Commission on Information Disorder Knowledge Center

Intersection of Disinformation and Marginalized Communities

Selected Experts on the Topic:

Nora Benavidez PEN America @AttorneyNora

Farai Chideya Ford Foundation <u>@farai</u>

Brandi-Collins Dexter Shorenstein Center @BrandingBrandi

Claudia Flores-Saviaga Fellow at Facebook Research, Ph.D. candidate in the HCI Lab at West Virginia University @saviaga

Sherrilyn Ifill President, NAACP Legal Defense Fund @Sifill LDF

Jacquelyn Mason special projects manager, First Draft @JacquieSMason

Shireen Mitchell founder, Stop Online Violence Against Women @digitalsista

Olivier Sylvain Professor of Law at Fordham University @oliviersylvain

Bridget Todd communications director at UltraViolet @BridgetMarie

Khuram Zaman Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University @zamandigital Communities of color and other marginalized groups have consistently been disproportionately affected and targeted by mis and disinformation. According to a report by the Senate Intelligence Committee on Russian interference in 2016, "no single group of Americans was targeted by IRA information operatives more than African Americans. By far, race and related issues were the preferred target of the information warfare campaign designed to divide the country." In 2020, these tactics focused on suppressing voter turnout and spreading medical distrust in minority communities, creating societal harm and individual risk. Understanding the history of targeted disinformation campaigns is critical when trying to develop whole-of-society solutions.

Reading Resources:

Failure to understand Black and Latinx communities will result in a critical misunderstanding of the impact of disinformation (Jacquelyn Mason, First Draft)

From vote to virus, misinformation campaign targets Latinos (Will Weissert, AP) Michael Tubbs on disinformation, racism, and news deserts (Akintunde Ahmad, Columbia Journalism Review)

COVID-19 infodemic exacerbates existing religious and racial prejudices (Harrison Mantas, Poynter)

'An unquestionable truth':
Religious misinformation in
the coronavirus pandemic
(Jaime Longoria, Daniel
Acosta Ramos and Madelyn
Webb, First Draft)

The challenge of combating fake news in Asian American communities (Terry Nguyen, Vox)

How a racialized disinformation campaign ties itself to The 1619 Project (Joan Donovan, Brandi-Collins Dexter, Columbia Journalism Review)

