

## Einladung zum GASTVORTRAG

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# Fake news is bad for democracy (but not how you think)

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### Abstract

Most everyone agrees that the propagation of fake news is bad for democracy. The standard explanation is that fake news undermines citizens' true beliefs and/or knowledge. In other words, the primary harm of fake news is epistemic. I argue that this is mistaken. The primary harm of fake news is affective rather than cognitive. Fake news is bad for democracies not because it affects what citizens know but because it alters how citizens feel about one another in ways that undermine collective action.



(c) Justin McBrayer

**Justin McBrayer** is professor at Fort Lewis College in Durango/Colorado, Department of Philosophy. He works on Ethics, Philosophy of Religion, Epistemology and Logic. Recent works include *Beyond Fake News: Finding the Truth in a World of Misinformation* (Routledge, 2020), *The Blackwell Companion to The Problem of Evil* (as editor, Wiley, 2014), and *Skeptical Theism: New Essays* (edited with Trent Dougherty, Oxford University Press, 2014).

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