

Facebook whistleblower says he has been suspended by the tech giant after leaking internal documents

[Ariel Zilber](#)

Morgan Kahmann appeared on Tucker Carlson Tonight after he leaked internal documents exposing the tech giant's 'vaccine hesitancy' censorship campaign

The Facebook whistleblower who leaked internal documents exposing the tech giant's 'vaccine hesitancy' censorship campaign has identified himself and spoke out about his experiences in the aftermath.

Morgan Kahmann appeared on Tucker Carlson Tonight and said he decided to come forward because he believed it was 'highly immoral' that Facebook is allegedly censoring the content of its users without their knowledge.

Kahmann had initially come forward anonymously to Project Veritas with leaked documents allegedly showing that the company was testing a 'beta' version of the algorithm to target anti-vaxxers.

The video is currently unavailable

Error code 301

The data center technician alleged to Carlson that posts that went 'outside of the realm' of promoting vaccines is considered 'vaccine hesitancy' by Facebook's algorithms.

'They're afraid of what people might conclude if they see that other people

are having negative side effects. They think that this is going to drive up vaccine hesitancy among the population and they see that as something that they have to combat,' Kahmann said.



Morgan Kahmann appeared on Tucker Carlson Tonight and said he decided to come forward because he believed it was 'highly immoral' that Facebook is allegedly censoring the content of its users without their knowledge



James O'Keefe, the head of Project Veritas, interviewed an anonymous whistleblower who claimed to provide documents showing that Facebook was demoting or removing content from those who expressed skepticism of the COVID-19 vaccine

Facebook Whistleblower says they are censoring vaccine concerns





O'Keefe (above) appeared on Sean Hannity's show on Fox News on Monday to break the story

Kahmann, who said he has since been suspended from the company, told Carlson that Facebook's alleged actions went against his 'moral compass.'

'The users at Facebook are not aware that this is going on and if you're using Facebook or a social platform and they're censoring the content of your comments unbeknownst to you, I think that's highly immoral,' he said.

Kahmann told Carlson that Facebook managers ordered him to stop working and escorted him to his car after collecting his equipment and his access badge.

He claims that he was told an 'investigatory meeting' would be scheduled with him that was canceled.

Kahmann said that the consequences he faced 'don't really weigh much' when it comes to having to live with himself.

'I saw these documents and I had to opportunity to, you know, show the public this and what's going on behind the scenes and I didn't do it, and so I wouldn't be able to live with myself after that,' he said.

Kahmann and another Facebook employee came forward with their leaked documents on Monday, alleging that the social network is censoring skeptics of the [COVID-19](#) vaccine by demoting user comments by way of an algorithm that calculates a 'vaccine hesitancy score.'

The documents purport to show that the beta version was being tested on 1.5 per cent of some 3.8 billion users of Facebook and its subsidiary, Instagram, around the world.

'Based on that VH score, we will demote or leave the comment alone depending on the content within the comment,' one of the whistleblowers told [Project Veritas](#).

In a statement to Project Veritas, a spokesman said: 'We proactively announced this policy on our company blog and also updated our help center with this information.'

Project Veritas says it obtained the purportedly leaked documents from the whistleblowers.

The title of the document reads 'Vaccine Hesitancy Comment Demotion.'

In its 'executive summary' section, it states that the goal is to 'drastically reduce user exposure to vaccine hesitancy (VH) in comments.'

The document states that 'reducing the visibility of these comments represents another significant opportunity for us to remove barriers to vaccination that users on the platform may potentially encounter.'

O'Keefe joins Hannity to discuss Veritas' NEW BOMBHELL Two-Whist...

Vaccine Hesitancy Comment Demotion

Credits

- Author List: @Joo Ho Yeo, @Nick Gibian, @Hendrick Townley, @Amit Bahl, @Matt Gilles
- Thanks:

Executive Summary

- What's your goal?
 - Drastically reduce user exposure to vaccine hesitancy (VH) in comments
- What is the product change?
 - Utilize the existing v1 VH classifier (English) to demote comments on ranked comments, meaning that they are filtered from 'most relevant' but are still visible in other tabs (ex 'most recent')
- What are the benefits of this launch?
 - VPVs on Vaccine post English comments vh p80: **-10.6±2.1%**
 - Projected launch impact: -934.8K±194.4K vpvvs
 - Authoritative vh p80 comment vpvvs: -26.7 (±4.1)%
 - Projected launch impact: -402.4K±171.3K
 - CEP on Vaccine post English comments vh p80: **-11.1 (±1.8)%**
 - Authoritative vh p80 comments CEP: **-26.1±3.0%**
 - Decrease in other engagement of VH comments including create, likes, reports, replies
 - ↓ Scuba grouped by VH
- What are the costs of this launch?
 - No significant cost is observed.
- Risks of this launch
 - Not all comments are actually vaccine hesitancy, but we'd aligned with Health Policy on this risk in the COVID Lockdown Decision's meeting 2 weeks ago – https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Qo35TGq75yf70-VkOAY61g0oFfjYaOB2o2dF65Ury44/edit#slide=id.gca2fb195a7_11_0
- How could this be made more aggressive?
 - Use lower thresholds for interventions
- How could this be made more conservative?
 - Use higher Thresholds for interventions

