

#DisinfoWeek

BRUSSELS 2019

March 7, 2019

8:30 – 9:00 a.m. **Registration and Breakfast**

9:00 – 9:30 a.m. **Welcome Remarks**

Geysa Gonzalez, *Deputy Director, Eurasia Center, Atlantic Council*
✈ [@geyshapaola](#) [@ACEurasia](#)

Ambassador Daniel Fried, *Distinguished Fellow, Eurasia Center, Atlantic Council*
✈ [@ACEurasia](#) [@DisinfoPortal](#)

The Hon. Gordon Sondland, *US Ambassador to the European Union, US Mission to the European Union*
✈ [@USAmbEU](#) [@US2EU](#)

9:30 – 10:30 a.m. **Panel I: Protecting Democratic Elections: Lessons from Partners and Allies**
Disinformation is only one of the tools used by malign actors to interfere in democratic elections. The world has seen several recent examples of election interference, from the United States, to France, to Germany. In this session, partners from these countries and others who will share their experiences and discuss lessons learned.

Rachel Lavin, *Digital and Data Journalist*
✈ [@RachelLavin](#)

Chloe Colliver, *Research Manager, Institute for Strategic Dialogue*
✈ [@ChloeColliver2](#) [@ISDGlobal](#)

Liisa Past, *Next Generation Leader, McCain Institute for International Leadership, Arizona State University*
✈ [@LiisaPast](#) [@McCainInstitute](#)

Clint Watts, *Distinguished Research Fellow, Foreign Policy Research Institute; Senior Fellow, Center for Cyber and Homeland Security, The George Washington University*
✈ [@selectedwisdom](#) [@fpri](#)

Moderated by: **Giles Portman**, *Head, East StratCom Task Force, European External Action Service*
✈ [@EUvsDisinfo](#)

10:30 – 10:50 a.m. **Coffee Break**

10:50 – 11:10 a.m. **Storyteller: Unpacking the Toolkit of Influence**

Alina Polyakova, *David M. Rubenstein Fellow for Foreign Policy, Brookings Institution*
✈ [@apolyakova](#) [@BrookingsFP](#)

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11:10 – 12:10 p.m.

Panel II: Malicious State and Non-State Actors: Who Are They? What Do They Want? And Why?

From China, to Iran, to far-right and far-left political parties worldwide, state and non-state actors are increasingly employing the Kremlin's toolkit of influence to destabilize democracies. This session will unpack the various major actors and their aims in order to better understand the aggressors.

Lee Foster, Manager, Information Operations Analysis, FireEye

🐦 [@LeeFosterIntel](#) [@FireEye](#)

Jakub Kalenský, Senior Fellow, Eurasia Center, Atlantic Council

🐦 [@kalenskyj](#) [@ACEurasia](#)

Daniel Milo, Head of Strategic Communication Programme, GLOBSEC Policy Institute

🐦 [@DanielMiloSK](#) [@GLOBSEC](#)

Shanthi Kalathil, Senior Director, International Forum for Democratic Studies, National Endowment for Democracy

🐦 [@ShanthiKalathil](#) [@ThinkDemocracy](#)

Moderated by: **Jack Stubbs**, European Cybersecurity Correspondent, Reuters

🐦 [@jc_stubbs](#) [@Reuters](#)

12:10 – 1:10 p.m.

Lunch

1:10 – 1:30 p.m.

Storyteller: The Fight for Our Attention

David Rand, Associate Professor, Sloan School of Management and Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (via video)

🐦 [@DG_Rand](#) [@MITSloan](#)

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Panel III: Human Nature: Can We Fight Against Our Impulses?

Time and time again, we find that catchy disinformation and false news online lead to more clicks. That is because humans are curious and veer towards the sensational. This discussion will bring together psychologists, historians, and experts to address one key question: why do we all fall for disinformation?

Péter Krekó, Executive Director, Political Capital

🐦 [@peterkreko](#) [@Pol_Cap](#)

Kelly Greenhill, Director of International Relations, Tufts University; Research Fellow, International Security Program, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School

🐦 [@TuftsIR](#) [@BelferCenter](#)

Jed Willard, Director, Franklin Delano Roosevelt Center for Global Engagement, Harvard University

🐦 [@WillardJed](#) [@FDR_Global](#)

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Moderated by: **Geysa Gonzalez**, *Deputy Director, Eurasia Center, Atlantic Council*

🐦 [@geyshapaola](#) [@ACEurasia](#)

2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Panel IV: Advertising or Propaganda or Journalism?

The same tools that are employed by malicious actors to spread disinformation also play important roles in advertising and journalism. This discussion will bring together advertisers, journalists, and experts to unpack the similarities and differences in these tactics.

Maxim Eristavi, *Research Fellow, Eurasia Center, Atlantic Council*

🐦 [@MaximEristavi](#) [@ACEurasia](#)

Nigel Gwilliam, *Consultant Head of Media and Emerging Tech, Institute of Practitioners in Advertising*

🐦 [@NigelG](#)

Anneli Ahonen, *East StratCom Task Force, European External Action Service*

🐦 [@ahonen_anneli](#) [@EUvsDisinfo](#)

Moderated by: **Noora Alanne**, *Executive Director, Media Industry Research Foundation of Finland; Director of New Growth, Finnmedia*

🐦 [@nooraalanne](#) [@Medialiitto](#) [@mediasaatio](#)

3:30 – 3:45 p.m.

Coffee Break

3:45 – 4:45 p.m.

