

7,820 views

Lee Fang @lhfang
Jun 16 · 15 tweets · 7 min read

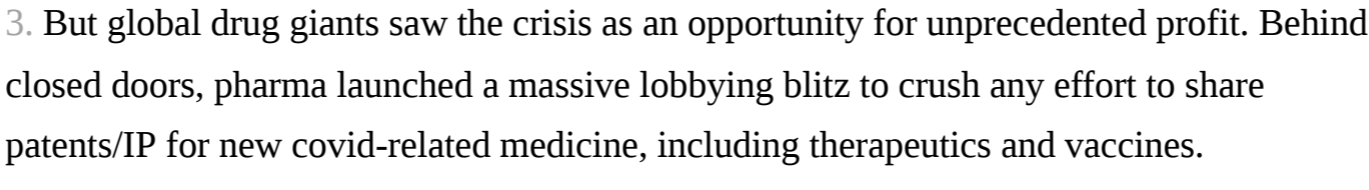
Bookmark Save as PDF My Authors

1. New piece from the TWITTER FILES.

How the pharmaceutical industry lobbied social media to shape content around vaccine policy.

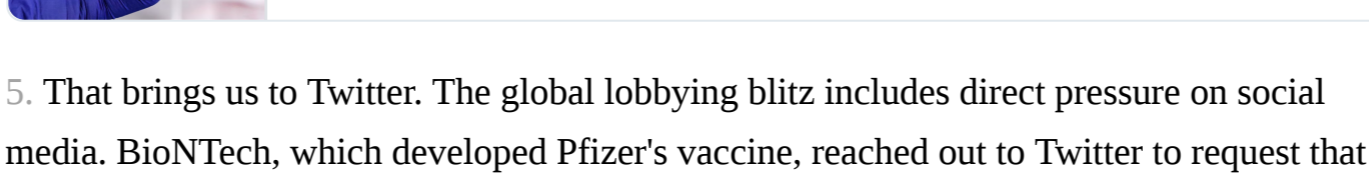
The push included direct pressure from Pfizer partner BioNTech to censor activists demanding low-cost generic vaccines for low-income countries.

2. In 2020, it was clear that the pandemic would require rapid innovation. Early on, there was a push to make the solution equitable: an international partnership to share ideas, technology, new forms of medicine to rapidly solve this crisis.

