



BIASES

IN REPORTING

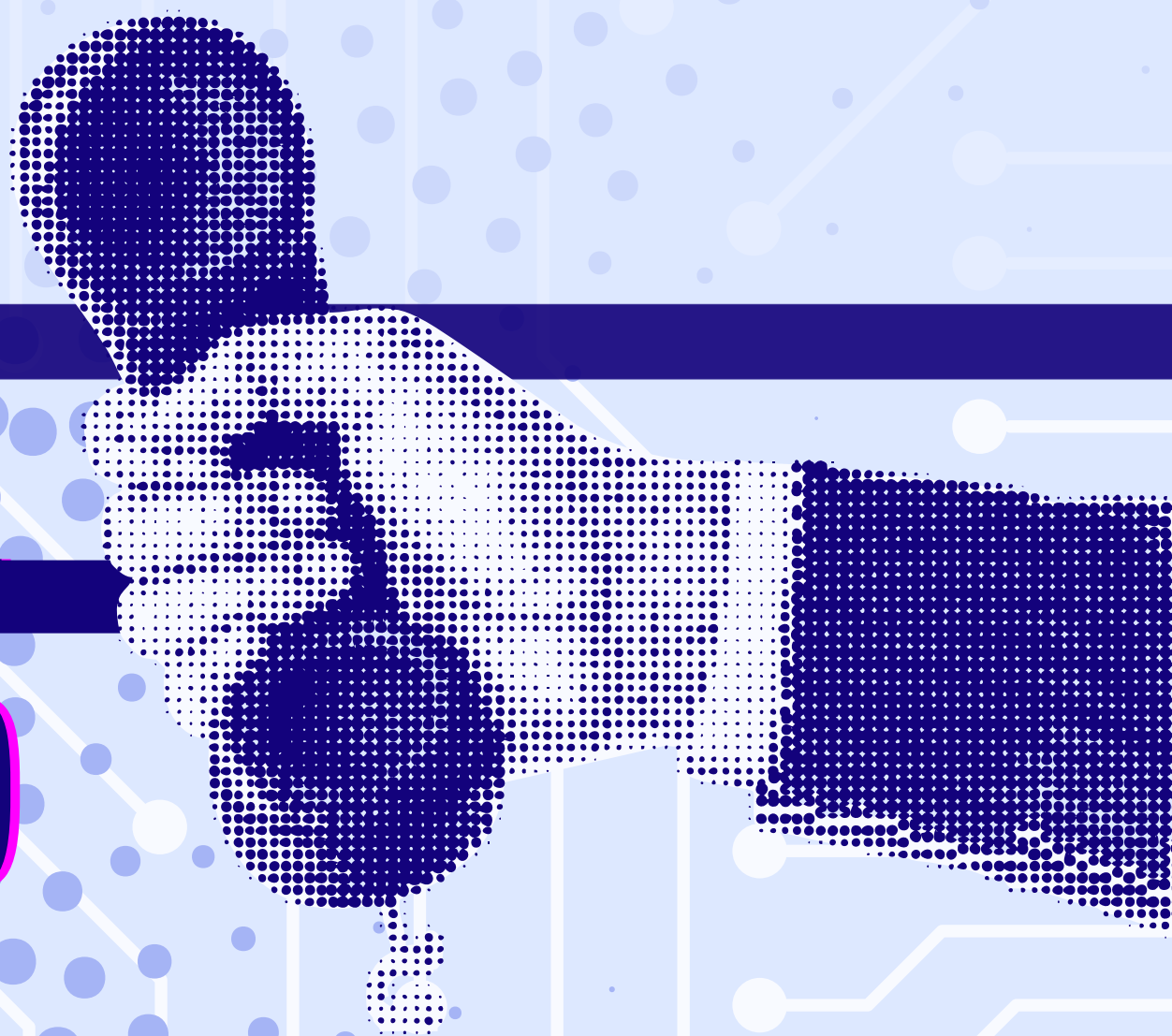
Almost all forms of media are inherently biased, and your favorite news sources are no exception! Whether you watch the news, or follow current events on social media, the team that puts together the information you digest is almost certainly biased.

Most well-known American news sources are skewed to the political right or left, though they will not flat out say that the information they are presenting has gone through the filter of their biases, it most certainly has.

When we engage with news that is biased, especially when we are engaging with information that is all biased in the same way, it is easy for misinformation, or misinterpretation of events and situations to become our realities.

INCIDENTALNESS MEANS WE OFTEN COME ACROSS NEWS WHILE DOING OTHER THINGS. WHEN YOU GET ONLINE WITH THE INTENTION OF PASSING A FEW MINUTES WITH FUNNY VIDEOS OR SEEING WHAT YOUR FRIENDS HAVE BEEN UP TO, YOU ARE CONFRONTED WITH CURRENT EVENTS AND POLITICS.