Panel V: A Simmering Battleground: Disinformation in the Western Balkans

The Kremlin has been employing its full toolkit of influence in the Western Balkans, benefitting from lingering regional tensions as well as a closing independent media space. This session will look at how disinformation campaigns aim to de-stabilize the region and what the Transatlantic community can do to address it.

Jelena Milic, *Director, Center for Euro-Atlantic Studies*

🐦 [@Jelennah169](#) [@CEASSerbia](#)

Adnan Huskic, *President, Center for Election Studies*

🐦 [@AHuskic](#)

Laura Brown, *Public Affairs Officer and Spokesperson, US Embassy in North Macedonia*

🐦 [@USEmbassySkopje](#)

Moderated by: **Molly Montgomery**, *Vice President, Europe, Albright Stonebridge Group*

🐦 [@MollyMontgomery](#) [@ASG](#)

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March 8, 2019

8:30 – 9:00 a.m. **Registration and Breakfast**

9:00 – 9:10 a.m. **Welcome Remarks**

Daniel Kimmage, *Principal Deputy Coordinator, Global Engagement Center, US Department of State*

🐦 [@StateDept](#)

9:10 – 9:30 a.m. **Storyteller**

Ben Nimmo, *Senior Fellow for Information Defense, Digital Forensic Research Lab, Atlantic Council*

🐦 [@benimmo](#) [@DFRLab](#)

9:30 – 10:30 a.m. **Panel VI: Bots, Trolls, and Free Expression**

It is becoming increasingly difficult to distinguish between bots, trolls, and real content or people who hold genuine opinions on social media platforms. This, platforms argue, is what makes it more and more complicated to take down content: they risk violating free expression. This panel will look at tools available to distinguish between bots and humans, as well as provide recommendations for how platforms, governments, and individuals should respond.

Melanie Smith, *Cyber Intelligence Analyst, Graphika*

🐦 [@MelanieFSmith](#) [@Graphika_Inc](#)

Bret Schafer, *Social Media Analyst and Communications Officer, Alliance for Securing Democracy, The German Marshall Fund of the United States*

🐦 [@gmfus](#)

Sebastian Bay, *Senior Expert, Technical and Scientific Development Branch, NATO Strategic Communications Center of Excellence*

🐦 [@STRATCOMCOE](#)

Scott Carpenter, *Managing Director, Jigsaw*

🐦 [@JSCarpenter11](#) [@Jigsaw](#)

Moderated by: **Teri Schultz**, *Freelance Reporter*

🐦 [@TeriSchultz](#)

10:30 – 10:45 a.m. **Coffee Break**

10:45 – 11:45 a.m. **Panel VII: Algorithms, AI, and Deepfakes**

As information consumers, we rarely, if ever, question the information that we take in on a daily basis. This session will explore how algorithms affect what we see and explore how tools like AI and deepfakes can further cloud what is real and what is fiction.

Guillaume Chaslot, *Co-Founder, AlgoTransparency.org*

🐦 [@gchaslot](#) [@HelloAlgo](#)

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Alexandre Alaphilippe, *Executive Director*, EU DisinfoLab
✈ [@AAlaphilippe](#) [@DisinfoEU](#)

Vidya Narayanan, *Researcher*, Oxford Internet Institute
✈ [@vidunarayanan](#) [@oiioxford](#)

Moderated by: **Sophie Nicholson**, *Deputy Head of Social Media and Fact-Checking*, Agence France-Presse
✈ [@sohnic](#) [@AFPFactCheck](#)

11:45 – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Panel VIII: To Regulate or Not to Regulate

Since allegations emerged that malicious state and non-state actors, and Russia in particular, had used social media platforms to influence US and European elections, governments have been slow to respond. Now, after more than two years, the platforms' efforts at self-regulation have proven insufficient in tackling the problem. Is it time for governments to step in and regulate platforms? Experts will debate.

Alina Polyakova, *David M. Rubenstein Fellow for Foreign Policy*, Brookings Institution
✈ [@apolyakova](#) [@BrookingsFP](#)

Damian Collins, *Member of Parliament*, UK House of Commons
✈ [@DamianCollins](#) [@CommonsCMS](#)

Jens-Henrik Jeppesen, *Representative and Director for European Affairs*, Center for Democracy and Technology
✈ [@JensJeppesen](#) [@CenDemTech](#)

Moderated by: **Nicholas Vinocur**, *Technology Editor*, POLITICO
✈ [@NicholasVinocur](#) [@politico](#)

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Media Session: Reporting in the Age of Disinformation

Since the uptick in awareness of disinformation online, the general public has also begun to question legitimate reporting. Recently, journalists have faced doubt, and distrust, and even threats for their work. In this session, journalists and editors will discuss best practices for reporting in the age of disinformation.

David Alandete, *Journalist*, Diario ABC
✈ [@alandete](#) [@abc_es](#)

Julian Röpcke, *Political Editor*, BILD
✈ [@JulianRoepcke](#) [@BILD](#)

Tim Pauwels, *Ombudsman*, VRT
✈ [@pauwelt](#) [@vrtnws](#)

Teri Schultz, *Freelance Reporter*
✈ [@TeriSchultz](#)

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Moderated by: **Tom Gibson**, *European Union Representative and Advocacy Manager*, Committee to Protect Journalists
[@at_tgibson](#) [@pressfreedom](#)

3:00 – 3:15 p.m.

Closing Remarks

Sir Julian King, *Commissioner for the Security Union*, European Commission
[@JKingEU](#)

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