

# Dealing with Misinformation on COVID-19: Comparing the Use of Transparency and Accessibility in Fact-checking Practices across 74 Countries

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# Premise

- Research on Covid misinformation: **add literature.**
- Research on Fact-checking: **add literature.**

# Main goals

1. To investigate two important aspects of fact-checking practices including *transparency* and *accessibility* in the context of COVID-19 misinformation.
2. To examine fact-checked claims regarding COVID-19 to provide a snapshot of misinformation on this global pandemic.
3. To draw the connections between aspects of COVID misinformation and country-level characteristics.



# Significance

- provide insights into the clarity and effectiveness of fact-checking efforts,
- highlight areas in which global fact-checkers can improve to make their work more accessible and credible to the public.

# Key concepts and operationalizations

- *Transparency*: the practice of openness in providing users with information on the verification process.
  - Operationalizations: sources and embedded links in fact-checked articles.
- *Accessibility*: whether fact-checkers make their content and verdicts accessible to users.
  - Operationalizations: clearly pointing out whether a claim is true, false, or inconclusive, infographics, visual cues.

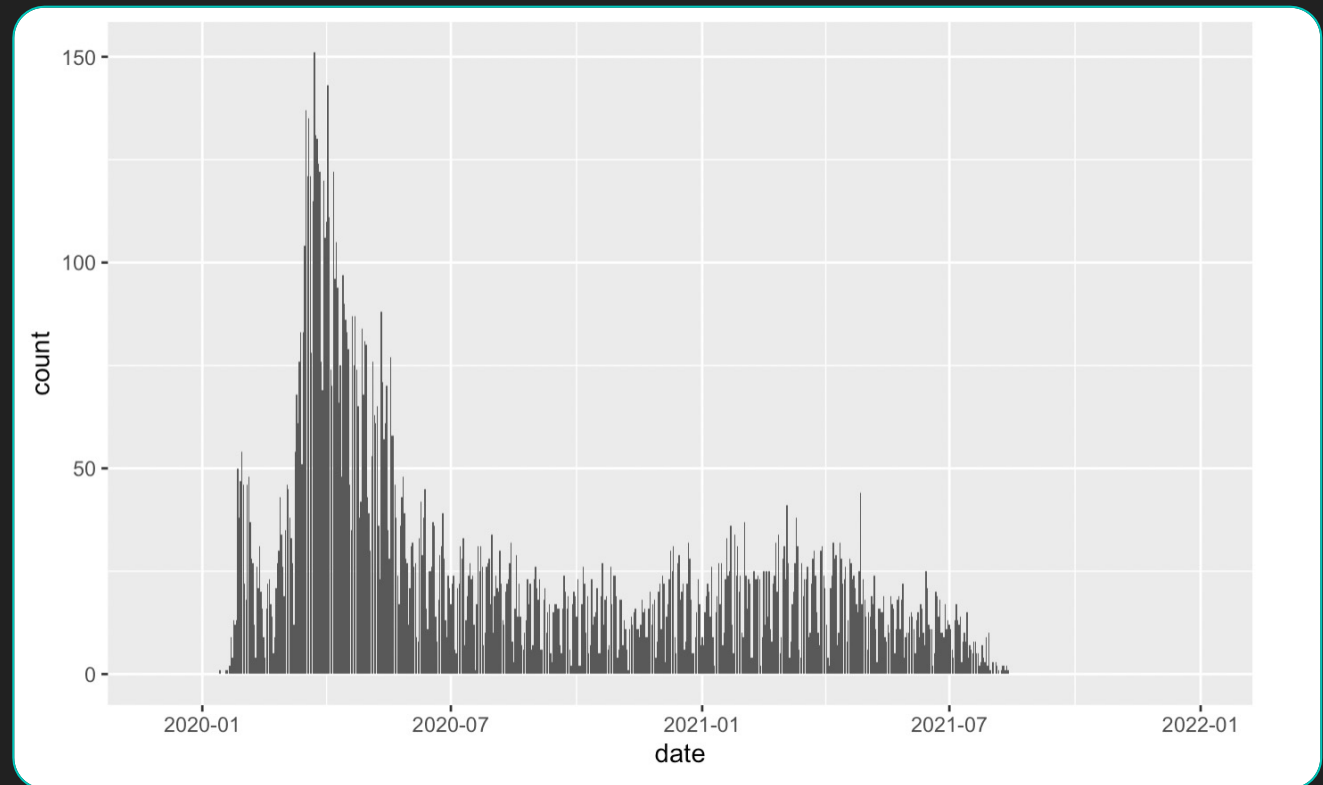


# Data & Methods

- 14,570 COVID fact-checks published in 40 different languages by 102 professional fact-checkers from 74 countries.
- Data source: the CoronaVirusFacts/ DatosCoronaVirus Alliance Database compiled by the International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN).
- Methods: NLP and statistical modeling.

