

**The Geopolitics of Disinformation -
Social Media and International Relations**

29.08. - 01.09.2022

28.08.2022

Sunday

19.00h

Welcome Dinner

Rheinhotel Dreesen, Rheinstrasse 45-49, 53179, Bonn

29.08.2022

Monday

09.15h

Welcome

Dr. Maysoun Zein Al Din, Executive Director of the Academy of International Affairs NRW

09.30h

The DSA Deal: A Gamechanger for our Lives, Society and the Internet

Alexandra Geese, MEP European Parliament, Green Party, Brussels

10.30h

Coffee Break

11.00h

The Politics of Technology-Enabled Misinformation

Prof. Dr. Sarah Kreps, Cornell University

12.30h

Lunch Break

15.00h

Working Group A

Rheinhotel Dreesen, Rheinstrasse 45-49, 53179, Bonn

The weaponization of misinformation through social media by the Romanian far right Adina Marincea

Understanding Sharing of (Mis)information on Social Media Platform - A (Meta-)Cognitive Perspective Nadia Said

Enhancing Qualitative and Mixed Method Research for Disinformation Detection Daniel Cohen

The role of media in ethnic conflict in Ethiopia Hagos Niguse Sibhat

Working Group B

Academy of International Affairs NRW, Rheinallee 24, 53173, Bonn

Regional disinformation messaging, the NATO Strategic Communications Center of Excellence, and 'disinformation' as disinformation Chapman Godbey

Fake News and Artificial Intelligence - The Power of Algorithms in the Disinformation War Magaly Prado

The dark side of brazilian WhatsAppers Sergio Barbosa

18.00h

Digital Governance and the Future of the Digital International Order Francesca Maremonti

30.08.2022

Tuesday

09.00h	Social Media and social unrest Prof. Dr. Anita Gohdes, Hertie School of Governance, Berlin
10.30h	Coffee Break
11.00h	Multinational State-Backed Computational Propaganda and the Russian Invasion in Ukraine Dr. Aliaksandr Herasimenka, University of Oxford
12.30h	Lunch Break
14.00h	Unpacking Deepfakes – Creation and Dissemination of Deepfakes Hao Li, Mohamed Bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence / Pinscreen, Inc. (remote)
15.00h	Coffee Break
15.30h - 16.30h	DATA & DADA It´s moving - it´s alive Prof. Beat Brogle, Artist, University of the Arts Bremen
19.30h	Reception with the Minister for Federal, European, International Affairs and Media of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia and Head of the State Chancellery Nathanael Liminski Academy of International Affairs NRW, Rheinallee 24, 53173, Bonn

31.08.2022

Wednesday

09.00h	Spin Dictators <u>Prof. Dr. Sergei Guriev, Science Po, Paris</u>
10.30h	Coffee Break
11.00h	The Disinformation Crisis and its Impact on Democracies <u>Prof. Dr. Claes de Vreese, University of Amsterdam</u>
12.30h	Lunch Break
15.00h	Working Group A <u>Rheinhotel Dreesen, Rheinstrasse 45-49, 53179, Bonn</u> Pseudo fact-checking as a disinformation strategy: how Russia frames its war against Ukraine Victoria Vziatysheva Geopolitics Disinformation; a case study of Ghana Joshua Kwabena Agyekum-Dwamena Data mining on Facebook for electoral campaigns analysis Steffan Gómez Campos
-	Working Group B <u>Academy of International Affairs NRW, Rheinallee 24, 53173, Bonn</u> Russian propaganda narratives regarding the war in Ukraine Olga Irisova Conspiracy Theory Dynamics in Social Networks Dr. Daniel Thilo Schröder
18.00h	AI Transparency and Social Media Platforms José Renato Laranjeira de Pereira Chinese Disinformation Sophie Reiss
18.45h	Walk 'n' Dinner <u>Schaumburger Hof, Am Schaumburger Hof 10, 53175, Bonn</u>

01.09.2022

Thursday

08.00h - 09.00h	Discussion about Cybersecurity with the Minister of the Interior of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia Herbert Reul Academy of International Affairs NRW, Rheinallee 24, 53173, Bonn
09.30h	Coffee Break Rheinhotel Dreesen, Rheinstrasse 45-49, 53179, Bonn
10.00h	Social Media and Security Ayushman Kaul, Logically AI, London
11.30h	Closing Discussion
12.30h	Lunch Break
19.30h	Farewell Party Academy of International Affairs NRW, Rheinallee 24, 53173, Bonn



SPEAKER

**The Geopolitics of Disinformation -
Social Media and International Relations**

29.08. - 01.09.2022

DE VREESE, Claes H.

