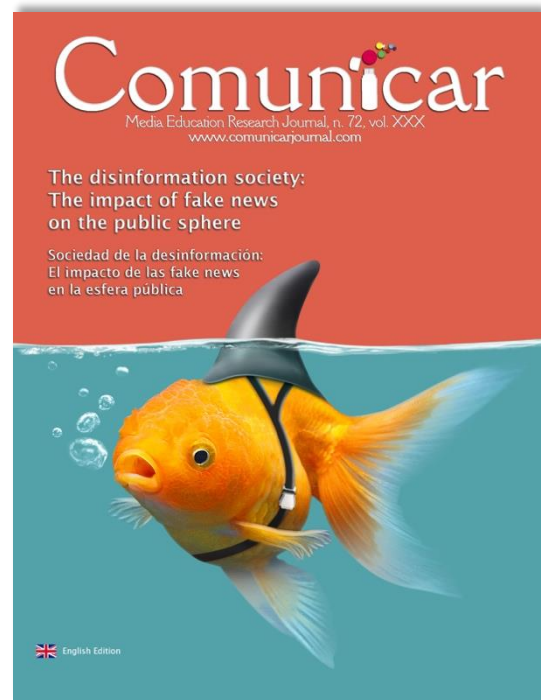## CALL FOR PAPERS, 72

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The disinformation society:
The impact of fake news on the public sphere

Sociedad de la desinformación: El impacto de las fake news en la esfera pública

Thematic Editors

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Scope

Technological communication processes have undergone far-reaching changes in recent years, giving rise to a broad, diverse and open media system. News cycles have accelerated their pace, the pre-eminence of the media has waned, communicators have changed with the appearance of new broad-casters and the general public's selectivity has improved significantly. In this context, the concept of disinformation has acquired special relevance, insofar as the relentless flow of messages with such di-verse origins, objectives and itineraries has paved the way for erroneous, biased or false information. Although erroneous information is occasionally involuntary (misinformation), it often has the explicit purpose (disinformation) of confusing the target audience by conveying fake news with an eye to ob-taining a specific result, such as guiding or manipulating public opinion.

Descriptors

- Political discourse and disinformation.
- Disinformation strategies implemented by public actors, new broadcasters and institutions.
- Generation and dissemination of fake news in the media and on social networking sites.
- Disinformation, populism and polarisation.
- Automated disinformation: social media and bots.
- Educational experiences and disinformation.
- The disinformation society.
- Disinformation, conflicts and hate speeches.
- Verification of information versus disinformation: fact-checkers and fake news.
- Disinformation and the crisis of democracy.

Questions

- How is fake news produced? Where does it come from and what is its main purpose?
- How is fake news disseminated via different communication channels?
- Does the dissemination of fake news follow some or other pattern that transcends different spheres of current affairs?
- How does fake news affect the public? What impact does it have on the public sphere?
- What role do fact-checkers play in disseminating and reporting fake news? Do they contribute to miti-gating its effects or, on the contrary, to exacerbating them by highlighting their existence and rele-vance?
- Do the media have efficient verification mechanisms for avoiding the publication of fake news?
- What role do opinion leaders play in the generation and dissemination of fake news?
- What disinformation strategies do states implement at an international level? How does disinformation influence international politics? To what extent can the implementation of disinformation strategies by specific powers for destabilising other states or organisations be detected?
- How can disinformation be combated? What measures can be adopted by the media, those appearing in the news and institutions?
- What consequences do communication automation processes have for disinformation?

Editors

Guillermo López-García (University of Valencia, Spain)

Professor of Journalism at the University of Valencia, López-García has devoted most of his research career to stud-ying political and online communication. He is currently coordinating the I+D Mediaflows group (www.mediaflows.es), whose successive projects have been funded by the Ministry of Economy and Innovation of the Valencian regional government. He is also the coordinator of a congress on new trends in digital communication, held on a yearly basis since 2009, while jointly run-ning the academic journal Dígitos, since its creation in 2015. As to his academic work, he is the co-director of the 'New Journal-ism, Political Communication and Knowledge Society' master's degree programme at the University of Valencia. He has au-thored or edited 12 book and has published numerous paper and book chapters in scientific journals, while currently collabo-rating with different media, including the online newspaper Valencia Plaza, for which he writes a weekly column and coordi-nates its opinion pieces.

Gianpietro Mazzoleni (University of Milan, Italy)

Full Professor of Sociology of Communication and Political Communication in the Department of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Milan, Mazzoleni is internationally known for his work on the impact of the media on political systems and the com-munica-tion practices of political institutions and actors. He was the co-founder and editor of the Italian journal Political Communica-

tion (Comunicazione Politica) from 2000 to 2013, and a member of the editorial board of leading journals in the field (Political Communication, European Journal of Communication and International Journal of Press/Politics, among others). He is the edi-tor-in-chief of The International Encyclopedia of Political Communication (2016) and the co-author of The Media and Neo-populist Movements in a Comparative Perspective (2003), The Politics of Representation: Election Campaigning and Propor-tional Represen-tation (2004), The Media in Europe (2004), Politica Pop (2009), Journalists and Media Accountability: An Inter-national Study of News People in the Digital Age (2014) and La politica pop online (2019), as well as authoring the best-selling handbook La comuni-cazione politica (3rd edition, Mulino, 2012), also published in Spanish (La comunicación política, Alianza Editorial, 2010) and Hun-garian.

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Professor of Journalism at the University of Valladolid, Campos-Domínguez was awarded a 2020 Leonardo grant by the BBVA Foun-dation for the project 'Parliaments, Bots and Disinformation' (Parlamentos, bots y desinformación). Her re-search focuses on the study of digital political communication. A member of the I+D Mediaflows (www.mediaflows.es) group, she has participated in different competitive projects revolving around the study of political broadcasters on the Internet. She has also authored or edited around 20 monographs, as well as publishing numerous scientific papers.

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