

GL4102: Global Studies Task Force

Every Day Should Be April Fools' Day:

Understanding the Proliferation of 'Fake News' in Singapore

Submitted on: 27 April 2018

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Executive Summary

According to the Info-communications Media Development Authority (IMDA), individual usage of Internet in Singapore grew from 59% in 2006 to 84% in 2016. With increased prominence of information and communication technologies (ICTs) and the media, the Media Literacy Council was set up in 2012 to promote competencies that would equip individuals to be critical and responsible digital citizens. However, Singapore has not been spared from the recent global wave of “fake news” and there has been a series of incidents involving hoaxes, doctored content and misinformation. Therefore, our research explores the question of why Singaporeans are still susceptible to fake news despite continuous efforts in digital literacy education. In this paper, we examine this issue through the analysis of media landscape and current digital literacy education practices in Singapore based on interviews with various stakeholders and analysis of existing literature. Our paper consolidates current practices from the perspectives of different industry stakeholders to analyse overarching trends and provide policy recommendations to build a resilient Singapore society which can more effectively tackle the issue of fake news.