

Appendix G: Examples of conspiracy posts and debunking posts

The table below provides examples (in Chinese and in English translation) for conspiracy posts and debunking posts. In this paper, we define *conspiracy posts* as those that spread conspiracies about the origins of COVID-19. We define *debunking posts* to broadly include any posts that disapprove, disagree and refute such conspiracies, either with or without providing evidence. The first example of debunking post refutes conspiracy with evidence by stating that people from other countries also got COVID-19. The second and the third example under debunking posts refute conspiracy without using evidence. As we can see that the post authors denounced the conspiracy by saying it is totally nonsense. We did not fact check to verify whether the evidence used in these debunking posts are true.

We also provide the Weibo screenshots of conspiracy posts and debunking posts (in Chinese and in English) after the table.

Post Types	例子 (in Original Chinese)	Examples (English Translation)
Conspiracy posts	1. “基因武器[黑线]这次新型冠状病毒很可能是美国对中国投放的。天杀美国人[怒]。”	1. “Genetic weapons[blackface]. This new coronavirus is likely to be launched by the United States in China. Damn the Americans[anger].”
	2. “病毒真的是野味源头吗？我怎么一直感觉是台湾或者国外的故意把病菌传到中国，比如美国呢？日本呢？土耳其？澳大利亚？？？因此来限制我们的经济，限制我们的体育，限制我们的外交。是这样吗？？？！！！！有没有可能他们把人员输入进去，从而影响崛起而管制没有那么严重的武汉呢？@钟南山 @鲁健 @国家卫健委。”	2. “Is the virus originated in wildlife? Why do I always feel that Taiwan or other countries deliberately spread the virus to China, such as the United States? How about Japan? Turkey? Australia? ?? So to restrict our economy, restrict our sports, restrict our diplomacy. Is that right? ? ? ! ! ! ! Is it possible that they imported infected cases into China, thus affecting the rise of Wuhan? @Zhong Nanshan @Lu Jian @Chinese National Health Commission.”
	3. “新冠病毒是丧失人性的实验室恶作。新冠病毒绝非野生动物携带传染人类所致，是典型的实验室人为干预、培养驯化造成。万恶的敌人，企图亡我之心不死，对中国崛起耿耿于怀，丧心病狂地研究新型冠状病毒谋害华人。经过比对，敌人的阴谋昭然若揭，	3. “The new coronavirus is a dehumanizing laboratory mischief, which is definitely not caused by wild animals, but a typical laboratory human intervention. The wicked enemy, trying to kill us, is notorious about the rise of China, and is frantically studying the novel coronavirus against the Chinese. After comparison, the enemy's conspiracy is rather

冠状病毒与SARS病毒形态、结构极其相似，实际上同出一宗，都是在以SARS做为病毒母体的基础上进行的干预、扩展、变异。不难发现，SARS和冠状病毒都是出自同一实验室的恶劣创作，是丧失人性的卑劣实验！中国人民必须擦亮眼睛，认清帝国主义本色，揭露敌人的阴谋诡计，与丧心病狂的敌人开展针锋相对的斗争。”

obvious. Coronavirus and SARS virus are very similar in form and structure. In fact, they are the same. They are all interventions, expansions, and mutations based on SARS as the virus matrix. It is not difficult to find that SARS and coronavirus are both bad creations from the same laboratory, and they are dehumanizing and humble experiments! The Chinese people must keep their eyes open, recognize the true nature of imperialism, reveal the enemy's conspiracy and tricks, and wage a tit-for-tat struggle against the frenzied enemy.”

1. “又一个阴谋论破了，病毒不是针对亚洲人/////澎湃新闻:【日本政府：#钻石公主号邮轮新增41例新冠肺炎#，其中21人为日籍】日本厚生劳动省7日发布新确认感染新型冠状病毒的41人国籍，具体为21名日本人，8名美国人、5名澳大利亚人、5名加拿大人、1名阿根廷人、1名英国人。”

1. “**Another conspiracy theory is debunked. The virus is not aimed at Chinese.** /////The Paper: [Japanese Government: # Announced the nationalities of 41 people newly confirmed to be infected with the new coronavirus, specifically 21 Japanese, 8 Americans, 5 Australians, 5 Canadians, 1 Argentine, and 1 British.”

