

# Investigating how users react to fake news based on their personality traits

Fake news can have important repercussions on political, social and economic balance within and between countries: **Cognitive Warfare.**

Certain **personality traits** may play a key role in considering news as real or fake.

We aimed at developing a method able to **characterize user's profile in trusting fake** news in terms of implicit behavior (IAT) and visual patterns(eye tracking),





18 People on target

Age  $32 \pm 7$

11 F - 7 M



Eye-tracking



Implicit Association Test (IAT)

Participants performed the **test remotely** where 8 posts (randomized) were presented.

The first part of the test was dedicated to the recording of visual behavior through **eye tracking**.

The second part was dedicated to the performance of the 3 **IAT** (for each personality trait considered)



How do you feel?

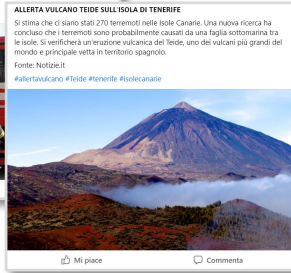
2 random images

Fake or Real?

x 4

IAT

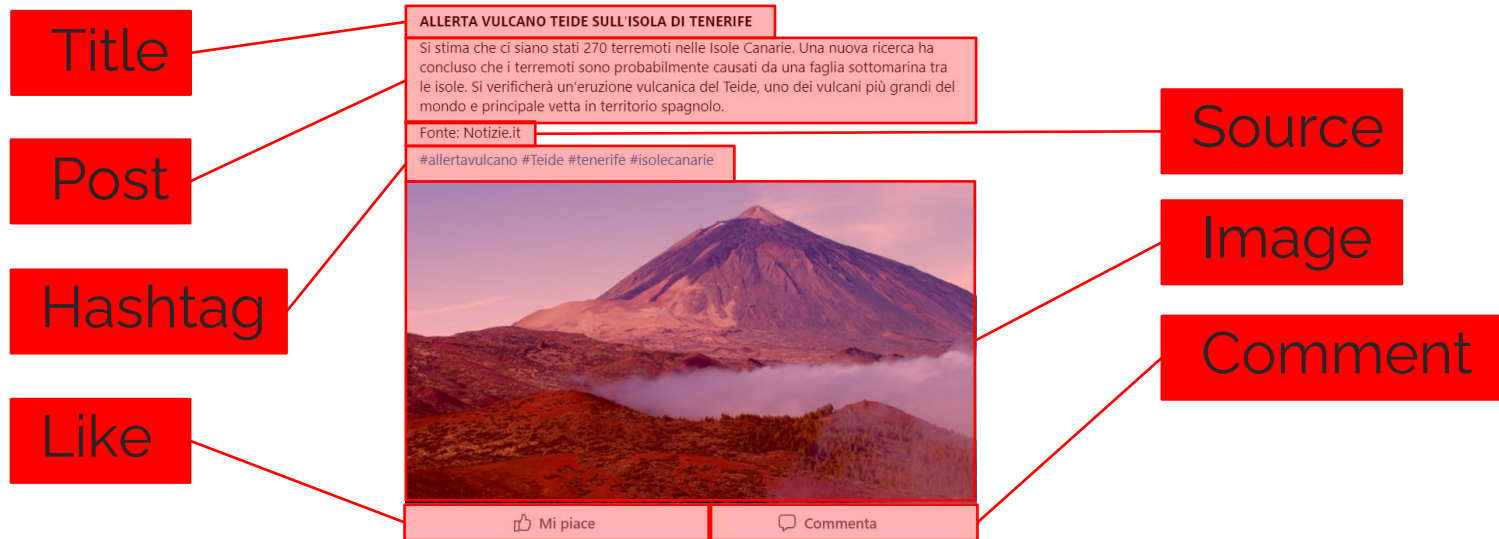
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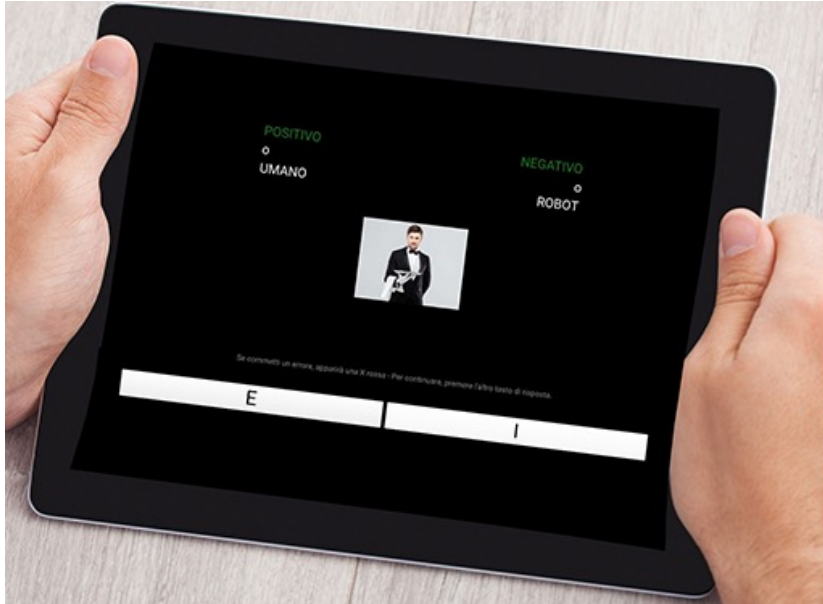


