

Hi there

Vaccine misinformation and pathways to solutions



First Draft has been monitoring both the recent spike in vaccine misinformation and Covid-19 cases in Papua New Guinea. Our research and monitoring from the past two weeks have been featured in First Draft's [Daily Briefing](#) (see below), [Vaccine information hub](#), and [published](#) by ABC RMIT's CoronaCheck. On Wednesday I took calls from the UN, who sought advice from First Draft on how to help those in the field and communities to manage PNG's phase in the 'infodemic'. Keep a lookout on our website for a summary of the latest on the

situation due to be published imminently by our bureau editor Esther Chan.

Vaccine misinformation was a central topic as experts from medicine, science and journalism collaborated for a webinar 'Building strong dialogue to combat health misinformation in Australia' on Wednesday hosted by First Draft. With the aim of promoting a more nuanced and sophisticated awareness and dialogue about misinformation I was fortunate to lead an engaging panel of brilliant minds from their respective fields: Gail MacCallum, Editor of Cosmos Magazine; Holly Nott, Australian Associated Press Managing Editor who founded the Fact Check unit; and Associate Prof Adam Dunn, Director of Biomedical Informatics and Digital Health, in the Faculty of Medicine, University of Sydney. We were also joined by Josh Machin, Head of Public Policy from Facebook Australia who opened proceedings. Discussions focused on how experts can use deep understandings from their relevant fields to collaborate, with the aim to promote healthy online discussions, as well as reporting that pre-empts 'information voids' and answers questions before

misinformation takes hold. The webinar was attended by government, civil society representatives, journalists and academia.

Of course, one of the main stakeholders includes platforms. As Sacha Molitorisz outlines below, the CMT stepped onto the international Zoom stage for the First Annual Conference of the [Platform Governance Research Network](#).

Also in this newsletter, Derek Wilding introduces us to the prospect of another policy-related digital space involving television delivery and infrastructure. An upcoming webinar to be hosted by the CMT will explore much needed new research.

Indeed, it's a busy time of webinars. As I write this, Derek, Chrisanthi and I are preparing to join Peter Greste for an explainer webinar: 'Facebook news ban - observations, implications, possibilities' hosted by the Australian Baha'i Community this afternoon. We'll have more links and social media on the event soon.

From all of us at the CMT please enjoy this 'early edition' of our newsletter ahead of what we hope is a restful Easter break for all.



Anne Kruger
[First Draft](#) APAC Director

Using a platform to discuss platform governance

For some of us, one upside of the debacle collectively known as 2020 is a newfound proficiency with video conferencing platforms. For academics, these platforms make it easier than ever to 'attend' international conferences.

Last week, the CMT attended the First Annual Conference of the [Platform Governance Research Network](#), where Derek Wilding, Karen Lee and I presented a short paper: 'The view from Australia: lessons in how to regulate digital platforms'. The focus of the paper was the news media bargaining code, which recently passed into law and which, [according to media commentator Tim Burrowes](#), will see Australian news media businesses receive an estimated total of \$200-250 million annually



from Google and Facebook. Our session also included [Jenny Domino](#) tackling the de-platforming currently happening on Facebook in military-led Myanmar, [Stephan Dreyer](#) and [Amélie Heldt](#) exploring the positive legal obligation of shaping and fostering desirable content, and [Maria José Schmidt-Kessen](#) discussing the effectiveness of digital platforms' dispute resolution mechanisms. The impressive three-day schedule also featured [Tarleton Gillespie](#) and [Alice Marwick](#).

The conference presented a neat irony: academics using a digital platform to discuss how best to govern digital platforms. Luckily, there were no reports of [Zoom-bombing](#) or [surreptitious data-sharing](#).



Sacha Molitorisz
UTS Lecturer in Law/FASS

Could broadcast TV move online?



In the broadband environment of NBN, where many of us access 'television' from streaming services as well as broadcast TV, it's sometimes asked whether our free-to-air networks will at some point transition to a new platform, leaving behind their terrestrial towers. For telecommunications providers, this offers access to valuable radiofrequency spectrum. And for governments, there is the prospect of another 'digital dividend' via the auction of TV spectrum for use by 5G mobile services.

