

Media in the Post-Truth World: The New Marketplace of (Dis)information

NOVEMBER 2–4, 2017, PRAGUE

PRAGUE
MEDIA
POINT

Conference Program



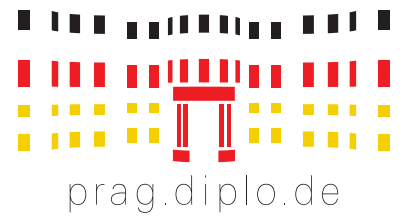
ORGANIZERS



PARTNERS



Representation in the Czech Republic



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 02

18⁰⁰ – 19³⁰

OPENING PANEL (Embassy of Germany)

Regaining Truth: How Can Journalism and Liberal Democracy Flourish in the Post-Truth Age?

IN COOPERATION WITH THE EMBASSY OF GERMANY

Chairs:

Pavčina Kvapilová, Journalist, Presenter, Consultant, Trendwatcher & Visual Artist, Czech Republic

Speakers:

Cathrine Gyldensted, Former Director of Constructive Journalism, Windesheim University, Founder, Open Eyes Institute in Amsterdam, Denmark/Netherlands

Matúš Kostolný, Editor-in-Chief, Denník N, Slovakia

Peter Lange, Correspondent, ARD Radio in Prague, Former Editor-in-Chief, DeutschlandRadio Kultur, Germany

Trust in the media has plummeted to an all-time low. Traditional news outlets have lost part of their influence to social media and so-called alternative media. The constant flow of negative news offers little in the way of solutions to the world's problems and instead makes people susceptible to fake news and disinformation campaigns. How then can quality journalism survive this onslaught of lies and emerge again as one of the pillars of liberal democracy? How can traditional media regain some of their lost credibility and, at the same time, ensure their financial sustainability? Do journalists need to sacrifice their impartiality and engage in more activist-oriented campaigning for just causes?

19³⁰ – 21⁰⁰

RECEPTION (Embassy of Germany)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 03

08³⁰ – 09⁰⁰

REGISTRATION (Room 201, Růžnický dům, New York University Prague)

09⁰⁰ – 10⁰⁰

KEYNOTE LECTURE (Havel Room)

Fakes and Propaganda in the Election Campaign in Germany – How Populists and Extremists Used Digital Media

IN COOPERATION WITH THE HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG PRAGUE

Ute Schaeffer, Head of Media Development, Deutsche Welle Akademie, Germany

Introduction:

Jeremy Druker, Executive Director, Transitions, Founder, Press Start, USA/Czech Republic

10⁰⁰ – 10¹⁵

COFFEE BREAK (Kupka & Seifert Room)

10¹⁵ – 11⁴⁵

PANEL (Havel Room)

Shaping Public Opinion During Election Season

Chair:

Sai Felicia Krishna Hensel, Director, Global Cooperation Initiative, USA

Speakers:

Understanding Instead of Hating? Communication-oriented Reactions to Party Postings During the Elections in North Rhine-Westphalia 2017

Andreas Köhler, Research Associate, University of Würzburg, Germany

The Politician as Editor-in-Chief: New Distribution on Social Media by Candidates for the 2017 Election to the Dutch House of Representatives

Maranke Wieringa, MA Student, Media & Performance Studies Program, Utrecht University, Junior Researcher, Utrecht Data School, Netherlands

How the Media Are Managing Public Opinion During Political Election Campaigns: The Case of a Political Corruption Scandal During the Lithuanian Parliament Elections in 2016

Renata Matkevičienė, Faculty of Communication, Vilnius University, Estonia

10¹⁵ – 11⁴⁵

PANEL (Mucha Room)

Right-wing Populists on the Rise and Are They Anything New?