Background

Experiment Launch Post

Comments are a major surface relevant to our B2V efforts. We estimate that the prevalence of VH comments in Authoritative Health Pages is 25.3% and for other pages 19.42%. Now that the v1 Vaccine Hesitancy classifier has been cleared for this usecase, reducing the visibility of these comments represents another significant opportunity for us to remove barriers to vaccination that users on the platform may potentially encounter.

title of the document reads 'Vaccine Hesitancy Comment Demotion.' In its 'executive summary' section, it states that the goal is to 'drastically reduce user exposure to vaccine hesitancy (VH) in comments.'

Vaccine Hesitancy policy → action mapping

POLICY TIER	ACTION MAPPING
Violating: - COVID/vaccine M&H and WDH/RFH	Remove <u>at scale</u>
Violating: - Explicit Vaccine Discouragement - VH "sole purpose entities"	Remove <u>on escalation</u>
B2V Reduce (fka Tiers 1/2): - Sensational/alarmist - Criticizing choice - Indirect discouragement (shocking stories; promoting alternatives)	Everything from "Inform Only" tier, plus... - <u>Non_rec</u> (inclusive of search, comments, and discovery surfaces) - <u>Demotions</u> (though not on indirect discouragement content) - <u>BTGs</u> if/as needed
B2V Inform Only (fka Tiers 3/4): - Personal objections - Skepticism - Neutral discussion / debate	- <u>Inform</u> on all COVID Vaccine content + test more specific labels on top of that - <u>Reshare friction</u>

Policy note: For personal objections and skepticism, we have the ability to filter out comments if we want to.

© Project Veritas

The company documents recommend 'action mapping' which involves either demoting or outright removing comments depending on the severity of the violation, according to Project Veritas

Facebook's aim is to 'decrease in other engagement of VH comments including crate, likes, reports [and] replies.'

'The narrative [is] get the vaccine, the vaccine is good for you, everyone should get it,' the documents state.

'If you don't, you will be singled out as an enemy of society.'

One whistleblower told O'Keefe that Facebook wants to 'build a community where everyone complies - not where people can have an open discourse and dialogue about the most personal and private and intimate decisions.'

'It doesn't match the narrative,' the whistleblower said.

'The narrative being, get the vaccine, the vaccine is good for you. Everyone should get it.

'And if you don't, you will be singled out.'

The system set up by the social network ranks users into tiers that grade comments based on the degree to which they are aimed at dissuading others from getting inoculated, according to Project Veritas.

'Tier 0' is assigned to any comments that 'coordinate harm' by 'promoting interference with the administration of a vaccine, including an event, group, page, account, etc dedicated to this purpose.'

That tier is also assigned to any comment that 'advocates' or 'promotes' that 'others not get a vaccine.'

'Tier 1' is for any comments that express 'alarmism and criticism' of the vaccines, including 'disparaging others on the basis of their choice to vaccinate.'

'T1' is also assigned to comments that 'suggest or imply that vaccines are unsafe, ineffective, sacrilegious, or irrelevant.'

'Tier 2' comments are those that offer 'indirect discouragement' against taking the vaccine by speculating on 'unproven or severe side effects or death.'

The company documents recommend 'action mapping' which involves either demoting or outright removing comments depending on the severity of the violation, according to Project Veritas.

'What's remarkable about these private documents that Facebook has not wanted you to see until tonight is that 'Tier 2' [violation] says even if the

facts are true that you will be targeted and demoted - your comments will be targeted and demoted,' O'Keefe told Fox News.

'They don't want you to know that they are doing this. And this is the town square as you all know. We are trying to retake our town square,' he said.

'They are demoting your comments and de-boosting you on Facebook without you knowing that they are doing that.

'And they are obviously terrified of this report because they are responding to Project Veritas before they would attack us or ignore us.

'There is more to come.'

On its company blog, Facebook acknowledges that it reduces the visibility of content that may not violate company policy but does 'discourage someone from getting vaccinated.'

In March, Facebook announced that it would be adding informational labels to posts about vaccines as it expands efforts to counter COVID-19-related misinformation flourishing on its platforms.

CEO Mark Zuckerberg said in a blog post that labels will contain 'credible information' about the vaccines from the World Health Organization.

They will be in English and five other languages, with more languages added in coming weeks.

'For example, we're adding a label on posts that discuss the safety of COVID-19 vaccines that notes COVID-19 vaccines go through tests for safety and effectiveness before they're approved,' Zuckerberg said.

The social network also added a tool to help get users vaccinated by

connecting them to information about where and when they can get their shot.

Why does Facebook still ban users from saying COVID is man-made?

A fresh spotlight has been thrown on how tech giants police COVID 'misinformation' after Dr Antony Fauci questioned whether the virus was man-made in [China](#) - a sentiment banned across swathes of social media.