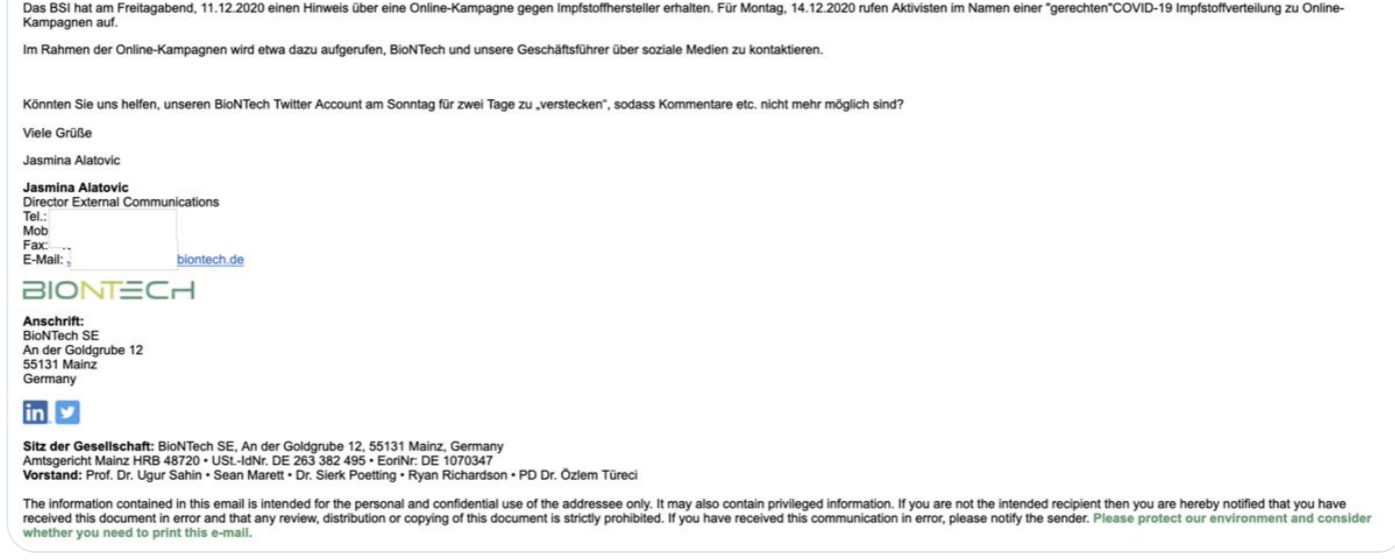


3. But global drug giants saw the crisis as an opportunity for unprecedented profit. Behind closed doors, pharma launched a massive lobbying blitz to crush any effort to share patents/IP for new covid-related medicine, including therapeutics and vaccines.

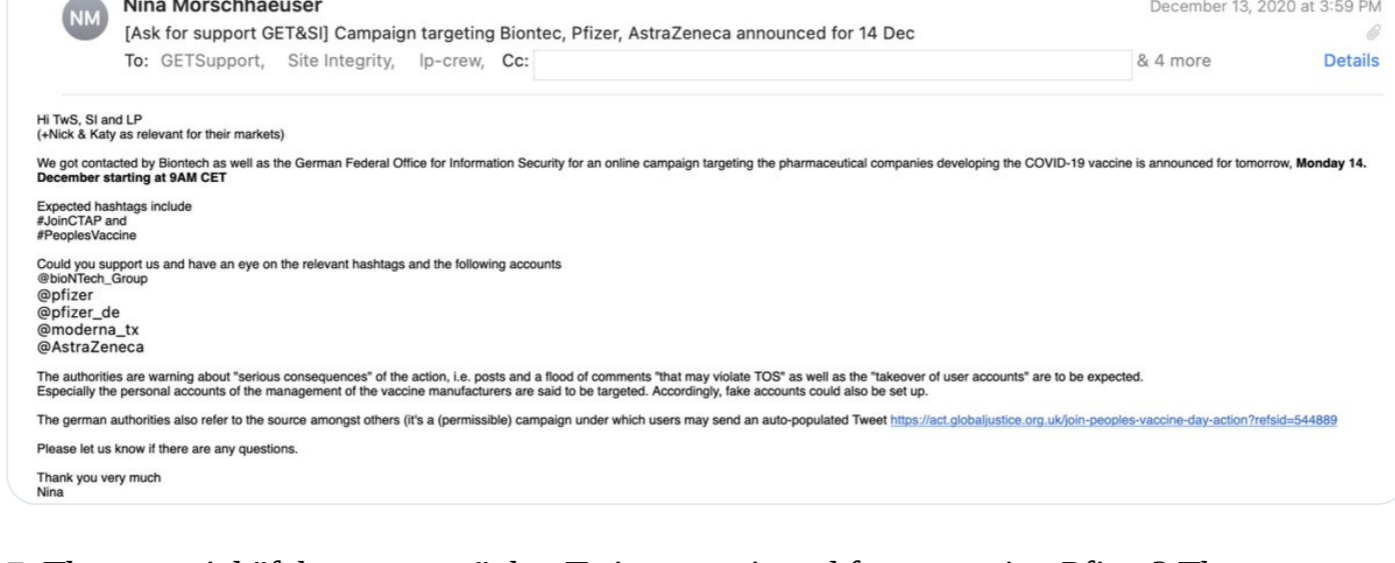
4. BIO, the lobby group that represents biopharma, including Moderna & Pfizer, wrote to the newly elected Biden admin, demanding the U.S. gov sanction any country attempting to violate patent rights and create generic low cost covid medicine or vaccines.



