

Number	Title & Author	Journal/Book Name	Author Background (Uni/Country/Gender)	Key Findings (How does it define our topic?)	Gaps/Bias (What is missing?)
1	AGENDA-SETTING by James W. Dearing & Everett M. Rogers	BOOK: AGENDA-SETTING	Both authors are American males.	This reading is a pre-requisite to understanding media framing and phenomenon like filter bubbles in modern media. This reading helps to show how media is responsible for shaping people's understanding of the world. It portrays how media can determine the importance and relevance of certain issues over others. Who makes issues newsworthy and important? Why do some issues receive more attention than others? Social issues that are widely recognised in the media? Issues often demands attention on the public agenda and in turn, slide up the policy agenda, creating policy changes.	It mainly describes examples from the 1980s. Media was different back then. Lots have changed since, which is why I think this is just a pre-requisite. It is not a main reading. It really does help us understand how modern media came to be though.
2	Misinformation exploits outrage to spread online by Brady, W. J., Willis, J. A., Jost, J. T., Tucker, J. A., Van Bavel, J. J.	Science (2017)	The authors are primarily US-based scholars working in social psychology and political science, with a mixed-gender research team.	This reading is important for understanding how misinformation spreads in modern social media environments. It shows that emotionally charged and morally outrageous content is more likely to be shared online, suggesting that misinformation spreads not only because it is false, but because it is emotionally optimised. The study highlights how platform-driven attention dynamics shape what becomes visible and influential in public discourse.	The study focuses mainly on large-scale behavioural data and does not explore users' intentions or interpretations when sharing misinformation. It also does not fully account for the role of platform algorithms, which limits its ability to explain how misinformation affects democratic discussion. Because of this, the reading is more useful as a foundational empirical study rather than a complete explanation of misinformation in contemporary media.
3	Emotions: The Unexplored Fuel of Fake News on Social Media by Christy Galletta Horner, Dennis Galletta, Jennifer Crawford & Abhijeet Shirsat	Online Social Networks and Media	The authors are mainly European-based scholars working in communication studies and information science, affiliated with universities in Europe. The research team is mixed-gender.	This reading reframes fake news as an emotionally driven phenomenon rather than a purely informational failure. It argues that emotions such as anger, fear, and anxiety play a central role in attracting attention, shaping engagement, and accelerating the spread of fake news on social media. By shifting the focus from fact-checking to emotional dynamics, the article highlights how platform logics and affective responses jointly sustain the visibility of misleading content.	The article treats emotion as a broad explanatory category and does not sufficiently distinguish between different emotional dynamics, such as anger, fear, or anxiety, which may operate through distinct mechanisms. Its reliance on conceptual discussion and secondary literature limits causal precision. In addition, the analysis pays limited attention to how platform-specific algorithms and user heterogeneity mediate emotional engagement with fake news.
4	The Filter Bubble: What the Internet is Hiding from You by Eli Pariser		The author is an American male writer and activist, educated at Harvard University, with a background in political advocacy and digital rights rather than academic research.	This book conceptualises the "filter bubble" as a structural consequence of algorithmic personalisation, in which users are increasingly exposed to information that confirms existing preferences while alternative viewpoints are systematically filtered out. It defines misinformation not only as false content, but as a condition of epistemic narrowing, where personalised media environments undermine shared public knowledge and democratic deliberation. By foregrounding algorithmic curation as an invisible editorial force, the book establishes a normative framework for later studies on misinformation, emotion, and platform power.	The book is primarily normative and relies on anecdotal examples rather than systematic empirical evidence, limiting its explanatory precision. It tends to frame algorithmic personalisation as an unidirectional form of manipulation, underplaying user agency, strategic media use, and resistance. Moreover, written in the early 2010s, it does not account for later platform developments, nor for empirical research that questions the uniform strength of filter bubble effects across users and contexts.
5	M. Cinelli, G. De Francisci Morales, A. Galeazzi, W. Quattrociocchi, & M. Starnini, The echo chamber effect on social media, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 118 (9) e202301118, https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.202301118 (2021).				
6	The Echo Chamber Effect on Social Media – Cinelli et al.	Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.	The authors are European-based computational social scientists working in network science and data-driven social research, with a strong quantitative and model-oriented approach	This reading offers a platform-level understanding of echo chambers by comparing Facebook, Twitter, Reddit, and Gab. It defines echo chambers through homophilic interaction networks and biased information diffusion. The study has found that the echo chamber effect is more pronounced on Facebook and Twitter, while Reddit has a more concentrated interaction structure but with weaker isolation. This study helps to understand how the platform structure and algorithms shape polarization and information visibility.	The article mainly relies on large-scale quantitative data analysis and simplifies political positions into a single dimension. It fails to discuss users' subjective understanding, emotional experiences, or the time evolution process of echo chambers. Therefore, it is more suitable as a foundational study at the structural and methodological levels rather than a complete explanation of user behavior.
