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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Post Types</th>
<th>例子 (in Original Chinese)</th>
<th>Examples (English Translation)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 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、培养训化造成。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
casted 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
dangerous.” |
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. “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.”

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

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:

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

Conspiracy Posts Example 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.
Conspiracy Posts Example 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 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:

Another conspiracy theory is debunked. The virus is not aimed...
Debunking Posts Example 2:

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

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 #**