Claes H. de Vreese is University Professor of Artificial Intelligence and Society (2021-), with a special focus on media and democracy at the University of Amsterdam. He (co-)directs the UvA Platform Information, Communication and the Data Society (ICDS). He is also Scientific Director of the Digital Democracy Center at the University of Southern Denmark. His research interests include the role of automation, algorithms, and artificial intelligence in democratic processes. This includes microtargeting, news recommenders, social media platforms, disinformation, comparative journalism research, the effects of news, public opinion and European integration. His research has been funded by eg the ERC and the Dutch Science Foundation. He is an elected Fellow of the Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences. He has published 200+ articles in international peer-reviewed journals. He has been visiting scholar at Harvard University, Netherlands Institute of Advances Studies, University of Zurich, and SDU.

GEESE, Alexandra

Alexandra Geese has been a member of the European Parliament since 2019 and was responsible for the “Digital Services Act”, the first European law to regulate social networks in the fight against hate, agitation and disinformation, for the Greens/EFA group. As a digital expert, she is a member of the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection and, as a member of the Committee on Budgets, advocates for gender-equitable budgets. Alexandra Geese was born in Lippstadt in 1968 and grew up in Bonn. There she experienced the beginnings of the Green Party and was active in the peace movement and the anti-nuclear movement as a schoolgirl. After graduating from high school, she lived in Italy and worked as a conference interpreter. While working, she studied political and social sciences and became active in civil society for women and migrants. After returning to Germany, she joined the Bündnis 90/The Greens party in 2010. She is currently working in the European Parliament on issues of democracy and sustainability in the digital space. Her second area of expertise is gender equality with a particular focus on the economy, innovation and the digital realm.

GOHDES, Anita

Anita Gohdes is Professor of International and Cyber Security at the Hertie School. Her research focuses on the empirical study of contentious politics in the cyber realm, and she recently completed a book manuscript on state repression in the digital age. Previously, she was Assistant Professor of International Relations at the University of Zurich, and postdoctoral research fellow at Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center International Security Program. Since 2009, she has worked for the California-based non-profit organisation Human Rights Data Analysis Group. She currently advises the German Federal Foreign Office, and has consulted for the World Bank and the United Nations on security and state fragility. Her doctoral dissertation (University of Mannheim) was awarded the German Dissertation Award in the Social Sciences by the Körber Foundation, and the Walter Isard Dissertation Award by the Peace Science Society.

GURIEV, Sergei

Sergei Guriev joined Sciences Po as a tenured professor of economics in 2013 after serving as the Rector of the New Economic School in Moscow in 2004-13. In 2016-19, he was on leave from Sciences Po serving as the Chief Economist and the Member of the Executive Committee of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). In 2022, Sergei Guriev was appointed Sciences Po's provost. Professor Guriev's research interests include political economics, development economics, labor mobility, and contract theory. Professor Guriev is also a member of the Executive Committee of the International Economic Association and a Global Member of the Trilateral Commission. He is also a Research Fellow and the Leader of the Research and Policy Network on Populism at the Centre for Economic Policy Research, London. He is a Senior Member of the Institut Universitaire de France and an Ordinary Member of Academia Europaea.

HERASIMENKA, Aliaksandr

Aliaksandr Herasimenka is Director of Research at the Programme on Democracy and Technology at the Oxford Internet Institute and a fellow at the Oxford Martin Programme on Misinformation, Science and Media. He utilises social data science approaches to investigate how political groups and governments use algorithms and technologies to manipulate public opinion. He also studies how people adopt technologies to increase political engagement in authoritarian settings. His current research focuses on health and environmental disinformation, misinformation on fringe digital platforms, as well as information operations during the Russia-Ukraine war. Aliaksandr holds a PhD degree in Political Communication.

