

ABSTRACT:

The objective of this research is to verify how much the circulation of fake news within social networks has influenced the public debate and has been still increasing, with particular reference to the post-pandemic period. It would be naive to believe this phenomenon was born in the modern and digitized era: certainly, the spread of social networks and some national and international political events made this phenomenon grow up and, as a result, the legal world's attention also increased, but, despite this, fake news has always been taking place throughout history and, most likely, will keep on existing in the future. The Internet and the social networks allow the spread of information and news much faster than in the past. The current communication model is horizontal: while in the past information was firmly held by few professionals, nowadays anyone who is part of the social network has such possibility. In fact, main recent fake news is definitely about the spread of the COVID-19 virus or, on the contrary, its alleged "hoax" with all the its relative doubts on the vaccine effectiveness. Moreover, the circulation of fake news in the context of social networks is certainly eased out with the lack of an effective and incentive legal system that could perform a content control and define the controller's responsibility.

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