# Digital Technology and Democracy

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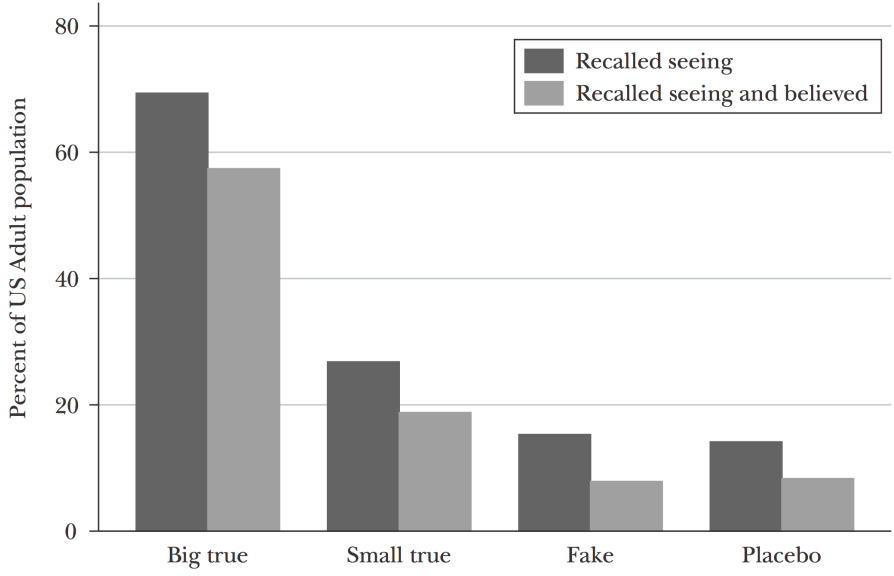
# Digital technology is changing...

1. ...political communication and elections (“FAKE NEWS!”)
2. ...political participation (“civic tech”)
3. ...public administration (“e-government”)

JUSTIZ
facebook
HETZE
HASS
RADIKALISIERUNG

# 2016: 1.14 fake news read on average




(Allcott and Gentzkow, 2017)

# 2016: 0.1% of users shared 80% of fake news

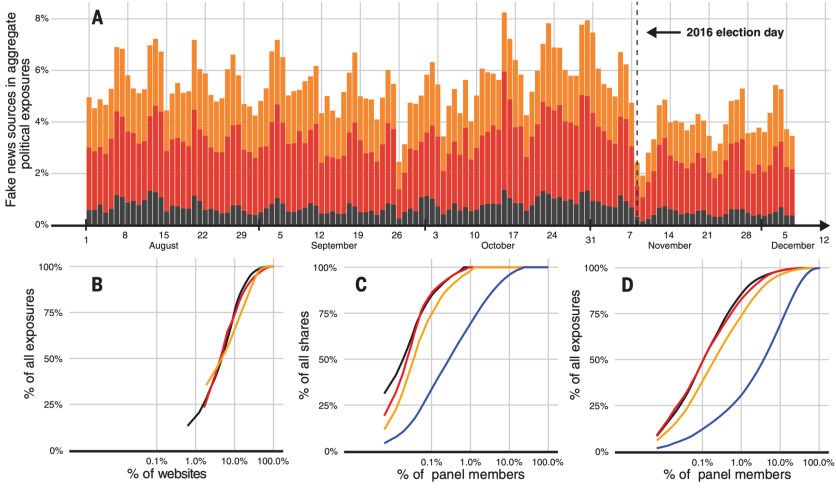



**Fig. 1. Prevalence over time and concentration of fake news sources.** (**A**) Daily percentage of exposures to black, red, and orange fake news sources, relative to all exposures to political URLs. Exposures were summed across all panel members. (**B** to **D**) Empirical cumulative distribution functions showing distribution of exposures among websites (B), distribution of shares by panel members (C), and distribution of exposures among panel members (D). The *x* axis represents percentage of websites or panel members responsible for a given percentage (*y* axis) of all exposures or shares. Black, red, and orange lines represent fake news sources; blue line denotes all other sources. This distribution was not comparable for (B) because of the much larger number of sources in its tail and the fundamentally different selection process involved.

(Grinberg et al., 2019)

# 2016: 91.5% of user shared no fake news

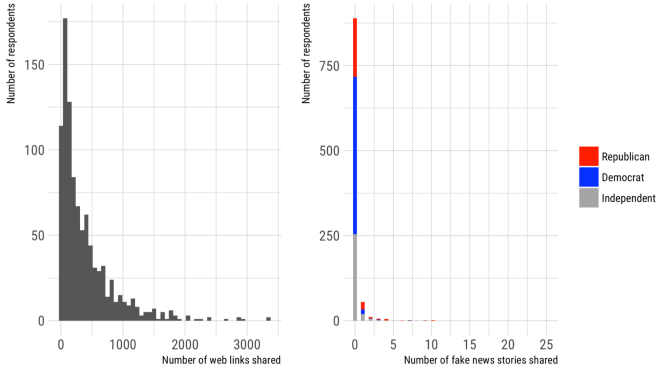



**Fig. 1. Distribution of total and fake news shares.** (**Left**) Histogram of the total number of links to articles on the web shared by respondents in the sample who identified as Democrats, Republicans, or independents. (**Right**) Stacked histogram of the number of fake news articles shared by respondents who identified as Democrats, Republicans, or independents using the measure derived from (*7*).