5. That brings us to Twitter. The global lobbying blitz includes direct pressure on social media. BioNTech, which developed Pfizer's vaccine, reached out to Twitter to request that Twitter directly censor users tweeting at them to ask for generic low cost vaccines.



6. Twitter's reps responded quickly to the pharma request, which was also backed by the German government. A lobbyist in Europe asked the content moderation team to monitor the accounts of Pfizer, AstraZeneca & of activist hashtags like #peoplesvaccine



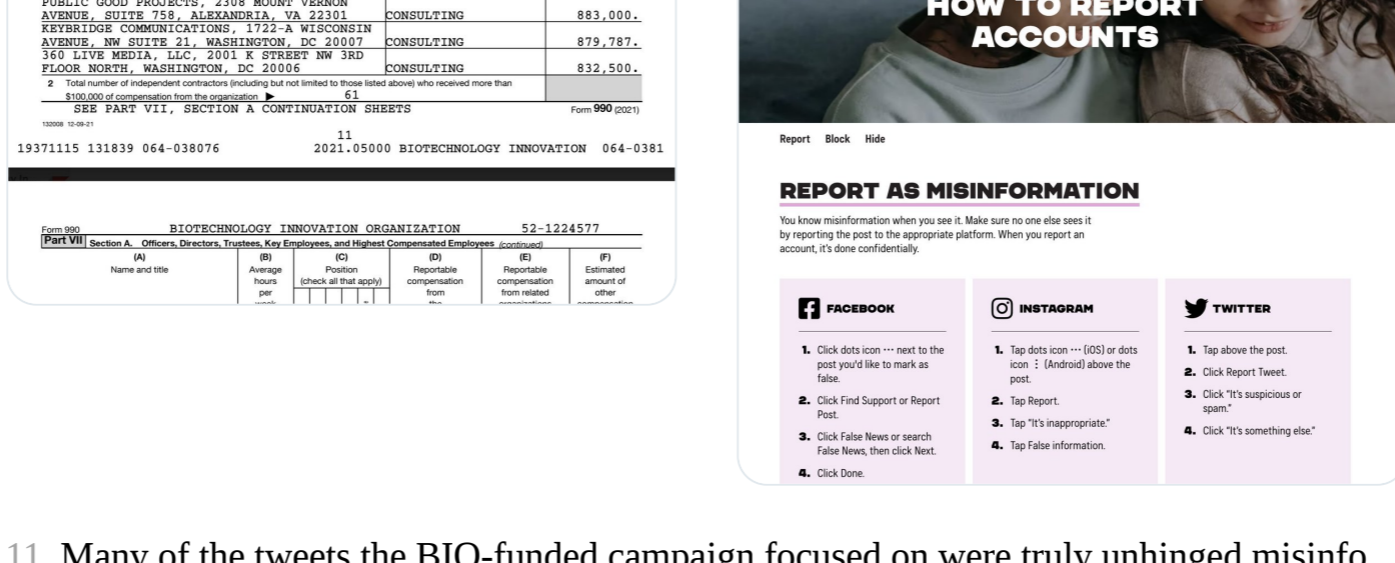
7. The potential "fake accounts" that Twitter monitored for protesting Pfizer? These were real people. Here's one the Twitter team flagged for potential terms of use violations. I talked to Terry, a 74 year old retired bricklayer in the UK on the phone.



8. It's not clear what actions Twitter ultimately took on this particular request. Several Twitter employees noted in subsequent messages that none of this activism constituted abuse. But the company continued monitoring tweets.

9. In a separate push, Pfizer & Moderna's lobbying group, BIO, fully funded a special content moderation campaign designed by a contractor called Public Good Projects, which worked w/Twitter to set content moderation rules around covid "misinformation."

