Social media may have provided a space for mis and disinformation to spread, but questions around why people believe and share false content and how they became radicalized must be addressed as well. What roles do cognitive biases and mental shortcuts, as described by behavioral economics, and the development of algorithms affect or even degrade our information ecosystem?

Selected Experts on the Topic:

Meredith Broussard
research director at the NYU Alliance for Public Interest Technology
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Panayiota (Pani) Kendeou
Educational Psychology, co-author of the Debunking Handbook
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Eric Saund
Research scientist in Cognitive Science and AI

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Reading Resources:

‘Exit Counselors’ Strain To Pull Americans Out Of A Web Of False Conspiracies (Tovia Smith, NPR)

COVID lies, conspiracy theories build on boredom, beliefs (Kathrin Wesolowski, Deutsche Welle)

Political psychology in the digital (mis)information age. A model of news belief and sharing (Preprint)

How Cybersecurity Experts Can Nudge Users To Make Safer Choices (Perry Carpenter, Forbes)

How Facebook got addicted to spreading misinformation (Karen Hao, Tech Review)

Fake News and Anthropology: A Conversation on Technology, Trust, and Publics in an Age of Mass Disinformation (Journal of the Association for Political and Legal Anthropology)