

Syllabus: Propaganda and Disinformation on Social Media

Spring Semester 2024

Textbook

The readings are available online through links on Absalon to students at University of Copenhagen with the exception of the following books:

- 1) Ellul, J. (1973). *Propaganda, the formation of men's attitudes* (Reprinted ed.). 83 pages.
- 2) Taylor, P.M., (2003). *Munitions of the mind: A history of propaganda*. Oxford University Press. 63 pages.
- 3) Gerth Jowett and Victoria O'Donnel (2018). *Propaganda & Persuasion*. Sage. 7th edition. 90+ pages.

You can acquire the books either by buying or by borrowing the physical copy at the library. You are allowed to use an older 6th edition for Jowett and O'Donnel's *Propaganda & Persuasion*, if you have troubles finding the 7th edition.

The syllabus will gradually change throughout the semester to adapt to the needs of the course. You will be notified on Absalon prior to the class sessions in case of any alterations.. ou should have access to the articles on the list on Absalon if you also simultaneously log the library website, rex.kb.dk. You are advised to read in advance.

Session	Article Title	pages
Session 1: Introduction	Manuel, C., 2012. Networks of outrage and hope: Social movements in the internet age. <i>Cambridge: Polity</i> . Chapter 1 "Opening"	20
	Cottiero, C., Kucharski, K., Olimpieva, E. and Orttung, R.W., 2015. War of words: the impact of Russian state television on the Russian Internet. <i>Nationalities papers</i> , 43(4), pp.533-555.	19
	Adam Taylor. 2016. Before 'fake news,' there was Soviet 'disinformation'. <i>Washingtonpost.com</i> , p. Washingtonpost.com, Nov 26, 2016. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2016/11/26/before-fake-news-there-was-soviet-disinformation/?utm_term=.8921457edf5b	2
	Tolz, V., & Hutchings, S., 2023. Truth with a Z: disinformation, war in Ukraine, and Russia's contradictory discourse of imperial identity. <i>Post-Soviet Affairs</i> , 1-19.	19
Session 2: Propaganda	Gerth Jowett and Victoria O'Donnel, 2018.: Propaganda & Persuasion - Chapter 1; 1-46	46
	Noam, C. and Herman Edward, S., 1988. manufacturing Consent. <i>New York: Pantheon</i> . Propaganda model Chapter: "Propaganda Model" https://chomsky.info/consent01/	37
	Seddon, M., 2014. Documents Show How Russia's Troll Army Hit America. <i>Buzzfeed.com</i> , 2. https://www.buzzfeed.com/maxseddon/documents-show-how-russias-troll-army-hit-america?utm_term=.aINVVb28d2#.ixV55xyzXy	6
Session 3 Propaganda and Jacques Ellul	Ellul, J., 1973. Propaganda, the formation of men's attitudes (Reprinted ed.). New York: Vintage Books. Chapter 1, (p. 6-84) Chapter 2 (p. 102-104)	82
Session 4: Analyzing Propaganda	Gerth Jowett and Victoria O'Donnel., 2018: Propaganda & Persuasion. Chp. 6 How to Analyze Propaganda; 267-283	17
	Benford, R.D. and Snow, D.A., 2000. Framing processes and social movements: An overview and assessment. <i>Annual review of sociology</i> , 26(1), pp.611-639.	29
	Miskimmon, A., O'Loughlin, Ben, & Roselle, Laura., 2014. Strategic Narratives, Communication Power and the New World Order (Routledge Studies in Global Information, Politics and Society). New York: Taylor and Francis. Chp. 1 - Introduction	29

	Gaufman, E., 2015. World War II 2.0: Digital Memory of Fascism in Russia in the Aftermath of Euromaidan in Ukraine. <i>Journal of Regional Security</i> , 10(1), pp.17-36.	20
Session 5: Disinformation and Misinformation	Guess, A., Nagler, J., & Tucker, J., 2019. Less than you think: Prevalence and predictors of fake news dissemination on Facebook. <i>Science advances</i> , 5(1), eaau4586.	8
	Vosoughi, S., Roy, D., & Aral, S., 2018. The spread of true and false news online. <i>science</i> , 359(6380), 1146-1151.	6
	Golovchenko, Y., 2020. Measuring the scope of pro-Kremlin disinformation on Twitter. <i>Humanities and Social Sciences Communications</i> , 7(1), 1-11.	10
Session 6: Social Media: Economy and Algorithms	Fuchs, C., 2014. <i>Social media: A critical introduction</i> . Sage. Chapter 5	29
	Gerlitz, C. and Helmond, A., 2013. The like economy: Social buttons and the data-intensive web. <i>New Media & Society</i> , 15(8), pp.1348-1365.	18
	Beer, D., 2009. Power through the algorithm? Participatory web cultures and the technological unconscious. <i>New Media & Society</i> , 11(6), pp.985-1002.	18
Session 7: Bots, Trolls and the Civil Society	Birkbak, A., & Golovchenko, Y., 2022. Trolls. In <i>Elgar Encyclopedia of Technology and Politics</i> (pp. 171-176). Edward Elgar Publishing.	6
	Woolley, S.C. and Howard, P.N., 2016. Automation, Algorithms, and Politics Political Communication, Computational Propaganda, and Autonomous Agents—Introduction. <i>International Journal of Communication</i>	9
	Golovchenko, Yevgeniy, et al., 2020. "Cross-platform state propaganda: Russian trolls on twitter and YouTube during the 2016 US Presidential Election." <i>The International Journal of Press/Politics</i> 25.3 (2020): 357-389.	33
	Sienkiewicz, M., 2015. Open BUK: Digital Labor, Media Investigation and the Downing of MH17. <i>Critical Studies in Media Communication</i> , 32(3), pp.208-223.	15
Session 8: Information- and Hybrid Warfare	Taylor, P.M., 2003. <i>Munitions of the mind: A history of propaganda</i> . Oxford University Press. Chapter 26	17
	Johnson, R., 2018. Hybrid war and its countermeasures: a critique of the literature. <i>Small wars & insurgencies</i> , 29(1), 141-163.	23
	Thornton, Rod. 2015. 'The Changing Nature of Modern Warfare: Responding to Russian Information Warfare'. <i>The RUSI Journal</i> 160 (4): 40–48	8
	Gerasimov, V., 2016. The value of science is in the foresight: New challenges demand rethinking the forms and methods of carrying out combat operations. <i>Military Review</i> , 96(1),	23

