Journalism Studies ›

Volume 19, 2018 - Issue 13: The Future of Journalism. Guest Edited by Lucy Bennett, Stuart Allan, and Mike Berry

38,610 Views | 513 CrossRef citations to date | 176 Altmetric

ARTICLES

Truth is What Happens to News

On journalism, fake news, and post-truth

Silvio Waisbord

Pages 1866-1878 | Published online: 06 Jul 2018

Cite this article https://doi.org/10.1080/1461670X.2018.1492881 Check for updates

Sample our Economics, Finance, Business & Industry Journals
>> Sign in here to start your access to the latest two volumes for 14 days

Abstract

Here I propose that the phenomenon of “fake news” is indicative of the contested position of news and the dynamics of belief formation in contemporary societies. It is symptomatic of the collapse of the old news order and the chaos of contemporary public communication. These developments attest to a new chapter in the old struggle over the definition of truth—governments waging propaganda wars, elites, and corporations vie to dominate news coverage, and mainstream journalism’s continuous efforts to claim to provide authoritative reportage of current events. The communication chaos makes it necessary to revisit normative arguments about journalism and democracy as well as their feasibility in radically new conditions. Conventional notions of news and truth that ground standard journalistic practice are harder to achieve and maintain amid the destabilization of the past hierarchical order.

KEYWORDS:

Fake news post-truth journalism public communication

Previous article View issue table of contents Next article

Related research

People also read Recommended articles Cited by 513

Information for

Authors
R&D professionals
Editors
Librarians
Societies

Open access

Overview
Open journals
Open Select
Dove Medical Press
F1000Research

Opportunities

Reprints and e-prints
Advertising solutions
Accelerated publication
Corporate access solutions

Help and information

Help and contact
Newsroom
All journals
Books

Keep up to date

Register to receive personalised research and resources by email

Sign me up

Copyright © 2026 Informa UK Limited Privacy policy

Cookies Terms & conditions Accessibility

Registered in England & Wales No. 01072954
5 Howick Place | London | SW1P 1WG