Debunking posts

2. “#武汉病毒所目前零感染# 笑死了。用脚想想，零号病人。哈哈哈哈哈。可真会编。”

2. “#Currently Zero Infection in Wuhan Institute of Virology# Laughed to death. Think with your feet, “index case”?. Hahahaha. **Totally stuff and nonsense.**”

3. “一个做噬菌体的已毕业多年的学生，居然被阴谋论分子说是零号病人，还这么多人信.....可见大家也是真的不懂..... 你们记住了，噬菌体是感染细菌的病毒！不能感染植物，动物!!!下次编的时候，记得找个做人源病毒的，至少是哺乳动物源吧？#武汉加油##武汉病毒所目前零感染##武汉病毒所##中国加油##造谣一张嘴，辟谣跑断腿#”

3. “A student majored in bacteriophage, and who graduated many years ago, was accused of being an “index case” by conspiracy theorists, and so many people believe... **It shows that everyone really doesn't understand...** You remember, bacteriophages are viruses that infect bacteria! Can not infect plants, animals!!! **When you talk nonsense next time**, remember to find a human-derived virus, at least of mammalian origin, right?”#Stay strong, Wuhan##Currently Zero Infection in Wuhan Institute of Virology#Stay strong, China##Easy to Fabricate Rumor, However, Hard to Debunk it#.”

Conspiracy Posts Example 1:



1月29日 19:00 来自 荣耀畅玩4C

基因武器👿这次新型冠状病毒很可能是美国对中国投放的。天杀美国人👿

上饶·上饶县

上饶·上饶县

上饶县 是江西省上饶市 所辖的一...

Genetic weapons[blackface]. This new coronavirus is likely to be launched by the United States in China. Damn the Americans[anger]

Conspiracy Posts Example 2:




1月31日 00:11 来自 HUAWEI Mate 20


病毒真的是野味源头吗？我怎么一直感觉是台湾或者国外的故意把病菌传到中国，比如美国呢？日本呢？土耳其？澳大利亚？？？因此来限制我们的经济，限制我们的体育，限制我们的外交。是这样吗？？！！！！有没有可能他们把人员输入进去，从而影响崛起而管制没有那么严重的武汉呢？@钟南山 @鲁健 @国家卫健委


Is the virus originated in wildlife? Why do I always feel that Taiwan or other countries deliberately spread the virus to China, such as the United States? How about Japan? Turkey? Australia? ?? So to restrict our economy, restrict our sports, restrict our diplomacy. Is that right? ?? !!!!! Is it possible that they imported infected cases into China, thus affecting the rise of Wuhan? @Zhong Nanshan @Lu Jian @Chinese National Health Commission.

Conspiracy Posts Example 3:

 2月4日 13:13 来自 荣耀V20 4800万3D相机


新冠病毒是丧失人性的实验室恶作。

新冠病毒绝非野生动物携带传染人类所致，是典型的实验室人为干预、培养驯化造成。万恶的敌人，企图亡我之心不死，对中国崛起耿耿于怀，丧心病狂地研究新型冠状病毒谋害华人。经过比对，敌人的阴谋昭然若揭，冠状病毒与SARS病毒形态、结构极其相似，实际上同出一宗，都是在以SARS做为病毒母体的基础上进行的干预、扩展、变异。不难发现，SARS和冠状病毒都是出自同一实验室的恶劣创作，是丧失人性的卑痞实验！中国人民必须擦亮眼睛，认清帝国主义本色，揭露敌人的阴谋诡计，与丧心病狂的敌人开展针锋相对的斗争。  长沙·东塘

 长沙·东塘
中国湖南省长沙市雨花区

The new coronavirus is a dehumanizing laboratory mischief, which is definitely not caused by wild animals, but a typical laboratory human intervention. The wicked enemy, trying to kill us, is notorious about the rise of China, and is frantically studying the novel coronavirus against the Chinese. After comparison, the enemy's conspiracy is rather obvious. Coronavirus and SARS virus are very similar in form and structure. In fact, they are the same. They are all interventions, expansions, and mutations based on SARS as the virus matrix. It is not difficult to find that SARS and coronavirus are both bad creations from the same laboratory, and they are dehumanizing and humble experiments! The Chinese people must keep their eyes open, recognize the true nature of imperialism, reveal the enemy's conspiracy and tricks, and wage a tit-for-tat struggle against the frenzied enemy.

Debunking Posts Example 1:

 2月7日 22:22 来自 Android客户端

又一个阴谋论破了，病毒不是针对亚洲人//////澎湃新闻:【日本政府：#钻石公主号邮轮新增41例新冠肺炎#，其中21人为日籍】日本厚生劳动省7日发布新确认感染新型冠状病毒的41人国籍，具体为21名日本人，8名美国人、5名澳大利亚人、5名加拿大人、1名阿根廷人、1名英国人。02oIfKR07。页链接

Another conspiracy theory is debunked. The virus is not aimed

Debunking Posts Example 2:



Debunking Posts Example 3:



A student majored in bacteriophage, and who graduated many years ago, was accused of being an "index case" by conspiracy theorists, and so many people believe... It shows that everyone really doesn't understand... You remember, bacteriophages are viruses that infect bacteria! Can not infect plants, animals!! When you talk nonsense next time, remember to find a human-derived virus, at least of mammalian origin, right?#Stay strong, Wuhan##Currently Zero Infection in Wuhan Institute of Virology#Stay strong, China##Easy to Fabricate Rumor, However, Hard to Debunk it#.