	Welch, D. ed., 2013. <i>Propaganda, power and persuasion: from World War I to Wikileaks</i> (Vol. 90). IB Tauris. Chapter 8	12
Session 9: Mechanisms Behind the Spread of Dis-/ and misinformation	Allcott, H., & Gentzkow, M., 2017. Social media and fake news in the 2016 election. <i>Journal of economic perspectives</i> , 31(2), 211-236.	26
	Guess, A., Nyhan, B., & Reifler, J., 2018. Selective exposure to misinformation: Evidence from the consumption of fake news during the 2016 US presidential campaign.	14
	Petersen, M. B., Osmundsen, M., & Arceneaux, K., 2020. The “need for chaos” and motivations to share hostile political rumors. <i>American Political Science Review</i> , 1-20.	20
	Pennycook, G., & Rand, D. G., 2019. Lazy, not biased: Susceptibility to partisan fake news is better explained by lack of reasoning than by motivated reasoning. <i>Cognition</i> , 188, 39-50.	12
Session 10: Social Media: Echo chambers and polarization	Tucker, J. A., Guess, A., Barberá, P., Vaccari, C., Siegel, A., Sanovich, S., ... & Nyhan, B., 2018. Social media, political polarization, and political disinformation: A review of the scientific literature. <i>Political polarization, and political disinformation: a review of the scientific literature (March 19, 2018)</i> . Section 2E -F p 40-53	13
	Nyhan, B., Settle, J., Thorson, E., Wojcieszak, M., Barberá, P., Chen, A. Y., ... & Tucker, J. A., 2023. Like-minded sources on Facebook are prevalent but not polarizing. <i>Nature</i> , 620(7972), 137-144.	8
	Guess, A. M., Malhotra, N., Pan, J., Barberá, P., Allcott, H., Brown, T., ... & Tucker, J. A., 2023. How do social media feed algorithms affect attitudes and behavior in an election campaign?. <i>Science</i> , 381(6656), 398-404.	7
	Fletcher, R., Cornia, A., & Nielsen, R. K., 2020. How polarized are online and offline news audiences? A comparative analysis of twelve countries. <i>The International Journal of Press/Politics</i> , 25(2), 169-195.	27
Session 11: Before Social Media	Taylor, P.M., 2003. <i>Munitions of the mind: A history of propaganda</i> . Oxford University Press. Chapter 24	33
	Taylor, P.M., 2003. <i>Munitions of the mind: A history of propaganda</i> . Oxford University Press. Chapter 25	13
	Roth-Ey, K., 2007. Finding a Home for Television in the USSR, 1950-1970. <i>Slavic Review</i> , 66(2), pp.278-306.	29
	Welch, D. ed., 2013. <i>Propaganda, power and persuasion: from World War I to Wikileaks</i> (Vol. 90). IB Tauris. Chapter 14	14
Session 12 Media effects	Gerth Jowett and Victoria O'Donnel., 2018: Propaganda & Persuasion - Chp. 4; 154-180	27

	Bond, Robert M., et al., 2012. "A 61-million-person experiment in social influence and political mobilization." <i>Nature</i> 489.7415: 295-298	4
	Eskjær, M.F., Hjarvard, S. and Mortensen, M. eds., 2015. <i>The dynamics of mediatized conflicts</i> . New York: Peter Lang. Chapter 1 (Introduction)	27
	Kalla, J. L., & Broockman, D. E., 2018. The minimal persuasive effects of campaign contact in general elections: Evidence from 49 field experiments. <i>American Political Science Review</i> , 112(1), 148-166.	19
	Eady, G., Paskhalis, T., Zilinsky, J., Bonneau, R., Nagler, J., & Tucker, J. A., 2023. Exposure to the Russian Internet Research Agency foreign influence campaign on Twitter in the 2016 US election and its relationship to attitudes and voting behavior. <i>Nature communications</i> , 14(1), 62.	11
Session 13: Countering misinformation and propaganda	Swire-Thompson, B., Ecker, U. K., Lewandowsky, S., & Berinsky, A. J., 2020. They might be a liar but they're my liar: Source evaluation and the prevalence of misinformation. <i>Political psychology</i> , 41(1), 21-34.	14
	Walter, N., Cohen, J., Holbert, R. L., & Morag, Y., 2020. Fact-checking: A meta-analysis of what works and for whom. <i>Political Communication</i> , 37(3), 350-375.	26
	Chan, M. P. S., & Albarracín, D., 2023. A meta-analysis of correction effects in science-relevant misinformation. <i>Nature Human Behaviour</i> , 1-12.	12
	Lewandowsky, S., & Van Der Linden, S., 2021. Countering misinformation and fake news through inoculation and prebunking. <i>European Review of Social Psychology</i> , 32(2), 348-384.	37
	Martel, C., & Rand, D. G., 2023. Misinformation warning labels are widely effective: A review of warning effects and their moderating features. <i>Current Opinion in Psychology</i> ,	5
Session 14: Workshop		