

Chen Institute Retreat 2023

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Poster title: Diurnal Patterns in the Spread of Misinformation

Abstract: We analyse a dataset on the reliability of information on the COVID-19 pandemic on Twitter for when a person is most at risk to share harmful information depending on the time of day and chronotypical predisposition. We find a strong negative correlation between average activity and likeliness to spread mis- and disinformation on two levels: Users who do not post a lot of content are least likely to spread mis- and disinformation when they do, and the time of day where activity is lowest tends to be the time of day when users are most likely to spread mis- and disinformation. Evening type individuals are most likely to spread mis- and disinformation overall, and are least likely to spread mis- and disinformation in the early morning. Morning type individuals are least likely to share mis- and disinformation in the late morning and early afternoon.