlets, homogeneity becomes the norm | Columbia Journalism Review

By Lauren Harris

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All is not well: Many of the high-profile health workers originally joined Twitter for the same reasons journalists and other professionals do. Sure there's nonsense aplenty on the site, but there are also pockets to talk policy, to hear about research, to meet colleagues from all over the country, to connect — long before the pandemic forced us all to do that virtually.

But just as Trump was able to tweet directly to the public — including disseminating misinformation about the coronavirus and attacking scientists who disagreed with him — doctors, nurses and other emergency personnel began to tweet more about the virus. They went over the heads or worked around hospital administrators as well as local and national officials. While the White House was saying everything was under control, #medtwitter made clear it was not.

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