**Table 1. Distribution of fake news shares.**

| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5–10 | 11–50 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1090 (91.5%) | 63 (5.3%) | 12 (1.0%) | 8 (<1.0%) | 5 (<1.0%) | 9 (<1.0%) | 4 (<1.0%) |

(Guess et al., 2019)

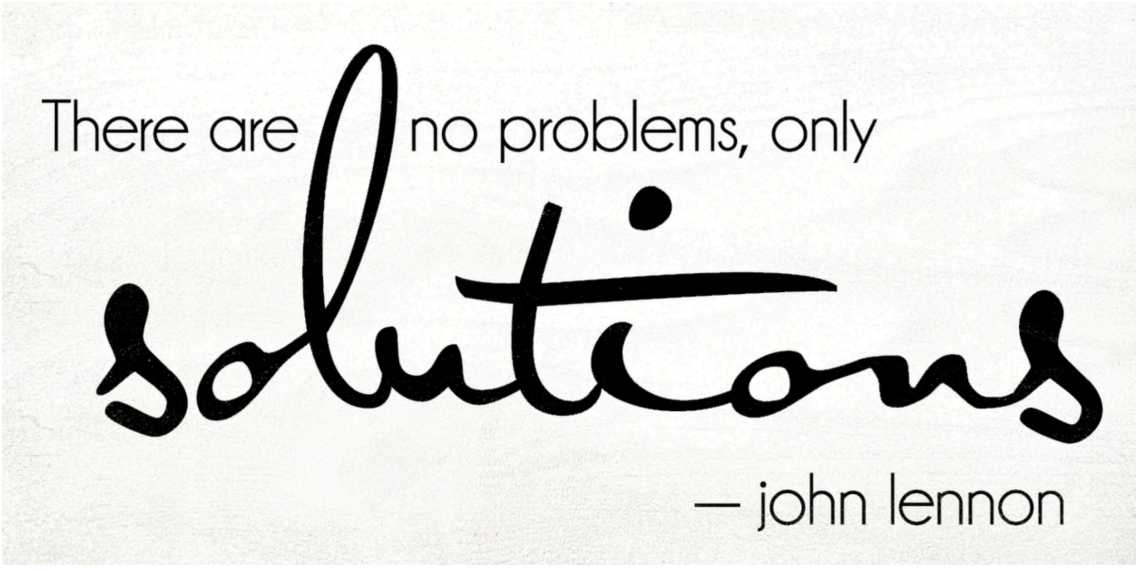
THIS IS FINE.

DANIEL KREISS SHANNON MCGREGOR IDEAS 03.01.2021 08:00 AM

# Facebook's Oversight Board Must Uphold the Ban on Trump

## It's not just about penalizing the former president. It's about protecting democracy—in the US and around the world.

(https://www.wired.com/story/facebook-oversight-board-trump-ban/)


There are no problems, only
solutions
— john lennon

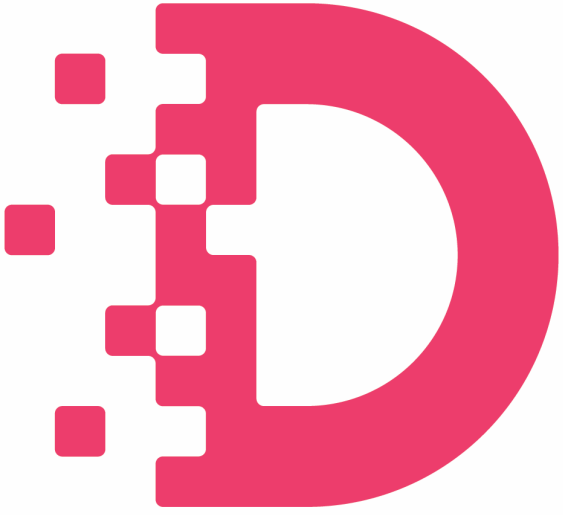
# How democracies can claim back power in the digital world

Technology companies have taken many aspects of tech governance from democratically elected leaders. It will take an international effort to fight back.

by **Marietje Schaake**

September 29, 2020

(https://www.technologyreview.com/2020/09/29/1009088/democracies-power-digital-social-media-governance-tech-companies-opinion/)



DigDemLab.io

# Literaturliste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Grinberg, N., K. Joseph, L. Friedland, B. Swire-Thompson, and D. Lazer (2019). Fake news on twitter during the 2016 us presidential election. *Science 363*(6425), 374–378.

Guess, A., J. Nagler, and J. Tucker (2019). Less than you think: Prevalence and predictors of fake news dissemination on facebook. *Science Advances 5*(1), eaau4586.