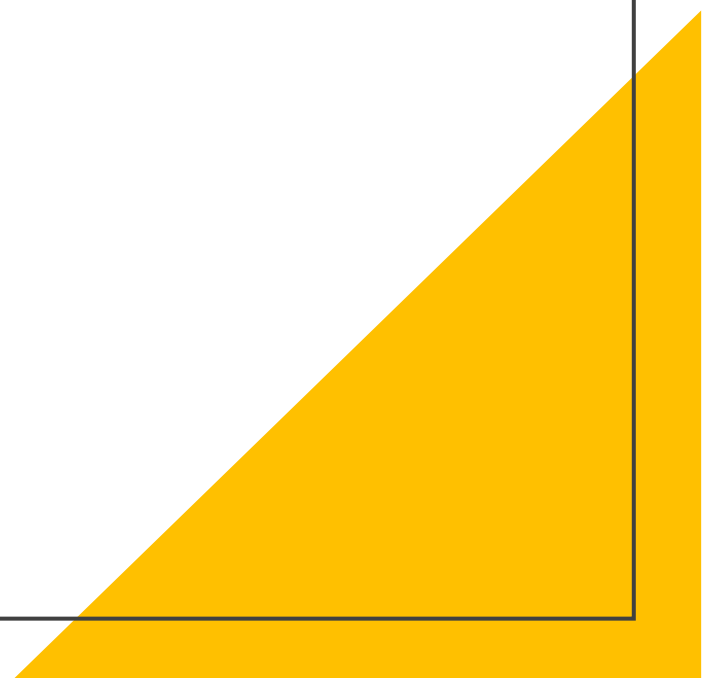


# Generative Artificial Intelligence and Threats to Democracy

Robert Weissman

Public Citizen

September 20, 2023



# AI and Threats to Democracy

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Election Administration

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Deepfakes

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Mis/Disinformation

---

Targeted manipulative messaging

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Public Comments

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Solutions

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# Deepfakes

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- Prospect of late election-season deepfake with no chance to disprove.
- Improving technology
- Deniability of authentic content



# Mis/Disinformation

- Instant generation of deceptive content
- Ability to generate deceptive content in quantity
- Worsening social media disinformation
- Potential pollution of other channels and much more sophisticated campaigns
  - Text, Websites



Photo Credit: Deepak Pal,  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/158301585@N08/43267970922>

Wanna Go  
Down the  
Rabbit  
Hole?  
Check This:

## Generative Language Models and Automated Influence Operations: Emerging Threats and Potential Mitigations

Josh A. Goldstein<sup>1,3</sup>, Girish Sastry<sup>\*2</sup>, Micah Musser<sup>\*1</sup>,  
Renée DiResta<sup>3</sup>, Matthew Gentzel<sup>2</sup>, and Katerina Sedova<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Georgetown University's Center for Security and Emerging Technology*

<sup>2</sup>*OpenAI*

<sup>3</sup>*Stanford Internet Observatory*

- <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2301.04246.pdf>

# Deep Manipulation

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- Individualized, customized messages from campaigns, committees or political actors
- Delivered by human-like avatars, designed just for you
- Leveraging surveillance data on what's known about you
- No accountability, no fact check, no need for consistency

Create professional videos with  
140+ diverse AI avatars

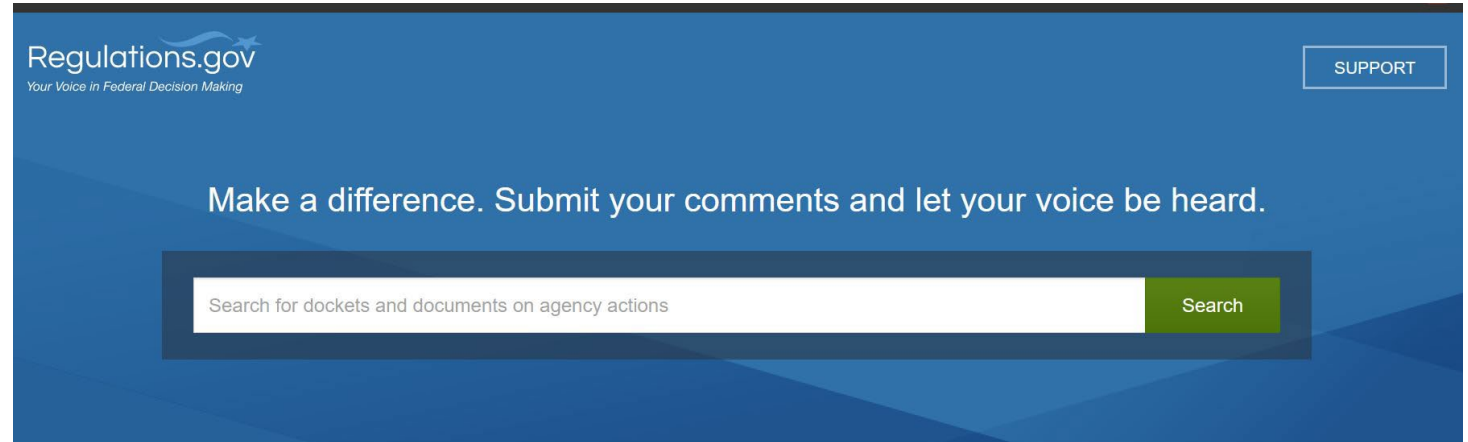
AI Avatars are frequently updated, with new additions and improved quality.