# Preliminary findings

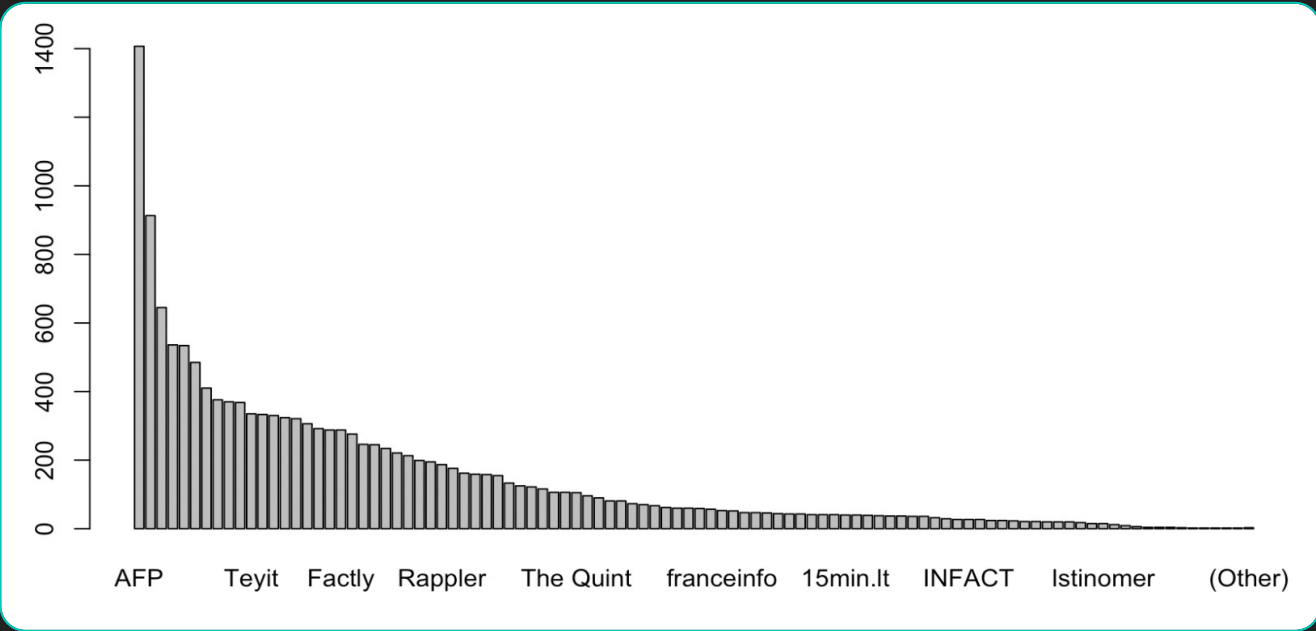
- The trend of fact-checks over time.





# Fact-checkers

○ 102 international fact-checkers





# Countries

- Countries with at least 15 fact-checks.

India	United States	Brazil	Spain
2042	1385	1329	1108
Ukraine	Colombia	France	Georgia
1033	567	531	488
Philippines	Turkey	North Macedonia	Argentina
448	442	324	313
Taiwan	Mexico	Germany	Greece
307	305	303	276
Italy	Indonesia	Australia	Middle East
262	204	189	166
Poland	Sri Lanka	Canada	Ireland
165	152	134	115
Nigeria	Kenya	Thailand	Bolivia
114	107	107	97
Portugal	Japan	Croatia	United Kingdom
86	75	67	66
Lithuania	Myanmar	Ghana	Belgium
65	64	62	61
Venezuela	Ecuador	Hong Kong	South Korea
61	59	53	52
South Africa	Latvia	Egypt	Costa Rica
45	42	40	39
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Denmark	New Zealand	Guatemala
37	37	34	32
Peru	Pakistan	Kazakhstan	Russia
28	26	25	23
Netherlands	Paraguay	Tunisia	Malaysia
21	21	21	18
Serbia	Singapore	Uganda	China
17	17	16	15

