Biased Media, Fake News, and Stereotypes

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Media & Fake News

• Media stereotype immigrants and refugees; fake news portrayals

• Fake news: Politicians or entertainment news media describe factual stories incorrectly or present stories that are false.

• Social media (Facebook) & internet.

• Biased factual news is different than fake news.

• Fake news occurs around the world.
Fake News

This is the Border Fence Mexico built on their border with Guatemala to keep out freeloaders. Notice The Barbed Wire & Towers with Armed Guards. Shouldn't the United States have the same right as Mexico to protect its border?
Western Media

• Media provides negative and stereotypical images of immigrants, refugees.

• Western media: Media links Hispanic immigrants to poverty, disease and illness, illegal immigration, violent and nonviolent crime, burden on social welfare system, human smuggling, drugs, trespassing, challenges to culture.
  • Rarely linked to benefits (new taxpayers, low-wage labor).

• Western media: Media presents refugees and Muslims as static, backwards, primitive, aggressive and violent, intolerant, unassimilable, carriers of disease, deserving of discrimination.
  • Deny asylum seeking.
Impact on Consumers

• Negative portrayal influences consumers.
  • Supportive attitudes of military action and civil restrictions.
  • Biased opinions and stereotypes.
  • Information from fake news is persistent, hard to identify, shared among public.
  • Consumers feel anxious and threatened (single news exposure).
  • Reinforce negative feelings & encourages acceptance of similar messages.
Susceptibility to Fake News

- Consumer characteristics
  - Social class
  - Political and religious ideology
  - Race, age, biological sex

- These characteristics, in addition to distrust in government, relate to increased susceptibility to negative media portrayals and fake news.

- Fake news amplifies the effect of negative portrayals of immigrants and refugees on consumers.
Long-Term Impact

• Less receiving contexts in new country.
• Reduced assimilation.
• Enclaves.
• Increased prejudicial and discriminatory behavior.
• Increased support for military action and civil restrictions.
Combatting Fake News Globally

• Italy: fact-checking program on Facebook
• Germany: social media companies fined
• India: accreditation removed from journalists
• Malaysia: imprisonment and fined
• Canada: improving IT security
• New Literacy Project
• Criticism: politically motivated, free speech and expression, traditional media, criminality