From Leonie Joubert:

Social media: an existential threat to Africa in a climate-altered future?
News media is a load-bearing wall in a healthy democracy. It informs the public discourse, shapes citizens' active participation in day-to-day governance, and holds elected officials to account. The rise of social media platforms like YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter in the past decade shows what happens when this new media ecosystem replaces traditional news as a primary source of information — and misinformation. What does this mean for the stability of African democracies, and the continent's ability to tackle the climate crisis?

If you want to do a deep-dive into this topic, flow the links embedded in this story - some of the leading thinkers on these issues.

Also, a subset of this discussion:

Making Sense podcast, Sam Harris. This episode looks at the misinformation relating to COVID and vaccinations, but similar principles apply to misinformation relating to climate collapse. #256 - A CONTAGION OF BAD IDEAS

Social media is a powerful information platform but one that is ungoverned in many respects, resulting in ideas gaining traction that are outright harmful to individuals and society.

Also, during last week's session, the issue of **eco-anxiety** came up. I didn't respond because we didn't have time, but there have been some very very NB developments in this field. In brief:

- the IPCC scientists who are responsible for the health impacts section of the next climate report, are giving unprecedented space to the mental health implications for people living in a collapsing climate - either the acute or the chronic stress of it
- many at the coalface of climate work are literally falling apart (I had my collapse in 2019 and only just recovering my health now)
- psychologists and end-of-life health workers are acknowledging the need to build an entire community of practice around this kind of support for people and communities.

More here: https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2019-11-20-end-of-life-anxiety-and-finding-meaning-in-a-collapsing-climate/