

Figure 4. Different forms of information pollution that typically occur

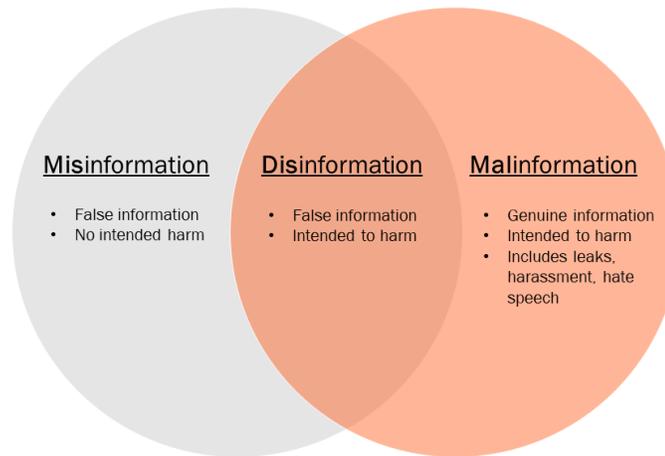


Fig 2.11: Information Disorder (Wardle & Derakhshan, 2017)

Misinformation and Disinformation. Ha, Peres and Ray (2021) write that

misinformation "is simply erroneous information or containing factual errors due to unintentional or innocent mistakes" (p. 291). Alba-Juez and Mackenzie (2019) tell us that misinformation "refers to the spreading of inaccurate or false information while one mistakenly thinks one is sharing accurate information" (p. 27). In Sample et al. (2020), misinformation is "the inadvertent release of misleading or factually incorrect information" (p. 2). Haggard (2020) shares that "misinformation...is simply inaccurate" (p. 962), inferring the action is without intent to deceive. As for Taddicken and Wolfe (2020), misinformation is "information that is incorrect, possibly given by accident, but not created with the intent of causing harm" (p. 1). Finally, Wardle and Derakhshan (2017) state misinformation to be "when false information is shared, but no harm is meant" (p. 5).

In each of these definitions of misinformation, the cited authors also provided a contrasting term known as disinformation, which is consistent with this quote from Wardle and Derakhshan: "Disinformation is when false information is knowingly shared to cause harm" (p. 5). Wardle and Derakhshan also go a step further by including "malformation," defined as the

use of genuine information used to cause harm. Figure 2.11 shows a Venn diagram illustrating Wardle and Derakhshan's view of how these definitions are interrelated. In addition to these specific definitions, Deligiaouri (2018) refers to Wardle and Derakhshan's "typology for misinformation and disinformation" (p. 310) while Paisana, Pinto-Martinho, and Cardoso (2020) quote Wardle and Derakhshan's definitions for misinformation, disinformation, and mal-information, while Sullivan (2019) cites Wardle and Derakhshan's terms but not definitions. Pepp, Michaelson, and Sterken (2019) do not mention misinformation but do include disinformation, with an inference that fake news that is spread without an overt effort to deceive or mislead would not be considered disinformation.

2.1.3: Theories and Frameworks.

This review of literature has been an attempt to better understand what fake news is and how it came into everyday life. Thus far, the literature has revealed the origins of fake news and how those forms have evolved over time. The literature has also shown the way scholars and researchers identify fake news and the criteria they suggest will aid in its detection. The review of literature next examines work that relates theories in order to explain the nature and significance of fake news. It is this foundation that provided in part the needed insight for a more specific research direction for this study.