

## Internet, Fake News, and Democracy: The Case of Kosovo

**Authors :** Agrinë Baraku

**Abstract :** This paper focuses on the convergence of the internet, fake news, and democracy. This paper will examine the convergence of these concepts, the tenets of democracy which are affected by the ever-increasing exposure to fake news, and whether the impact strengthens or can further weaken countries with fragile democracies. To demonstrate the convergence and the impact and to further the discussion about this topic, the case of Kosovo is explored. Its position in the Western Balkans makes it even more susceptible to the pressure stemming from geopolitical interests, which intersect with the generation of fake news by different international actors. Domestically, through data generated by Kantar (Index) Kosova Longitudinal Study on Media Measurement Survey (MMS), which focused on media viewership, the trend among Kosovar citizens is traced and then inserted into a bigger landscape, which is compounded by tenuous circumstances and challenges that Kosovo faces. Attention will be paid to what this can tell about where Kosovo currently is and the possibilities of what can be done regarding the phenomenon that is taking place.

**Keywords :** democracy, disinformation, internet, social media, fake news

**Conference Title :** ICFNSMMM 2023 : International Conference on Fake News, Social Media Manipulation and Misinformation

**Conference Location :** Athens, Greece

**Conference Dates :** April 03-04, 2023