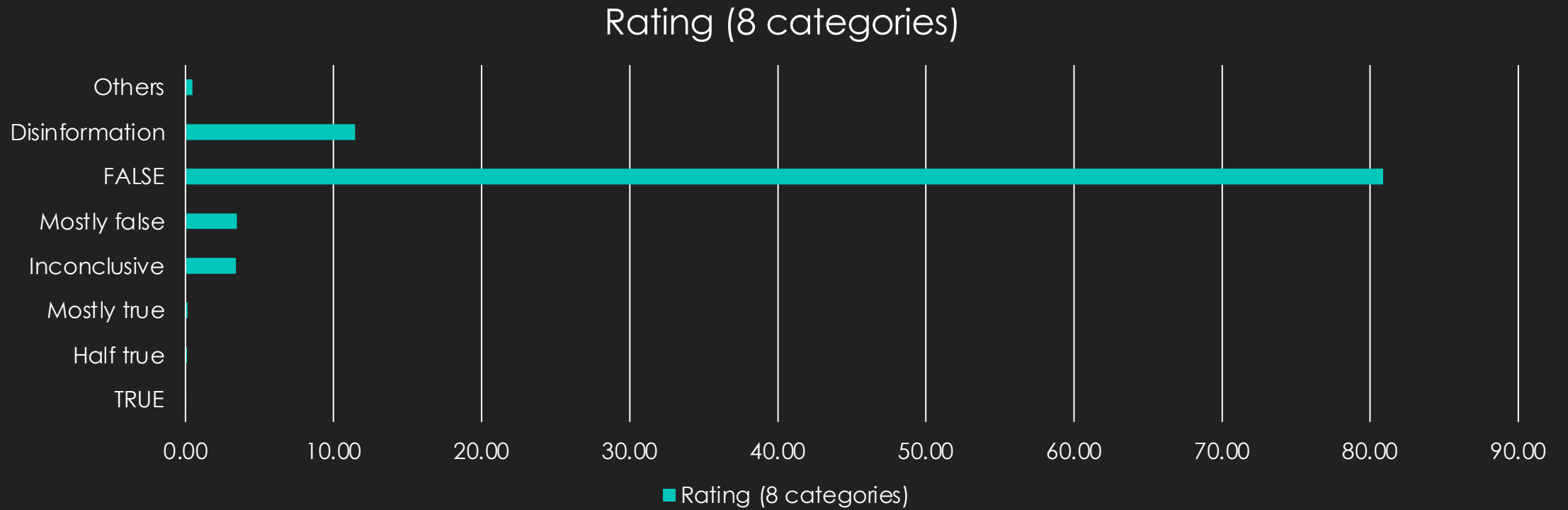
# Rating classification

- 56 raw rating types by international fact-checkers

"	"(org. doesn't apply rating)"	"altered image"
"conspiracy"	"correct"	"enganoso"
"exaggerated"	"exaggerated"	"explanatory"
"f aux"	"fake"	"fake news"
"false"	"false and misleading"	"falso"
"fałsz"	"faux"	"half true"
"half truth"	"in dispute"	"inaccurate"
"mainly correct"	"mainly false"	"manipulated"
"manipulation"	"misinformation / conspiracy theory"	"misleading"
"misleading/false"	"misleading"	"misleading"
"missing context"	"missing context"	"misleading"
"mix"	"mixed"	"mostly false"
"mostly true"	"needs context"	"no evidence"
"not true"	"out of context"	"partially correct"
"partially false"	"partially true"	"partl false"
"partly false"	"partly true"	"party false"
"satire"	"suspicions"	"true"
"true but"	"two pinocchios"	"unlikely"
"unproven"	"unsustainable"	



# Re-classified ratings



# Accessibility

- Measure: whether clear rating appears in 1) Title and 2) Explanation of the fact-check:
  - Title: Only 99 articles have clear ratings in their titles. 14,474 does not (99.3%).
  - Explanation: 1,439 articles have clear ratings in their explanations (9.9%). 13,134 does not (90%).



# Plan for future analysis

- Measures of transparency by extracting images, videos, outlinks embedded in the fact-check articles.
- NLP use to understand contents of Covid misinformation (e.g., coronavirus origin, COVID-19 impact, information about vaccines and public safety measures).
- Accessibility and transparency and country-level correlates (e.g., media freedom, media trust, Internet use, social media use, and economic indices).