



Call for chapters: State-sponsored disinformation around the globe. How politicians deceive their citizens

Editors:

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Introduction

While disinformation is one of the main preoccupations for several nations, a chief sponsor has been the State and its institutions, be it governments, parties, or security agencies. State-sponsored disinformation has vast resources, sophisticated techniques, and a broad apparatus, from digital media to old-school tactics, such as broadcasting and advertising. Nonetheless, the existing body of academic research has mostly aimed at explaining the international dimension of the issue in terms of cyber warfare, securitization and international propaganda. Less investigated remains how state-sponsored disinformation is used against citizens and institutions within the same country, siding with particular factions and interests. Sponsored by the IAMCR Political Communication Section, this volume tackles State-sponsored disinformation from a global perspective.

Objective

This book will set the conceptual and empirical scaffold for our current understanding of State-sponsored disinformation, from a global case-study perspective. On the one hand, it examines the current discussion about disinformation within the State logic in its practical and ethical dimensions. On the other, it interrogates the historical conditions that make this type of disinformation thrive, as well as its short and long-term consequences. Finally, it reviews a range of cases in deceptive, transitional, and advanced democracies around the globe in which States, or some of their institutions, use disinformation as a relevant strategy. Casting light into those cases is essential for underscoring what the international community can learn from them.

Target audience

The book appeals to academics, researchers, students and practitioners in the areas of media and communication studies, political science, international relations, media sociology and public opinion. Furthermore, it can also be of interest to other stakeholders, such as journalists, politicians, media and political analysts, as well as institutes, foundations and civil society organizations that work for improving the democratic health of our nations.

Topics

We are open to a diversity of ways of addressing State-sponsored disinformation. We particularly encourage interdisciplinary works that explore new theoretical dimensions and provide novel empirical data about this phenomenon. We welcome proposals that focus on the following questions, while not being limited to them:

Where and why disinformation thrives

- Why is the State an institution prone to control public discourses through disinformation? What are the functions of disinformation during elections and between electoral periods?
- Where and when does disinformation thrive in terms of the political and media systems? What makes some States and institutions more or less aggressive in their use of disinformation tactics?

Tactics and consequences

- What are the general tactics and narratives that States use to disinform their citizens? How do they combine traditional procedures and state-of-the-art digital techniques?
- What are the main junctural and structural consequences of State-sponsored disinformation for democratic governance? What are their short-term consequences? (in elections and scandals, for example) What are their long-term consequences? (i.e., the preservation or change of regimes) Why might some constituencies be more resilient to disinformation?

Disinformation around the globe

The final section is expected to include cases from **non-democratic and transitional** countries in Eastern Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and Latin America, as well as **consolidated democracies** in North America (the United States), Europe (Britain, Italy, Spain) and Asia (Japan). The chapters would preferably -yet not exclusively- answer the following questions:

- What is the extent of disinformation operations in the nation and who are the main culprits? Are there particular tactics unique to these countries, or are they commonly used across countries or regions? What structural conditions have given way to those operations? What have been their main consequences?

Publisher

The book is under consideration by **Routledge** (Taylor & Francis), who has shown interest in this edited volume. A full proposal with each chapter's abstract will be sent to the publisher, prior to developing the final manuscripts. Taylor & Francis is an international leader in the academic publishing business, with a strong international presence and currently publishing around 7,000 – 8,000 books a year. For additional information please visit <https://www.routledge.com/>.

Additionally, IAMCR has a partnership with Palgrave MacMillan, which is considered too as a venue for the publication (<https://www.palgrave.com/gp>)

This book is expected to be released in late 2023.

Submission procedure

Researchers are invited to submit 1,000-word short proposals by September 16th, clearly explaining the focus, structure, and contribution of the proposed chapters, along the previously established lines.

Authors will be notified by September 23rd about the status of their proposals. If accepted, they will receive further chapter guidelines.

Full chapters are expected to be submitted by December 16th, 2022.th

All submitted chapters will be reviewed on a double-blind review basis. Contributors may also be requested to serve as reviewers for this project.

Note: There are no submission or acceptance fees for manuscripts submitted to this edited book. All manuscripts are accepted based on a double-blind peer review editorial process.

Important Dates

September 16th, 2022: Proposal Submission Deadline

September 23rd, 2022: Notification of Acceptance

December 16th, 2022: Full Chapter Submission

January 13th, 2023: Review Results Returned

February 24th, 2023: Final Chapter Submission

Inquiries

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