Deepfakes

Fortifying the Truth in the Age of Synthetic Media and Generative AI

Written by Raquel Vazquez Llorente, Jacobo Castellanos, and Nkem Agunwa. In March 2023, WITNESS hosted in Nairobi, Kenya, over 20 journalists, fact-checkers, technologists, policy advocates, creators, human rights defenders and community activists from six African countries: Uganda, Kenya, Ghana, South Africa, Nigeria and Zambia. In our two-day workshop, we discussed threats and opportunities that generative AI […]

👤 *WITNESS*   🕐 *May 17, 2023*

Building Human Rights Oriented Guidelines for Synthetic Media

Takeaways/TLDR: Partnership on AI, in collaboration with WITNESS and other key allies, has published the Responsible Practices for Synthetic Media Framework, which offers guidelines for developing, creating, sharing, and publishing synthetic media ethically and responsibly.

The Framework is directed towards those building technology and infrastructure for synthetic media, those creating synthetic media, and those distributing […]

👤 *Jacobo Castellanos*   🕐 *February 28, 2023*

Fact from Fiction: Curbing Mis/disinformation in African Elections

Co-authored by Temiloluwa Alalade During election season, voters are inundated with campaign materials intended to sway their votes. To engage with information meaningfully voters should have a basic understanding of digital and media literacy as well as critical thinking skills. Experts in Kenya warn that disinformation in elections may increase electoral violence globally. Election–related misinformation […]

👤 *Nkemakonam Agunwa*   🕐 *July 29, 2022*

WITNESS and the C2PA Harms and Misuse Assessment Process

Lee el artículo en español aquí. Co-authored by Sam Gregory. TLDR: Building on WITNESS' focus on developing an authenticity infrastructure that works globally and supports civic journalism and human rights uses and values, we have been part of the Coalition for Content Provenance and Authenticity specifications development effort. Right now we're focused on identifying and […]

👤 *Jacobo Castellanos*   🕐 *December 2, 2021*

Pre-Empting a Crisis: Deepfake Detection Skills + Global Access to Media Forensics Tools

In a recent WIRED Op-ed I share the story of a recent deepfake panic in Myanmar. Spoiler: It probably wasn't a deepfake... but it has important implications for how we think about access to deepfake detection technology and what skills, capacities and escalation options are needed. You can read more about the story here. "RECENTLY […]

👤 *Sam Gregory*   🕐 *July 14, 2021*

Truth, lies and social media accountability in 2021

In 2021, critical issues at the intersection of social media, accountability, and human rights are finally at the center of global public discussion. It took the attempted insurrection at the US Capitol to lead to social media platforms finally suspending former President Donald Trump's accounts and forcing a discussion about online content, hate and violence. [...]

👤 *Sam Gregory*　🕓 *January 25, 2021*

How Can U.S. Activists Confront Deepfakes and Disinformation?

–December 2020 In the US, the 2020 presidential campaign has been called the "misinformation election." But however significant the results may be, the problem of misinformation is much larger and more persistent than a single event. Recently WITNESS hosted a workshop on deepfakes and visual misinformation for activists and researchers based in the US, where [...]

👤 *Corin Faife*　🕓 *December 3, 2020*

Introducing { Latent Space } – a technology newsletter from WITNESS

—August 2020 Technology touches all of our lives, so it touches all of the work we do at WITNESS. But there are some areas of technology more than others that are focal points for our Emerging Threats and Opportunities and Tech + Advocacy programs. We're in the vanguard of conversations on artificial intelligence and synthetic [...]

👤 *Corin Faife*　🕓 *August 17, 2020*

Tracing trust: Why we must build authenticity infrastructure that works for all

May 2020 TLDR: Coronavirus has dramatically increased the stakes for how we deal with issues of manipulated, fake and deceptive video and audio online, with governments, companies and publics responding to the need to discern truth from falsehood. One solution

to misinformation and disinformation is to better track what is authentic, what is manipulated and [...]

 Sam Gregory   *May 6, 2020*

What's needed in deepfakes detection?

April 2020 Misinformation and disinformation are a critical problem for societies worldwide. In response, WITNESS's work addressing new forms of media manipulation such as deepfakes and synthetic media is focused on preparing better, and advancina a more global, human rights-lead approach to these emerging threats. Learning from previous and current mis/disinformation challenges, where critical impacted [...]

 Sam Gregory   *April 27, 2020*

Coronavirus and human rights: Preparing WITNESS's response

UPDATE: Our COVID-19 landing page is here (and Portuguese, Spanish) COVID-19 (Coronavirus) is creating rapid and dangerous human rights implications globally, directly impacting people's lives, livelihoods, security, health, ability to work and freedom of movement and assembly, as well as leading to implications for digital rights and increasing online surveillance. The immediate implications of coronavirus – [...]

 Sam Gregory   *March 30, 2020*

What We Learned from the Pretoria Deepfakes Workshop (Full Report)

—February 19, 2020 On 26 November 2019, WITNESS hosted a workshop at the University of Pretoria, South Africa, on deepfakes and synthetic media. Today we are releasing a full-length report on the proceedings of the workshop detailing presentation sessions, discussion points and a range of solution areas identified, compiled by Ade Johnson of the university's [...]

 Corin Faife   *February 19, 2020*

Twitter Released A Draft Policy on Synthetic Media. Here's What Stood Out to the Activists We Consulted.

— January 28, 2020 Earlier this month, Facebook released its policy on manipulated media. As a civil society organization with expert knowledge on the subject, WITNESS was asked to give input on the policy while it was under development, and it's worth recognizing the positives of Facebook's pro-active approach in developing a response to this […]

👤 *Corin Faife*   🕐 *January 30, 2020*

The Pros and Cons of Facebook's New Deepfakes Policy

Yesterday Facebook released its policy on enforcing against manipulated media, detailing how the company would respond to deepfakes, and to a lesser extent shallowfakes. On Wednesday 8 January 2020 the US Congress will hold another hearing on digital manipulation, following on from the first congressional hearing on deepfakes in June 2019. Over the past two years WITNESS has […]

👤 *Sam Gregory*   🕐 *January 7, 2020*

To Fight Deepfakes Build Media Literacy, Say African Activists

—December 23, 2019 In late November 2019, WITNESS led a workshop on deepfakes at the University of Pretoria, South Africa. Building on the success of a workshop in Brazil in July, and with another workshop in Malaysia scheduled for 2020, the event series has been a unique effort to engage academics, journalists, researchers and human rights activists […]

👤 *Corin Faife*   🕐 *December 23, 2019*