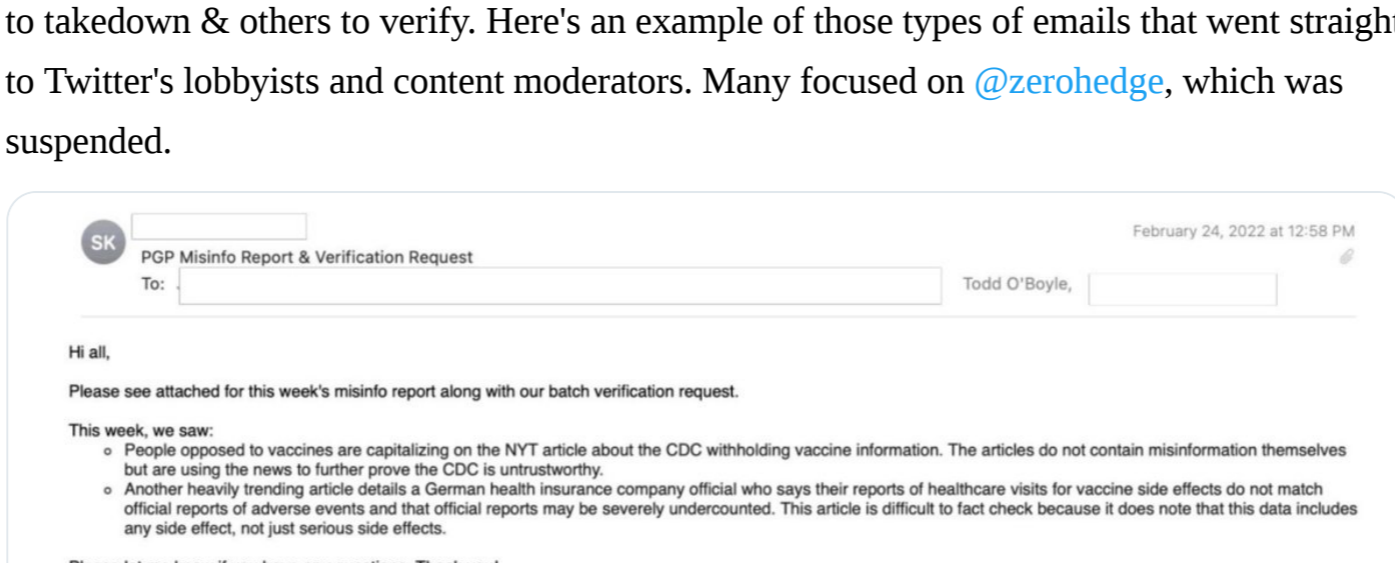
10. BIO provided \$1,275,000 to the campaign, part of which is revealed through tax forms. The PGP campaign, called "Stronger," helped Twitter create content moderation bots, select which public health accounts got verification, helped crowdsource content takedowns.