7	A Longitudinal Analysis of YouTube's Promotion of Conspiracy Videos Marc Faddoul, Guillaume Chaslot, Hany Farid	arXiv preprint (2020)	The authors are US-based researchers in information science, computer science, and algorithmic auditing, with experience in studying online platforms, recommendation systems, and digital misinformation.	This study examines how YouTube's recommendation system promotes conspiracy videos over time. Using a machine learning classifier to identify conspiratorial content, the authors show that YouTube significantly reduced the overall proportion of recommended conspiracy videos after its 2019 policy interventions. However, when accounting for video popularity, conspiratorial recommendations rebounded and remained substantial. The study also finds evidence of a filter bubble effect, where watching conspiracy content increases the likelihood of being recommended further conspiratorial videos.	The analysis focuses on non-personalized recommendations and does not capture the full effects of personalized feeds on individual users. Conspiracy classification relies on automated text-based methods, which may miss more ambiguous or evolving forms of conspiratorial narratives.
8	Social Media and the Spread of Misinformation: Infectious and a Threat to Public Health Emily Denniss & Rebecca Lindberg	Health Promotion International (2025)	The authors are Australia-based public health researchers at Deakin University, affiliated with the School of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences and the Institute for Physical Activity and Nutrition. Their research background is grounded in health promotion, population health, and behavioural health sciences.	This article is useful for framing social media misinformation as a structural and systemic problem. By contextualising misinformation as a public health threat with infectious dynamics, it provides a macro-level framework that links platform algorithms, economic incentives, and human psychology. For our research, this reading helps contextualise echo chambers and filter bubbles within broader governance and policy debates, shifting the focus from platform mechanics alone to long-term consequences and regulatory responsibility.	This article does not present any new empirical data and the discussion on the practical feasibility and potential side effects of international regulation is relatively limited.
9	AI Empire: Unraveling the interlocking systems of oppression in generative AI's global order – Tacheva, J. & Ramasubramanian, S.	Big Data & Society, 10(2)	The author is a media and communication researcher, whose main focus is on artificial intelligence, data, and global inequality.	The article argues that social media and generative AI algorithms do not present information neutrally, but rather continuously "frame" the reality as perceived by users through recommendations, rankings, and automated decision-making. Algorithms tend to amplify emotionally charged, highly polarized, and simplistic content, creating an information environment that makes conspiracy theories and political propaganda seem more plausible and believable. Therefore, users' belief in misinformation is not merely a matter of personal judgment, but rather a result of the long-term effects of algorithm-driven information structures. This perspective supports our research topic by showing how algorithmic systems and media infrastructures influence users' perception of reality, this could lead to some narratives being privileged while others are marginalized.	This article primarily employs theoretical and structural analysis methods, offering limited empirical examples to illustrate how ordinary users perceive and understand algorithm-recommended information when using the platform daily. Furthermore, it focuses more on systemic oppression at the global level, with less discussion of the formation processes of misinformation and conspiracy theories within specific platforms or communities.
10	Fake News: Falsehood, Fabrication and Fantasy in Journalism - McNair, Brian.	Taylor & Francis Group, 2017	Brian McNair is a British scholar of journalism and media studies who has long researched news practices, political communication, and the role of the media in democratic societies.	The core argument of this book is that "fake news" is not a new phenomenon, but rather a continuation of the long-standing tradition of false, exaggerated, fabricated, and fantastical narratives in journalism history. In the digital media and social media environment, this content is amplified due to its rapid dissemination and strong emotional impact. The author points out that the problem lies not in the "truth" or "falseness" itself, but in the fact that the contemporary media ecosystem weakens the authority of traditional news, making the public more susceptible to confusion between facts, opinions, and fiction. This information environment provides fertile ground for conspiracy theories and political propaganda, as they often fill the public's distrust of authoritative information through highly narrative and emotionally driven approaches.	The book's limitation lies in its analysis, which primarily focuses on news content and news institutions, with relatively limited discussion of technical mechanisms such as social media algorithms and recommendation systems. While the author emphasizes media culture and audience psychology, there is little in-depth analysis of how platforms amplify specific narratives through algorithms.
11	The Relationship Between Social Media Use and Beliefs in Conspiracy Theories and Misinformation. - Enders, A.M., Uscinski, J.E., Stegig, M.L., Klöfstad, C.A., Wuchty, S., Funchion, J.R., Murthi, M.N., Premaratne, K. and Stoler, J. 2023.	Political behavior. 45(2), pp.781 – 804.	These authors mainly come from the fields of political science, political psychology, and communication studies. Among them, Uscinski is one of the representative scholars who studies the political psychology of conspiracy theories and has	This article examines the relationship between social media usage and belief in conspiracy theories and misinformation. The research finds that the more frequently people use social media, the more likely they are to believe in conspiracy theories and misinformation. However, the authors clearly point out that social media is not the direct cause of these beliefs. Instead, social media is more like an amplifier: it makes it easier for those who are already skeptical of politics, the media, or social institutions to come across information that supports their views, thereby deepening their existing beliefs.	This study primarily measures the frequency of social media use rather than specific platforms or algorithms, therefore it cannot determine which platforms or recommendation mechanisms are most likely to amplify misinformation. Furthermore, the study uses survey data, which can only demonstrate correlations and cannot definitively prove that social media use necessarily leads to conspiracy theories.