Artificial Intelligence, Disinformation and the Threats Posed to Democratic Societies.

ASU Global Security Initiative
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Center on Narrative, Disinformation and Strategic Influence

Mission

ASU's Global Security Initiative's Center on Narrative, Disinformation & Strategic Influence conducts **interdisciplinary research** that develops tools and insights for decision makers, policymakers, civil society groups, and communities to **understand how narrative shapes reality and how manipulations of the information environment threaten democratic norms and institutions**.

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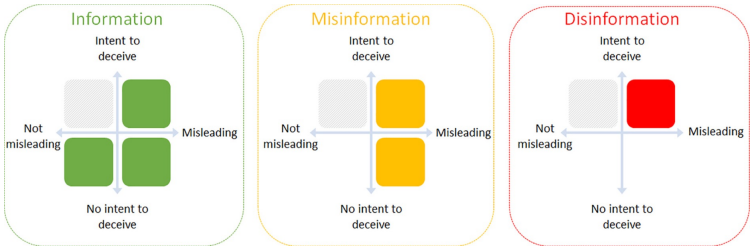
Agenda

- What is mis/disinformation?
- Threats to Democracy
- AI + Disinformation Primer
- Examples and Threat Landscape
- Countering and Detecting Disinformation
- Recommendations

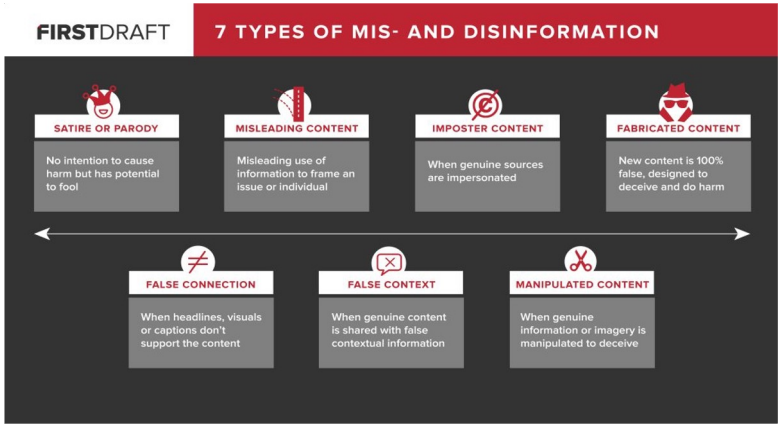
Question

What is mis/disinformation?

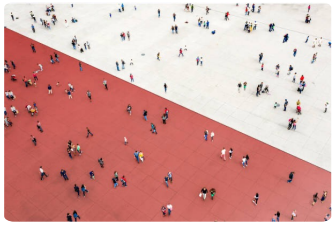
Hierarchy of information



Hierarchy of information (green), misinformation (yellow) and disinformation (red). Credit: Treen et al. (2020)



Source: First Draft

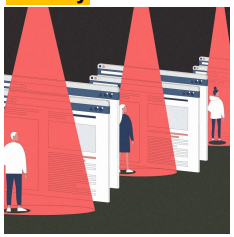


Threats to Democracy

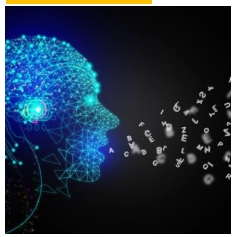
- Disinformation erodes trust in the socio-political institutions that are the fundamental fabric of democracy: legitimate news sources, scientists, experts, and even fellow citizens.
- Polluted information environments result in the loss of a shared reality and information islands.
- Communication and compromise are fundamental to democracy, neither are possible when there is no shared reality.

Disinformation + AI Landscape

Targeted Delivery



Creation + Dissemination

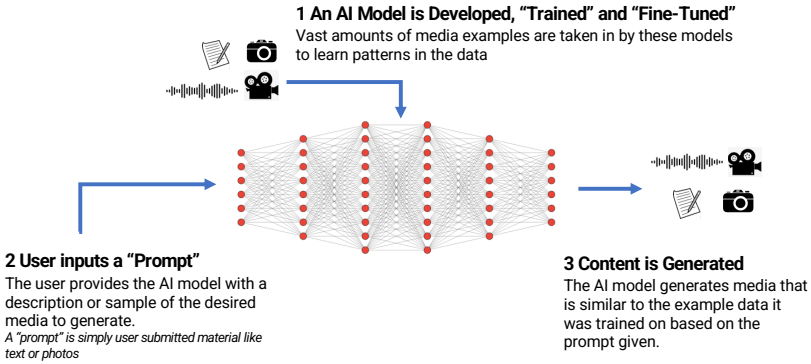


Detection + Countering

Definition

Generative AI is a type of artificial intelligence (AI) that uses machine learning algorithms to create media like images, videos, text and audio based on prompts.

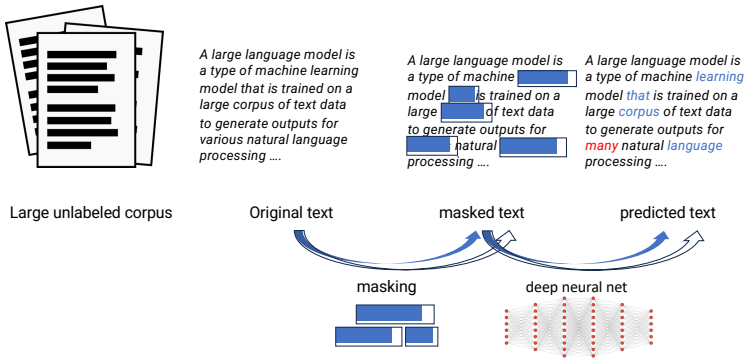
Big Picture of Generative AI



Question

How are language models trained?

ExampleTraining



Examples & Threats

Text Generation

Examples & Threats

Speech Generation

Examples & Threats

Image Generation

"A picture or it didn't happen!"

Examples & Threats

Video Generation

Detecting and Countering Disinformation

Question

Can this simply be regulated away?

Recommendations

- Create digital media literacy programs for New Mexicans
  - **Media literacy** is the ability to access, analyze, evaluate, create and act using all forms of communication.
  - Incorporate digital media literacy in K-12 curriculums
  - Make digital media literacy programs freely available to all New Mexicans

- Regulate the use of AI-Manipulated Media in political campaigns and communications

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Questions? Comments?
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