

Fake News in America

The term “fake news” became a buzzword during Donald Trump’s presidency, yet it is a term that means very different things to different people. This pioneering book provides a comprehensive examination of what Americans mean when they talk about fake news in contemporary politics, mass media, and societal discourse, and explores the various factors that contribute to this, such as the power of language, political parties, ideology, media, and socialization. By analyzing a range of case studies across war, political corruption, climate change, conspiracy theories, electoral politics, and the Covid-19 pandemic, it demonstrates how fake news is a fundamentally contested phenomenon, and how its meaning varies depending on the person using the term, and the political context. It provides readers with tools to identify, talk about, and resist fake news, and emphasizes a need for education reform with an eye toward promoting critical thinking and information literacy.

Anthony R. DiMaggio is an associate professor of Political Science at Lehigh University. He has published 11 books emphasizing American politics, global conflicts, social movements, inequality, and political communication. He is the recipient of the Class of 1961 faculty award at Lehigh University for excellence in teaching and research.

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Contested Meanings in the Post-Truth Era

Anthony R. DiMaggio

Lehigh University



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This book is dedicated to my family and students, and to
hope for a better future.

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