

Title: The Impact of Social Algorithms on Political Discourse ~~DRAFT TEXT**~~**

Politics and International Studies: Ally @ <Politically Diverse Opinions (PDO)> / Per. Blog ~~**DRAFT TEXT**~~

In ~~the~~ ~~an~~ increasingly digital world, social media's impact on political discourse has become more prominent than ever before. ~~Media Platforms~~ like ~~Twitter~~, Facebook, and Instagram have ~~left provided a service for~~ individuals to express their political opinions, whilst also becoming a source of news and information for millions ~~of people~~ around the globe. Although digital media has provided a democratized ~~place destination~~ for political expression, it ~~has caused~~ ~~has also given rise to~~ further challenges which threaten the quality and integrity of diverse political discourse.

One of the most pressing issues for our generation is the algorithmic systems of ~~our~~ social media. Algorithms are designed to promote engaging ~~media content~~ to ~~maximize~~ user activity; ~~albeit~~ our area of concern could consider ~~the danger of~~ echo chambers: exposing viewers to information that reinforces their ~~pre-existing~~ beliefs and ideologies. As our PDO committee delineated in March's Political Climate Conference, over 79 ~~percent~~ % of students here ~~on-campus~~ have expressed concern with ~~Community~~ ~~polarization~~ and ~~political~~ ~~intolerance~~. Our social influences are significant contributors to this regard, as segregation of our ~~online~~ perspectives ~~will~~ ~~can~~ only ~~increase~~ ~~contribute to a~~ ~~more~~ polarized student ~~community~~ ~~body~~.

In addition, the ~~capacity~~ ~~dissemination~~ of misinformation and fake news ~~have~~ ~~has~~ become a prevalent problem amongst social media ~~networks~~. With the rise of user-generated content, it has become increasingly difficult to distinguish ~~ing~~ between reliable news sources and fictitious media. ~~Thus, As a result,~~ fake news has the potential to virally spread, ~~creating~~ ~~leading to~~ widespread confusion and ~~misunderstanding with the public~~ ~~an increasing~~ ~~consumption of false information~~. With risk of digital algorithms adopting such problematic, one-sided viewpoints, our academic community faces troublesome separation of diverse voices ahead of the upcoming elections.

Social ~~Algorithms~~ ~~have~~ ~~are~~ ~~transformed~~ ~~ing~~ political discourse in several ways, posing significant threats to our generational ~~sal~~ integrity. Echo chambers, misinformation, and repetition of one-sided dialogue will only endanger the quality and integrity of our academic community, while exacerbating the ~~political~~ polarization of our discourse. Despite the need for this concern, there are opportunities for digital media to ~~positively~~ impact such political discourse, as our team aims to increase social activism and awareness against the algorithmic systems of social media, and other oppressive forms of ~~Diverse~~ ~~Political~~ ~~Voices~~.

Join us ~~this Monday~~ ~~Monday, 11th April~~ for our next Q&A, where we ~~will~~ not only discuss the impending election and further effects of this topic, but we encourage you to bring your own independent ~~thoughts~~ ~~perspectives~~, regardless of political difference!

Ally ~~*****~~, POLISSOC, PDO Secretary.