

E:\Emerald Studies  
in Digital Crime,  
Technology and  
Social Harms\>\_

# Information Pollution as Social Harm

Investigating  
The Digital  
Drift of Medical  
Misinformation in  
a Time of Crisis

Anita Lavorgna

# INFORMATION POLLUTION AS SOCIAL HARM

# EMERALD STUDIES IN DIGITAL CRIME, TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIAL HARMS

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Over the past two decades, digital technologies have come to permeate ever more aspects of contemporary life. This trend looks to continue and has profound implications for the social sciences, particularly criminology, with technology-facilitated offences now arguably constituting the most dynamic and rapidly growing area of contemporary crime. Despite this development, the discipline of criminology has been slow to embrace the critical study of technology-facilitated offences and social harms, with most research conducted in this area still informed by a relatively narrow range of cybersecurity and applied criminological perspectives.

Emerald Studies in Digital Crime, Technology and Social Harms is part of a new movement within criminology and related disciplines to broaden this narrow focus and engage critically with new trends in technology-facilitated offending and victimisation. The book series uses a combination of critical criminological, socio-legal, and sociological perspectives to consider a wide range of technology-facilitated offences and harmful social practices, ranging from digital surveillance, cyberbullying and image-based sexual abuse through to global darknet drug trading.

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Medical Misinformation in a Time  
of Crisis

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

*To G. and L., for being the best company I could wish for in this strange year.*

*“Our new device of doubt delighted the great public, which snatched the telescope from our hands and turned it on its tormentors”*

—Bertolt Brecht, *Life of Galileo*

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