Digital Technology and Democracy

Fabrizio Gilardi
University of Zurich
Istituto svizzero, Rome
March 3, 2021
(Update March 3, 2021)
Digital technology is changing...

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


2016: 1.14 fake news read on average

(Allcott and Gentzkow, 2017)
2016: 0.1% of users shared 80% of fake news

(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>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1. Distribution of fake news shares.</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3 (&lt;=1.0%)</th>
<th>4 (&lt;=1.0%)</th>
<th>5–10 (&lt;=1.0%)</th>
<th>11–50 (&lt;=1.0%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
THIS IS FINE.
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.

([link](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