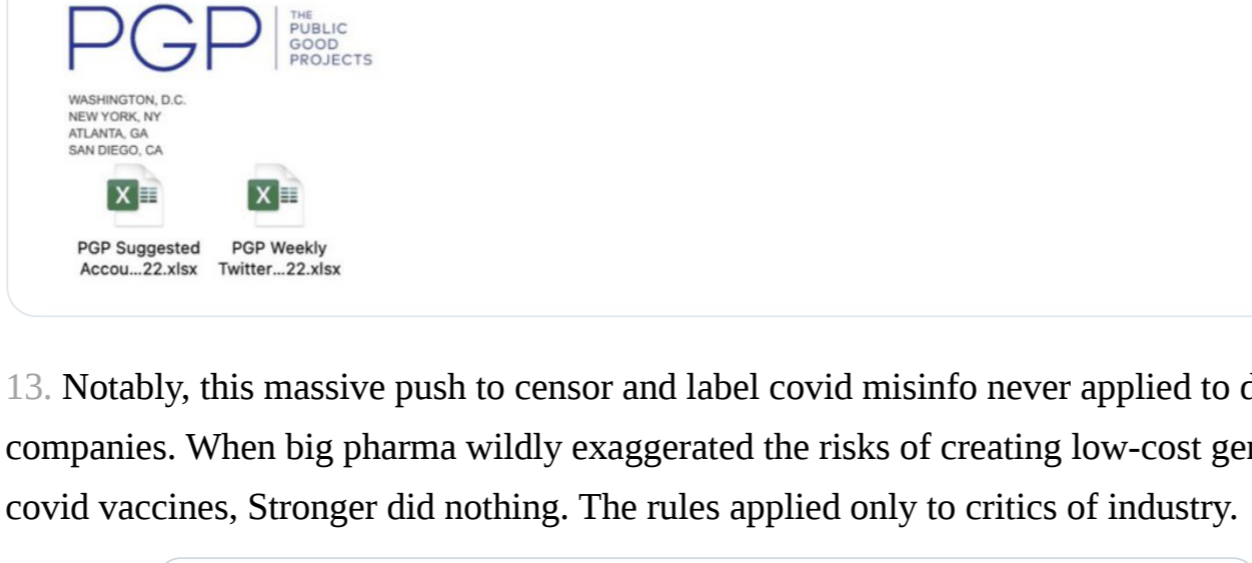
11. Many of the tweets the BIO-funded campaign focused on were truly unhinged misinfo, like claims that vaccines include microchips. But others Stronger lobbied Twitter on were more of a grey area, like vaccine passports & vaccine mandates, policies that coerce vaccination.



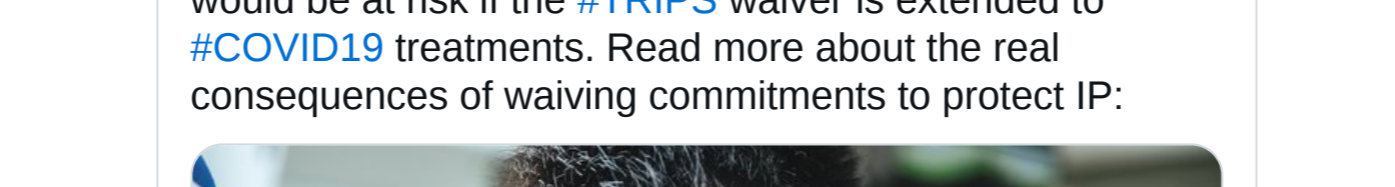
12. The Moderna/Pfizer-funded campaign included direct tweets with lists of tweets to takedown & others to verify. Here's an example of those types of emails that went straight to Twitter's lobbyists and content moderators. Many focused on @zerohedge, which was suspended.



13. Notably, this massive push to censor and label covid misinfo never applied to drug companies. When big pharma wildly exaggerated the risks of creating low-cost generic covid vaccines, Stronger did nothing. The rules applied only to critics of industry.



14. Here is my reported piece w/more detail. I was given some access to Twitter emails. I signed/agreed to nothing. Twitter had no input into anything I did or wrote. The searches were carried out by a Twitter attorney, so what I saw could be limited.



15. Thanks @davidzweig and @woodhouse for help, and look for more Twitter reporting from @mtaibbi, @ShellenbergerMD, @bariweiss/@TheFP and others. You can find me on Substack here



Missing some Tweet in this thread? You can try to force a refresh

Tweet Share Email

Keep Current with Lee Fang
Stay in touch and get notified when new unrolls are available from this author!

This Thread may be Removed Anytime!
Twitter may remove this content at anytime! Save it as PDF for later use!