Facebook [policies](#) outlining what kinds of 'misinformation' its users cannot post about, specifically picks out theories that the virus was 'man-made' or 'manufactured' - the very theory Fauci was discussing.

At the same time, an Italian journalist claimed last week to have been censored by [YouTube](#) over a book which questions whether the virus was engineered in a Wuhan lab, despite America's top disease expert saying it warrants investigation.

These inconsistencies beg the question whether social media's 'misinformation' witch-hunt has gone too far in trying to prevent the spread of dangerous lies, and actually stifles productive debate instead.

For example, on vaccines: A large number of Facebook policies deal with clear misinformation - such as outlawing claims that jabs contain 'the mark of the beast', or turn you into a monkey.

But the site also says it bans 'claims that COVID-19 vaccines kill or seriously harm people (such as causing blood clots.)'

That is despite the fact that medical regulators in Europe and elsewhere have seen fit to put warnings on AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson jabs saying they can cause blood clots - albeit in vanishingly rare cases.

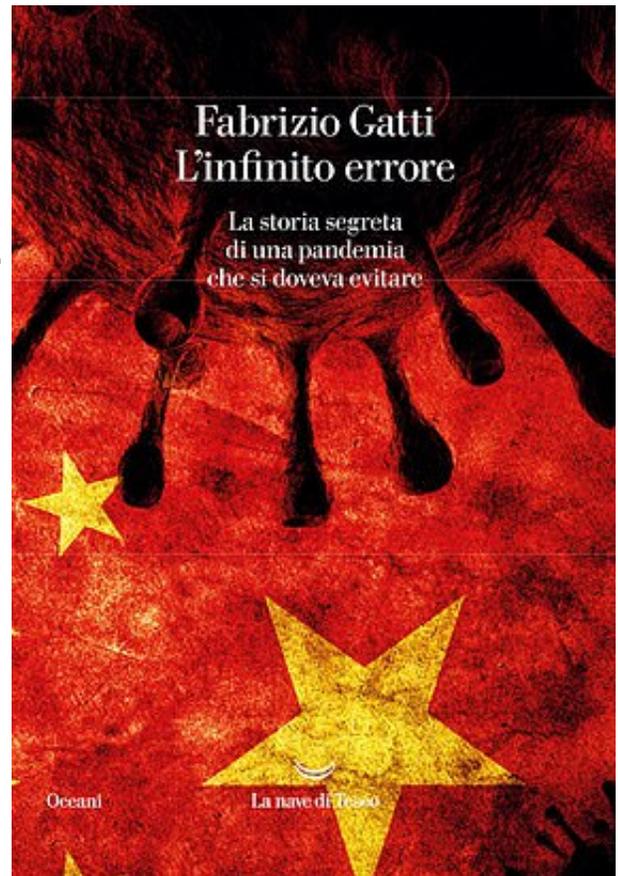
Meanwhile YouTube also has clear-cut policies banning untruths, such as saying prayer will cure the virus or that COVID isn't real.

But the site's policies ban posts questioning the efficacy of masks or debating lockdown measures - even though government guidance on both has changed many times since the start of the pandemic, largely thanks to debate about their benefits.

Separate rules on advertising on YouTube outlaw adverts around 'sensitive events' such as COVID, banning anything that 'potentially profits' from the event 'without a benefit to users' - though what exactly qualifies as a 'benefit' is not explained.

It was those advertising rules that Italian journalist Fabrizio Gatti fell foul of when advertises for his book - The Infinite Error: The Secret Story Of A Pandemic That Should Have Been Avoided - were 'blacklisted' from Google last week.

Google said the video violates the rules because it 'displays speculative



Italian journalist Fabrizio Gatti was banned from advertising his book questioning the origins of Covid and criticising China's response on Google - even as top US disease expert Anthony Fauci says it warrants further investigation

intent or lacks reasonable sensitivity around a global health crisis.'

But Elisabetta Sgarbi, whose company is publishing Gatti's book on COVID, told Italian news agency [Ansa](#): 'There is a big difference between "gratuitous offense" and the right to criticize.

'[The book] documents the responsibilities of the Chinese regime, the allied governments and the WHO in the delayed response to the Covid-19 pandemic... which should have avoided.

'I hope that Google... can help encourage reflection and discussion on the health and human catastrophe that has hit the world.'

Gatti added: 'I express my full solidarity with colleagues who have been or will be economically damaged, just for giving space to... my research.

'I hope that Google will revise its position as soon as possible. We already have to put up with the Chinese regime and the consequences of its failure to contain COVID.

'[Google's action] it is yet another symptom of a very worrying drift.

'Once once the infection is overcome with vaccines, as I write in my book, we will have to defend our democracies from totalitarianism and the digital monopoly.'

Other [policies](#) that might get adverts banned from Google are ones which 'appear to profit from a tragic event with no discernible benefit to users', adverts selling products 'which may be in insufficient supply', and those which 'claim victims of a sensitive event were responsible for their own tragedy.'

Both Facebook and Google say the policies were created in response to the spread of misinformation as the pandemic spread, and aim to direct people towards reliable information and stop the spread of claims that could cause harm.