



DE-CONSPIRATOR

DETECTING AND COUNTERING INFORMATION SUPPRESSION FROM A TRANSNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI) Research Methods Workshop Programme

Center for the Study of Democracy (CSD)
Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB)

3-4 June 2024

Venue: Room PL5 4.21 (4th floor), Pleinlaan 5, 1050 Brussels

[Online link](#)



**Funded by
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Horizon Europe GA: 101132671

Day - 1 (3 June 2024)

09.00-09:20 Registration

09:20 – 09:30 Welcoming speech (+ practical info)

09:30 – 10:30 **Keynote Speech: The Concept of Psychological Defence**

James Pamment (Psychological Defence Research Institute; Lund University)

10:30 – 12:30 **Session - 1: Theoretical and Policy Approaches to FIMI**

Chair: Tuba Bircan (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

- Conceptualizing Information Suppression
 - Lovise Aalen and Lemaire Pauline (Chr. Michelsen Institute, Norway)
- Brave New Worlds: A Systemic Theory of Disinformation
 - Paul M. H. Buvarp (Forsvarets forskningsinstitutt (Norwegian Defence Research Establishment)
- Protection of cognitive domain. Key aspects for human-centric protection against FIMI operations
 - Roger Sanz Gonzalez (Comillas Pontifical University), Raquel Ibañez Lopez and Claudio Payá Santos (UIC Barcelona)
- Revealing Disinformation Ecosystems Propagating FIMI Using Content Laundering Detection Tool
 - Kamila Koronska (University of Amsterdam)
- Information Warfare Operations: The search for proof of Russia's intent to commit genocide
 - (online) Lada Roslycky (Black Trident)

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch (PL5.2.05)

13:30 – 15:45 **Session - 2: Psychological Drivers of FIMI**

Chair: Justina Barsyte (AdCogito)

- Why do we fall for information manipulation? Psychological factors driving receptivity to FIMI, disinformation and misinformation.
 - Egle Klekere (Deep White - Latvia)
- Understanding the impact of persuasion techniques in misinformation
 - Hendrik Bruns, Alexia Gaudeul, Hannah Nohlen (European Commission)
- The “Benign” Face of FIMI: China's Cultural Diplomacy in Greece
 - (online) Plamen Tonchev (Head of Asia Unit, Institute of International Economic Relations, Greece)
- Russo-Ukrainian War and Disinformation: Manipulative Mechanisms and Reasons Behind Sharing Fake News
 - Maia Toradze and Liana Markariani (Tbilisi State University)

15:45-16:00 Coffee break

15:30-16:30 Round table: Initial discussions on a Special Issue proposal

Moderators: Akin Ünver & Tuba Bircan

17:30-19:30 Buffet Dinner

Day - 2 (4 June 2024)

09:30 – 10:30 **Keynote Speech: How the West Was Won and Where It Got Us**

Massimo Flore - Expert in Citizens' Vulnerabilities to Disinformation, Former European Commission's Disinformation Expert

10:30 – 12:30 **Session - 3: Societal and Demographic Correlates of FIMI Vulnerability**

Chair: Alexander Gerganov (Center for the Study of Democracy)

- Countering Misinformation to Establish Credibility: Two non-WEIRD Cases
 - Cengiz Erisen, Sung-Youn Kim, Elif Erisen and Alper Ecevit (Yeditepe University, Istanbul; Konkuk University, Seoul; Cukurova University, Adana)
- Unveiling Information Suppression: Exploring Societal Implications and Behavioral Changes in Diasporas from Low-Democratic Regimes
 - Rut Bermejo-Casado, Isabel Bazaga, Jose Luis Postigo and Katrina Calderón (Universidad Rey Juan Carlos, Madrid)
- Does It Matter How the Causes of Misbeliefs Are Communicated to the Public?
 - Valentin Mang, Bob M. Fennis, Kai Epstude (Rijksuniversiteit Groningen)

12:30 - 13:30 Lunch (PL5.2.05)

13:30 – 15:15 **Session - 4: Computational / Big-Data Approaches to FIMI**

Chair: Akin Ünver (Ozyegin University)

- Detecting pro-Kremlin disinformation with ChatGPT
 - Marianne Kramer, Yevgeniy Golovchenko and Frederik Hjorth (Copenhagen University)
- Application of large language models for event analysis in cybersecurity
 - Dmytro V. Lander, (NN FTI KPI) and Ellina V. Shnurko-Tabakova (www.attackindex.com)
- Hot and cold propaganda: FIMI and Russian digital diplomacy, post-Russo-Ukrainian war
 - Marc Tuters (Vrije Universiteit Brussel), Boris Noordenbos (Universiteit van Amsterdam), Tom Willaert (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) and Furkan Dabaniyastı (Universiteit van Amsterdam)
- "Dark Metrics on Dutch-speaking Telegram. Links between electoral politics and the far right"
 - Tom Willaert and Stijn Peeters (Universiteit van Amsterdam)

15:15 – 15:30 Closing Remarks

End of Workshop

15:30 – 18:00 Internal De-Conspirator Consortium Session



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