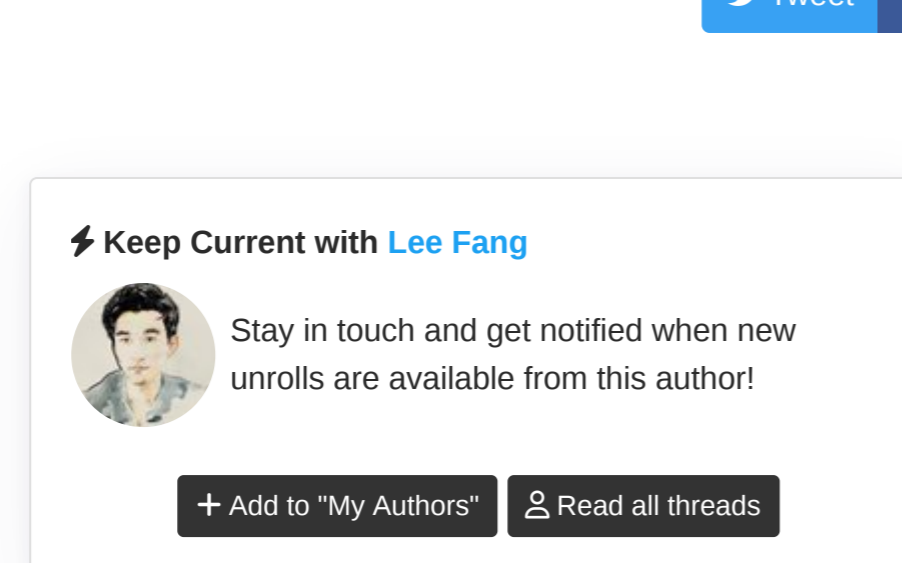
People who liked this thread also liked...

Matt Taibbi @mtaibbi
1.THREAD: Twitter Files #14 THE RUSSIAGATE LIES One: The Fake Tale of Russian Bots and the #ReleaseTheMemo Hashtag

kaneo.a.substack.com @kaneo.a
THREAD #1. #SuddenlyCollapsed Why are there so many professional athletes and public figures collapsing live on television?

Matt Taibbi @mtaibbi
1.TWITTER FILES: Supplemental More Adam Schiff Requests, and "Deamplification"

Try unrolling a thread yourself!



- 1. Follow @ThreadReaderApp to mention us!
2. From a Twitter thread mention us with a keyword "unroll"

More from @lhfang

Lee Fang @lhfang
1. TWITTER FILES PART 8 "How Twitter Quietly Aided the Pentagon's Covert Online PsyOp Campaign"

Lee Fang @lhfang
Docs show Facebook and Twitter closely collaborating w/ FBI to police Homeland Security, FBI to Deice "disinfo." Plans to expand censorship on topics like withdrawal from Afghanistan, origins of COVID, info that undermines trust in financial institutions.

Lee Fang @lhfang
Private prison CoreCivic touts boardals as its "ESG" and MLQ equity cred. New feature explores this trend generating big fees for BlackRock & fund managers, woke reputations for corporations — but is society benefitting?

Lee Fang @lhfang
Lawsuit reveals that lawyers for the 9/11 victims promised lobbyists a cut of the \$\$\$ they win from foreign assets.

Lee Fang @lhfang
This volunteer says he collected over 12,000 signatures for the successful recall of San Francisco's school board members.

Lee Fang @lhfang
Just read this NYT piece on proposed California state education standards that demand that teachers change curriculums to bring racial identity politics into everyday math lessons.

Did Thread Reader help you today?

Support us! We are indie developers!

This site is made by just two indie developers on a laptop doing marketing, support and development! Read more about the story.

Become a Premium Member (\$3/month or \$30/year) and get exclusive features!

Become Premium

Don't want to be a Premium member but still want to support us?

Make a small donation by buying us coffee (\$5) or help with server cost (\$10)

Donate via Paypal

Or Donate anonymously using crypto!

Ethereum

0xfE583568B86347f66F6a6Dc149a72b4Dfbc17D341DE copy

Bitcoin

3ATGMxNZCUFzxpMCHL5wS1tADVt1S8uqXp1 copy

Thank you for your support!