But is it technically possible and financially viable? And are there other options such as satellite delivery? This is an issue with many dimensions, but little evidence. [New research from Swinburne University and Venture Insights](#) comes just at the right time, as changes in spectrum and licensing arrangements, including sharing of multiplex transmitters, are raised in the Government's current [Media Reform Green Paper](#).

To explore the issue, CMT is presenting a seminar with the authors of the new research, David Kennedy, Jock Given and Giles Tanner. Joining them are Ying He from the School of Electrical and Data Engineering at UTS, Ross Mitchell from Free TV Australia and other speakers to be announced.

[Register here](#) for this face-to-face event at UTS on Thursday April 22, 9.00-10.30.



Derek Wilding
CMT Co-Director

Your digital privacy

With consent [top of the national agenda](#), the CMT and the iappANZ launched [The Consent Trap](#) on Tuesday 23 March.

The Consent Trap concerns the role of consent when it comes to privacy and smartphones. In July 2020, [James Meese](#) and I held six focus groups in which we asked participants what privacy is, why it matters, and how we might better protect it. The participants showed us that Australians care deeply about their privacy, and that they think companies and governments need to do a much better job of protecting it.



The report was generously [funded by iappANZ](#) and launched with the help of [FTI Consulting](#). At the launch, [Tim de Souza](#), [Amanda Khoo](#), James and I traded ideas about solutions. You can find a recording of the launch [here](#). The bottom line: sure, consent and privacy are under pressure, but they need to be fixed, and can be fixed, with the help of good design and good law.



Sacha Molitorisz
UTS Lecturer in Law/FASS

Vaccine hesitancy in Papua New Guinea

Vaccine hesitancy and skepticism are threatening efforts to control a [surge of](#)



Covid-19 cases ahead of the national vaccine rollout from March 30. Opposition leader Belden Norman Namah promoted false claims that a donation by neighboring Australia of **8,000 AstraZeneca vaccines** was part of its plan to use Papua New Guineans as 'guinea pigs.' Namah **called on** Papua New Guinea's prime minister, James Marape, to 'immediately suspend rollout of the Covid-19 AstraZeneca vaccines.' Similar comments **were echoed** by others on social media. Many of these comments came after more than a dozen European countries

temporarily suspended the vaccine as a precautionary measure following a small number of reported blood clots; most of those countries have since resumed use of the vaccine after the **World Health Organization** and **European Medicines Agency** said post-vaccination thromboembolic events were no higher than in the general population.

This is a reprint from the First Draft Daily Briefing on 30 March by Esther Chan and Lucinda Beaman. To receive important reads and talking points on disinformation and the online information landscape to your inbox daily, click [here](#).

Bula. Kia Orana. Talofa. Hello

First Draft invites journalists in the Pacific to complete a survey on how prepared they feel to report in an age of misinformation and disinformation.

Our earlier surveys in Australia and in New Zealand overwhelmingly showed journalists need more ongoing support and training as the tools and techniques used to spread misinformation and disinformation evolve.

We'd like to know how our Pacific counterparts are feeling, so please ask your journalist contacts in the Pacific to [complete this multiple choice survey](#). It should only take 7 minutes, and all survey participants will receive an extensive toolkit of First Draft resources, including verification training.



The survey has been approved by the [UTS Ethics Committee](#). Please direct any questions to anne@firstdraftnews.com.

#ICYMI You can read more of our publications and the reports below on our [website](#).



Please visit our [website](#) or [facebook](#) and [twitter](#) for more information about us.

Copyright © 2021 Centre For Media Transition, All rights reserved.

The Centre for Media Transition and UTS acknowledges the Gadigal and Guring-gai people of the Eora Nation upon whose ancestral lands our university now stands. We pay respect to the Elders both past and present, acknowledging them as the traditional custodians of knowledge for these places.



[Privacy Statement](#) | [Disclaimer](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

UTS CRICOS Provider Code: 00099F

This email was sent by University of Technology Sydney, PO Box 123 Broadway NSW 2007, Australia