# Experimental Protocol – Eye Tracking ROIs

Each post remained on screen for 22 seconds.

All posts were made according to the facebook template with the same features.





## Open-Mindedness

A propensity for new ideas and experiences

## Emotional Stability

Represents emotional experience and the ability to regulate emotions

## Conscientiousness

Propensity to perform a task diligently and to be responsible



# Real and Fake posts

This post reports on the introduction of four phones inside a prison through the use of a drone

## CELLULARI IN CARCERE FATTI ENTRARE CON DRONI

Quattro telefoni cellulari sono stati fatti arrivare a detenuti del carcere Pagliarelli di Palermo grazie ad un drone. Gli agenti della penitenziaria hanno notato il drone volare vicino alle celle di massima sicurezza e fermarsi nei pressi di una finestra dove erano rinchiusi detenuti per mafia e camorra.

FONTE: ANSA

#cellulari #droni #carcere #detenuti



Mi piace

Commenta

## ATTI OSCENI IN UN PARCO CON BIMBI, ARRESTATO IL BLOGGER DAVID PUENTE.

Sorpreso a compiere atti osceni sulla panchina di un parco, protagonista è il blogger David Puente. Giunta sul posto la polizia ha proceduto all'arresto per atti osceni in luogo pubblico aggravato dalla presenza di bambini.

Fonte: Ansa

#arrestato #blogger #pedofilia #attiosceni



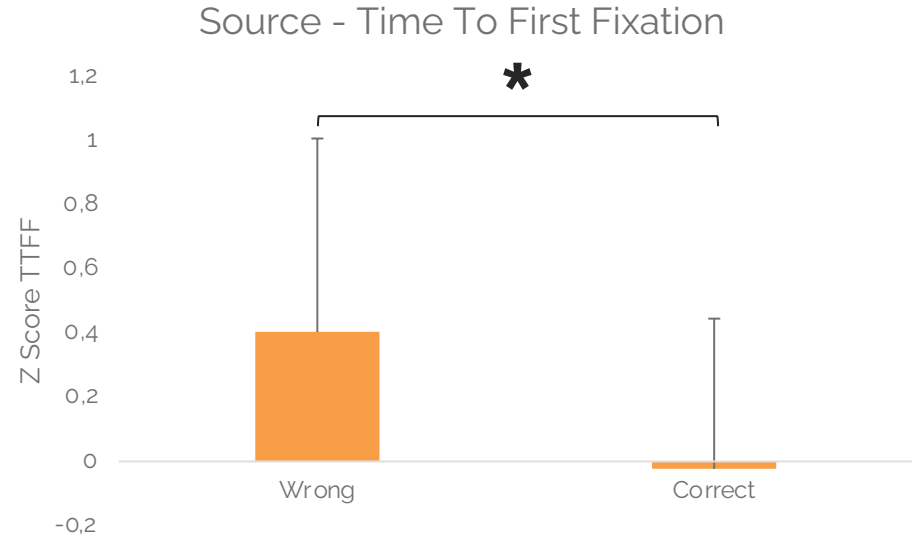
Mi piace

Commenta

This post reports the news of blogger David Puente's arrest for indecent exposure in a public place