All avatars ▾ Select Attire ▾ Select Age ▾ [Create Account Now](#)

The image displays a grid of 12 diverse AI avatars, arranged in three rows and four columns. Each avatar is shown from the chest up, wearing professional attire. The avatars are labeled with names and 'Enterprise' in a small grey box at the bottom of each frame. The names are: Paige, Olivia, Alex, Jason, Jack, Lily, Matt, Helia, Agnes, Anne-Marie, Axel, and Charles. The avatars represent a wide range of ethnicities, ages, and genders.

# The Public Comment Process

- Danger of unique, AI generated comments
- Imposing barriers to public comments is a wrong turn
- Require certification that comments are being submitted by a human



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## What's New on Regulations.gov

New features include the ability to download Agency, Docket, and Public Submission Document metadata in bulk. See [FAQs](#) for more detail.



## Explore

### Comments Due Soon

Today

17

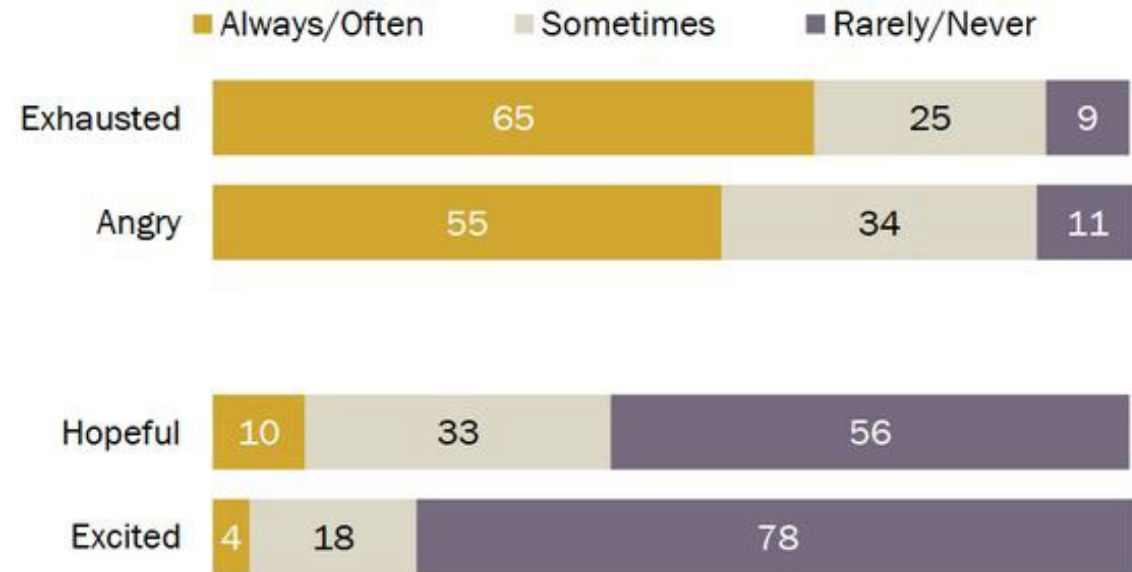
# Disintegration of Social Trust

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- What happens if everything is fake or might be?
- Beyond political speech.
- What do you believe?
- Reinforcement of cynicism, polarization, paranoid thinking

## How Americans feel when they think about politics

% who \_\_\_\_ feel each of the following when thinking about politics these days



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.

"Americans' Dismal Views of the Nation's Politics"

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER**



# Solutions: Power of Disclosure

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- Power of disclosure
  - Establish norms, standards and laws now
  - People can discount untruths
- Federal Election Commission petition:
  - Fed Register: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/08/16/2023-17547/artificial-intelligence-in-campaign-ads#addresses>
  - FEC: <https://sers.fec.gov/forces/addcomments.htm?pid=3374276>
- Federal legislation: Protect Elections from Deceptive AI Act
- State legislation: Contact Ilana Beller, [ibeller@citizen.org](mailto:ibeller@citizen.org)
- More details: <https://www.citizen.org/article/comments-to-the-presidents-council-of-advisors-on-science-and-technology-working-group-on-generative-artificial-intelligence/>