

1176-91-73

**Nicholas Rabb\*** (nicholas.rabb@tufts.edu), **Lenore Cowen** (lenore.cowen@tufts.edu),  
**Jan P. de Ruiter** (jp@eecs.tufts.edu) and **Matthias Scheutz**  
(matthias.scheutz@tufts.edu). *Modeling the spread of COVID-related beliefs.*

The spread and pervasiveness of COVID-19-related misinformation and disinformation has posed serious challenges for societies around the world. Our work seeks to investigate potential mechanisms underlying the spread of COVID beliefs through computational modeling and analysis. This method of engaging with COVID belief data sets up a research mechanism distinct from typical statistical algorithms classifying truth from falsehood – attempting to understand why these beliefs are so problematic before designing interventions. We will describe the techniques that we used in a recent publication to model and analyze both micro- and macro-level effects of belief spread: the theoretical spread of beliefs subject to psychological phenomena studied in COVID belief literature, and aggregate network effects across varied social graph topologies, respectively. (Received January 13, 2022)