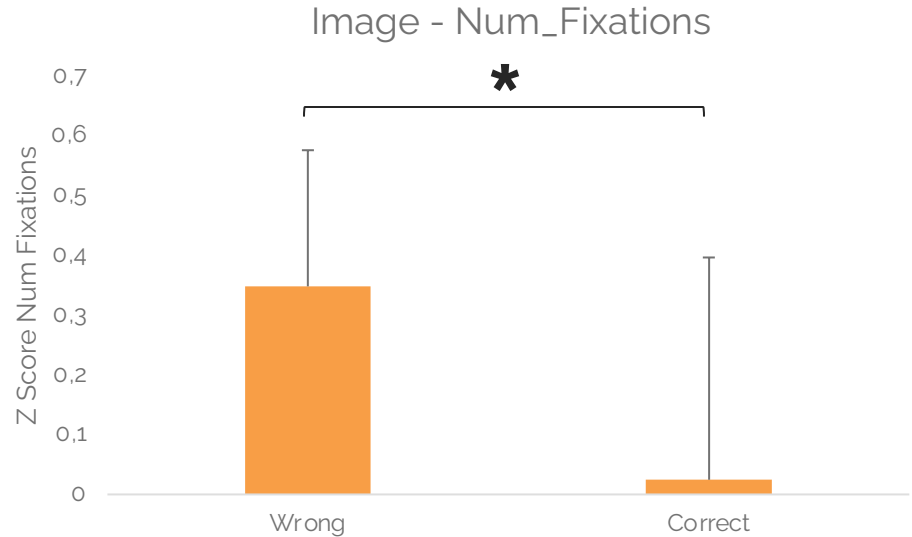


Regardless of the nature of the stimulus (Real or Fake), the time taken to register a fixation within the ROI Source is significantly higher ( $p = 0,023$ ) when misidentifying a real or unreal news item than when guessing.

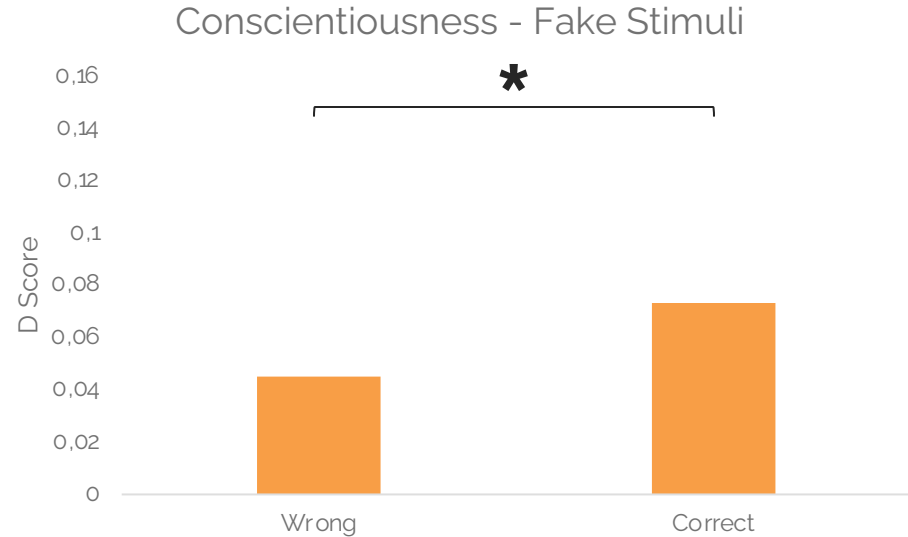




Users reported significantly more fixations ( $p = 0,04$ ) within the ROI Image when they did not recognize the Fake New as Fake.



Users reported significantly higher ( $p = 0,04$ ) values of conscientiousness when they recognized the Fake News as fake than when they did not recognize the Fake news as such.



The evaluation of **personality traits** and **eye tracking pattern** can provide useful information to profile users who are prone to trust fake news.

**More users** are necessary to validate the results as they have been derived from 18 participants.

**Additional features** (e.g. Facial expression) and measures (e.g. neurophysiological signals like EEG, ECG, EDA) can increase the accuracy of the user profiling.





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# BRAIN Signs

Discovering unconscious **Insights**

**Any questions, comments,  
suggestions?**

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THANK YOU

A hand holding a blue marker, positioned as if it has just finished writing the 'THANK YOU' text.