KAUL, Ayushman

Ayushman Kaul is an analytically minded security and threat intelligence analyst with a strong focus on issues relating to geopolitics, violence perpetrated by non-state actors, organised social media manipulation and information operations in the South Asian regional context. Currently, he works as a Senior Threat Intelligence Analyst in the Investigations division at Logically AI, a technology company based in London. Previously, he has worked as a South Asia research analyst with the Digital Forensic Research Lab at the Atlantic Council where he spearheaded the organizations coverage of the regional informational environment with a focus on: highlighting the growing incidence of democratic backsliding, heightened political polarisation and communalisation of civic discourse in the regions democracies, tracking the intersection of technology and insurgent movements and transnational terror groups in the region, highlighting the rapid growth of commercial and for-profit actors working with state actors to conduct domestic and foreign influence operations and examining the use of social media platforms for information warfare by state actors and its effect on traditional security dynamics in the region. He has also published a range of high-impact investigations that examine the intersection of democracy, technology and security in the region for the DFRLab and as a freelance journalist with The Wire, The Print and Greater Kashmir in India. His most recent investigation revealed the existence of Tek Fog, a secretive app used by cyber troops affiliated with the ruling government in India was raised in Parliament and featured by The New York Times, The Washington Post, Bloomberg and Le Monde' amongst other major publications.

KREPS, Sarah

Sarah Kreps is the John L. Wetherill Professor of Government, Adjunct Professor of Law, and Director of the Tech Policy Institute at Cornell University. She is also a Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution. Her work lies at the intersection of technology, politics, and national security, and is the subject of five books and a range of publications published in academic journals such as the New England Journal of Medicine, Science Advances, Vaccine, Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Network Open, American Political Science Review, and Journal of Cybersecurity, policy journals such as Foreign Affairs, and media outlets such as CNN, the BBC, New York Times, and Washington Post. She has a BA from Harvard University, MSc from Oxford, and PhD from Georgetown. Between 1999-2003, she served as an active duty officer in the United States Air Force.

LI, Hao (remote speaker)

Hao Li is the CEO and Co-Founder of Pinscreen, an LA-based startup that builds the world's most advanced AI-driven virtual avatars, as well as Associate Professor at the Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence. Before that, he was a Distinguished Fellow of the Computer Vision Group at the University of California, Berkeley and Associate Professor of Computer Science at the University of Southern California, where he was also Director of the USC Institute for Creative Technologies. He works at the intersection between Computer Graphics, Computer Vision, and AI, with focus on photorealistic human digitization using deep learning and data-driven techniques. He is known for his work on dynamic geometry processing, virtual avatar creation, facial performance capture, AI-driven 3D shape digitization, and deep fakes. He has been keynote speaker at numerous major events, conferences, festivals, and universities, including the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos 2020 and Web Summit 2020.

REUL, Herbert

Herbert Reul studied social and educational sciences at the University in Cologne from 1972 until 1979. After his academic teacher traineeship he worked from 1979 until 1985 as teacher for a secondary school in Wermelskirchen. In the 1985 state elections Reul gained a seat and was a member of the State Parliament of North-Rhine-Westphalia until the year 2004. From 1991 to 2003 Reul served as General Secretary of the CDU in North Rhine-Westphalia and was between 1992 and 1994 a member of the federal board of the CDU party. From 2004 to 2017 Herbert Reul was a member of the European Parliament. Since 2007 until today, Reul is an honorary chairman of his political county group – CDU Rheinisch-Bergischer-Kreis. Between 2009 and 2012, Reul was the chairman of the committee on Industry, Research and Energy of the European Parliament and has also been the chairman of the CDU/CSU group in the European Parliament from 2012 until 2017. From 2012 until 2018 Reul served as advisory member to the federal board of the CDU party. From 2018 to 2022 Reul was a member of the federal board, respectively federal presidency of the CDU party. Herbert Reul was appointed as Minister of the Interior of the State of North-Rhine-Westphalia on 30 June 2017. Since 13 December 2019 Reul is the chairman of the district association of the CDU Bergisches Land and has also, since October 2021, been serving as deputy chair of the CDU North-Rhine-Westphalia. Since 1 June 2022, Herbert Reul is a member of the state parliament of North-Rhine-Westphalia.