ANNA SOPHIE KÜMPEL, SOCIAL MEDIA INFORMATION ENVIRONMENTS AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR THE USES AND EFFECTS OF NEWS: THE PINGS FRAMEWORK, COMMUNICATION THEORY, VOLUME 32, ISSUE 2, MAY 2022, PAGES 223–242, [HTTPS://DOI.ORG/10.1093/CT/QTAB012](https://doi.org/10.1093/ct/qtab012)



PINGS

PERSONALIZATION IS ESSENTIALLY THE ALGORITHMIC WAY THAT SOCIAL MEDIA SITES DECIDE WHAT NEWS WE, THE USER, WANT TO SEE. EVERY CLICK OR INTERACTION WITH AWCERTAIN TYPE OR STYLE OF CONTENT WILL DETERMINE WHAT WE SEE NEXT. SOCIAL MEDIA HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY PERSONALIZED AS ALGORITHMS HAVE GOTTEN BETTER AT DETECTING WHAT CONTENT WE LIKE AND WATCH.

GRANULARITY MEANS THAT WE TYPICALLY SEE NEWS IN SMALL BITS, OR GRANULES, OF INFORMATION RATHER THAN WHOLE ARTICLES OR BROADCASTS. YOU HARDLY EVER GET THE WHOLE STORY ONLINE.

SOciality IS THE LAST FACTOR AND IT FOCUSES ON HOW NEWS CONNECTS TO SOCIAL INTERACTIONS. WE OFTEN SEE NEWS THROUGH RECOMMENDATIONS AND INPUT FROM FRIENDS AND ONLINE COMMUNITIES.

NON-EXCLUSIVITY REFERS TO NEWS BEING JUST ONE PART OF A VARIED FEED. OFTEN TIMES, WE SEE THE NEWS IN BETWEEN OTHER CONTENT, AND THE CONTENT THAT FILLS THE GAPS COULD BE ANYTHING.

ECHO CHAMBERS

ECHO CHAMBERS ARE A SOCIAL PHENOMENON IN WHICH A PERSON IS SURROUNDED BY LIKE MINDED PEOPLE AND CONTENT. THUS, THE SAME OPINIONS ARE "ECHOED" OVER AND OVER AGAIN, USUALLY WITHOUT FAIL.

THESE CIRCUMSTANCES CAN LEAD PEOPLE TO HAVE NO CONCEPT OF WHAT PEOPLE OUTSIDE OF THEIR CIRCLE OF INFORMATIONS THINK OR BELIEVE. THIS LACK OF INFORMATION, OR IGNORANCE LEADS TO A DIVIDE BETWEEN PEOPLE BASED ON IDEALS.

ECHO CHAMBERS ARE FAR MORE COMMON THAT ONE MIGHT THINK.

THOUGH, IT IS EASY TO CREATE AN ECHO CHAMBER, ESPECIALLY ONLINE.

EVERY TIME THAT YOU CHOOSE NOT TO INTERACT WITH CONTENT THAT DIFFERS FROM YOUR BELIEFS, YOU ARE DISTANCING YOURSELF FROM DIVERSE CONTENT.

M. CINELLI, G. DE FRANCISCI MORALES, A. GALEAZZI, W. QUATTROCIOCCHI, & M. STARNINI, THE ECHO CHAMBER EFFECT ON SOCIAL MEDIA, PROC. NATL. ACAD. SCI. U.S.A. 118 (9) E2023301118, [HTTPS://DOI.ORG/10.1073/PNAS.2023301118](https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2023301118) (2021).

IGNORANCE

Odds are, you
are ignorant in
some way, but
it may not be
your fault.

When you are only exposed to one point of view, or never educated about an issue or situation, that can make you ignorant. Ignorance is not inherently the fault of one person; however, becoming and staying informed is the responsibility of a good citizen. Ignorance is one of the leading causes of bias within a group of people, and echo chambers a huge enforcer of ignorance. When we are able to choose what information we see and interact with, it becomes incredibly easy to remain biased towards issues that may make us uncomfortable or unhappy to learn about.

Hoffman, A. M., & Kaire, J. (2020). Comfortably Numb: Effects of Prolonged Media Coverage. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 64(9), 1666-1692. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0022002720907675>
(original work published 2020)

Iqbal, Salma & Kamran, Muhammad & Javald, Zartashia. (2024). Impact of Television News Violence: A Critical Analysis of Sensitization Effects on Mental Well-being of University Students. *Journal of Educational Psychology and Pedagogical Sciences*, 4, 69-80. <https://doi.org/10.52587/jepss.v4i1.88>

EXTREMISMS

EXTREMISM IS UPHOLDING A BELIEF, TYPICALLY POLITICAL TO SUCH A DEGREE THAT YOU BECOME INCAPABLE OF SEEING OR ACCEPTING OTHER PERSPECTIVES.

EXTREMISM IS OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH IGNORANCE, AS BOTH REQUIRE A DEGREE OF ISOLATION FROM INFORMATION THAT COULD RESHAPE ONE'S OPINION.

GIUDICE, VICTORIA. (2024). FROM BROWSING TO ACTION: RISK FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH ONLINE RADICALIZATION AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM. [HTTPS://DOI.ORG/10.13140/RG.2.230700.46125](https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.230700.46125)