Appendix C: Descriptive table for each hand-coded conspiracy related variables

The coding scheme was iteratively developed and pilot-tested with 100 randomly sampled Weibo posts from the final dataset. Six Chinese native speakers were trained and coded the posts independently. Intercoder-reliability was satisfactory, with Krippendorff's alpha for post type, origin types, responsibility attribution, and source cited at 0.834, 0.786, 0.804, 0.826, respectively. The table below provides the descriptive results of coding of each variable.

Variable Name	Distribution	N
Post Types	· Conspiracy posts = 923 · Debunking posts = 593 · Irrelevant to conspiracies or debunking =5219	6735
Origin Types	· Nature/unknown origin = 350 · Human synthesis = 563 · Lab-edited = 636 · Bioweapon = 188 · 5G = 75 · E-cigarette = 0 · GMO = 7	1516 (subset to post types = conspiracy or debunking)
Responsibility Attribution	· China = 565 · The United States = 712 · Japan = 4 · Serbia = 1 · European Countries = 24 · Bill Gates = 2 · Other Countries = 36 · No clear responsibility attribution = 217	1516
Source Cited	· Chinese government = 47 · U.S. government = 13 · Other government = 36 · Scientists/Scholars = 438	1516

- Celebrities = 52
- Ordinary citizens = 234
- Foreign media = 261
- Chinese media = 280
- Corporations = 2
- NGO = 5
- Others = 108
- No source is cited in a post = 268