

EU DisinfoLab Annual Conference

28-29 May 2019, Brussels

Day 1

08:00 – 09:00 Registration and welcome coffee

09:00 – 09:10 Introduction by Alexandre Alaphilippe

09:10 – 09:30 Opening with Benjamin Cazenoves, survivor of Bataclan Attacks, victim of disinformation campaigns during and after the attacks. Benjamin will be interviewed by Camille François, Chief Innovation officer at Graphika.

09:30 – 10:30 Introductory keynotes: International manipulations of information

- Renee di Resta, Director of Research, New Knowledge
- Nick Waters, Senior Investigator, Bellingcat
- Graham Brookie, Director and Managing Editor, DFR Lab (TBC)

Coffee Break: 30 mins

11.00 – 11:45 Introductory Panel: Algorithms, platforms, journalists, society, our own brain: who is accountable for information disorder?
In the past 30 years, our world and our work entered a new digital time. In this session, we will discuss how media, social platforms and our brain have been hijacked by the paradigms of this new era.

Chair: Brian Maguire, Journalist

- Camille François, Chief Innovation Officer, Graphika
- Albert Moukheiber, Neuroscientist, clinical psychologist, co-founder, Chiasma
- Catherine Fieschi, Director, Counterpoint

11:45 – 12:45 Session 1 - Understanding disinformation: the roots for information manipulation and comparative perspectives
In this session, we will hear the need to blame others, the spreading of urban legends could be growing roots for a new disinformation ecosystem, which can take multiple forms in different countries.

Chair: Mathias Vermeulen, Mozilla Foundation

- Martin Innes and Daniel Grinnell, University of Cardiff
- Laura Skillen, PhD researcher, University of Kent
- Aurore Van de Winkel, PhD researcher, author “Gérez les rumeurs et autres bruits”, University of Louvain la Neuve

Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:30

Session 2 - Disinformation, global and continental case studies

From Eastern Ukraine to European elections, through “Yellow Jackets” and US 2018 Midterms, this session will gather diverse disinformation case studies.

Chair: Renee di Resta, Director of Research, New Knowledge

- Alejandro Romero, CEO and Founder, AltoAnalytics
- Grégoire Lemarchand, AFP Deputy Editor in Chief, Head of Social Networks & Fact-Checking
- Clara Tsao, Executive Director, International Content Moderation Network & Mozilla Fellow
- Yevhen Fedchenko, Chief Editor, StopFake.org

Coffee Break: 30'

16:00 – 17:00

Session 3 – Tech companies: what roadmap to fight disinformation?

Put on the spot for being used as an efficient tool in disinformation strategies, the main technology companies have started to address the issue. What are their views and what do they want to achieve?

Chair: Jennifer Baker, Tech Policy Journalist

- Thomas Myrup Kristensen, Managing Director EU Affairs & Head of Office, Brussels, Facebook
- Stephen Turner, Head of Public Policy, Government, & Philanthropy at Twitter Belgium
- Milan Zubicek, Public Policy & Government Relations Manager, Google

17h30 - Social event – Belgian beer and cheese degustation

Day 2

09:00 – 10:00

Session 4 – Transatlantic vision on disinformation

Both the European Union and the United States have been confronted with disinformation campaigns. Operating within different regulatory frameworks, which are the different perspectives on disinformation on both sides of the Atlantic?

Chair: Clara Tsao, Executive Director, International Content Moderation Network & Mozilla Fellow

- Graham Brookie, Director and Managing Editor, DFR Lab
- Bret Shafer, Social Media Analyst and Communications Officer, Alliance for Securing Democracy
- Jennifer Mathieu, Chief Technologist for Social Analytics and Integrity MITRE

10:00 – 11:00

Session 5 – Tools and methodologies for monitoring and debunking disinformation

From network analysis to algorithm tracking and deep fake detection, in this session you will discover tools and leads to detect and debunk disinformation.

Chair: Denis Teyssou, MediaLab R&D, Innovation Manager, AFP

- Camille François, Chief Innovation Officer, Graphika
- Guillaume Chaslot, Founder, AlgoTransparency
- Sam Gregory, Program Director, Witness
- Sam Jeffers, Founder, WhoTargets.me

Coffee Break: 30'

11:30 - 12:30

Session 6 – Raising expertise and resilience in civil society

Civil society is more and more confronted to disinformation campaigns. Whether manipulated information is aimed to silence or undermine its credibility. In the meantime, organisations can develop new expertise to analyse and uncover these strategies. This session will show examples of how civil society can be more resilient and expert on this topic.

Chair: Lucy Freeman, CEO, Media Defence League

- James Le Mesurier, Founder, Mayday Rescue Foundation
- Benjamin Cazenoves, Citizen, victim of disinformation after Paris attack
- Niklas Bennwik, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency

Lunch Break: 1h

13:30 – 14:30

Panel – Regulating disinformation?

How can we ensure a free and fair public debate online? In this session we will discuss the options on a new regulation and the role of continental and international regulators.

Chair: Pierre Haski, President of Reporters Without Borders

- Trisha Meyer, Postdoctoral Researcher, Institute for European Studies, VUB
- Tara Denham, Director, Centre for International Digital Policy, Global Affairs Canada
- Lubos Kuklis, ERGA Chair and Chief Executive of Council for Broadcasting & Retransmission of Slovakia

14:30 – 15:30

Session 7 – Toolkits, games, what new paths for the education to media?

Media literacy and education are crucial and long-term actions to fight disinformation. In this session we will look at how youngsters are self-assessing their media literacy capacities as well as new ways of learning and sharing experience with the public.

Chair: Brikena Xhomaqi, Director, Lifelong Learning Platform, Open Your Eyes project

- Thomas Nygren, Associate professor, Uppsala University
- Marije Arentze, Project coordinator, Bad news/Drog
- Juliane Von Reppert-Bismarck, Founder and CEO, Lie Detectors

Coffee break: 30'

16:00 – 16:45

Panel – Are there ethical limits on fighting disinformation?

With GDPR we have entered a new era of data protection. Dealing simultaneously with privacy, big data, Open Source Intelligence and malicious actors can be tricky. In this panel we will explore the ethics around disinformation hunting. Are there red lines and what should they be?

Chair: Merav Griguer, Lawyer, Bird and Bird

- Ricardo Mendes, Data activist
- Chloe Colliver, Research Manager, Institute for Strategic Dialogue
- Nick Waters, Senior Investigator, Bellingcat

16:45

Conclusion of the debates by Sir Julian King, EU Commissioner for the Security Union.

16:55 Wrap Up & Closing