Chair:

Martin Mejstřík, Lecturer, Institute of International Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, Czech Republic

Speakers:

The Media Populist Spectacle: Volen Siderov and the Rise of the Far-Right Celebrity Politician in Bulgaria

Elza Ibroscheva, Professor and Associate Dean, School of Communications, Webster University, USA

Political and Cultural “Prophets of Deceit” and the Media of Today

Dilek Beybin Kejanlioğlu, Visiting Professor, University of Helsinki, Professor of Journalism, Giresun University, Turkey/Finland

Tuğba Taş, Assistant Professor, University of Ankara, Turkey

Oğuzhan Taş, Assistant Professor, University of Ankara, Turkey

Sevgi Can Yağcı-Aksel, Associate Professor, University of Ankara, Turkey

11⁴⁵ – 12³⁰

LUNCH (Kupka & Seifert Room)

12³⁰ – 14⁰⁰

PANEL (Havel Room)

How to Disentangle Fact from Fiction and the Role of Media Literacy

IN COOPERATION WITH THE HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG PRAGUE

Chair:

Tony Curzon Price, Associate Editor, openDemocracy, United Kingdom

Speakers:

Case Study: How to Determine the Validity of a Newspaper Article?

Rachel Del Fante, Research Journalist, French Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) radio, ICI Première, Montreal, Canada

Caught in the Maelstrom: How Two Academic Librarians Were Pulled into the Dangerous Undercurrents of Disinformation

Reed Lowrie, Manager, Reference and Information Services, Cabot, Lamont, Tozzer and Widener Libraries and Virtual Reference Services, Faculty of Arts and Sciences Libraries, Harvard Library, USA

Hugh Truslow, Head, Social Sciences and Visualization Maps, Media, Data, and Government Information, Harvard Library, USA

Critical Media Literacy – The Role of Media Literacy in the Struggle Against Fake News

Krisztina Nagy, Research Fellow, Institute for Legal Studies, Centre for Social Sciences, Hungarian Academy of Science, Hungary

12³⁰ – 14⁰⁰

DISCUSSION (Mucha room)

Can It Be Stopped? Countering the Flow of Online Disinformation

Chair:

Václav Štětko, Lecturer in Communication and Media Studies, Loughborough University, Researcher, Charles University, Czech Republic/United Kingdom

Speakers:

Josef Šlerka, Head, New Media Studies, Charles University, Director, Independent Journalism Foundation, Czech Republic

Peter Jančárik, Strategist & Partner, Seesame Communication Experts, Co-Founder of Konšpirátori.sk, Slovakia

Benedikt Vangeli, Head, Centre against Terrorism and Hybrid Threats, Czech Ministry of Interior, Czech Republic

Nowadays, the internet contains more information than ever before; however, a significant amount of this information is misleading or false. With the rise of social networks, disinformation and false information is spread easily. Many users find it difficult to discern fact from fiction. Internet users have now called for tools to help them verify news, and differentiate between real and fake news, propaganda and other forms of disinformation. Internet advertisers more often request to avoid the placement of their ads on websites with false, misleading, propagandist and conspiratorial content and thus lessen the chance of harm to their reputation.

14⁰⁰ – 14¹⁵

COFFEE BREAK (Kupka & Seifert Room)

14¹⁵ – 15⁰⁰

KEYNOTE LECTURE (Havel Room)

Historicizing Fake News in Media Studies

IN COOPERATION WITH THE NEW YORK UNIVERSITY PRAGUE

Aurora Wallace, Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Media, Culture and Communication, New York University, USA

Mrs. Wallace's paper views various iterations of "fake news" and other forms of media deception in historical context. By tracing and distinguishing among stunts, hoaxes, propaganda, and sensationalism, these terms are disambiguated and the efforts to destabilize and discredit are examined.

Introduction:

Vanda Thorne, New York University Prague, Czech Republic

15⁰⁰ – 16⁰⁰

PANEL (Havel Room)
The Post-Truth Reality in Poland

Chair:

Daniel Novotný, Managing Director, Global Learning, Czech Republic

Speakers:

Dimensions of Post-Truth Memory: From a History of Denial to a Denial of History

Stanisław Mocek, Sociologist, Political Scientist, Rector, Collegium Civitas, Poland

Mariusz Gudonis, Doctoral Researcher, Collegium Civitas, Poland

Post-Truth Politics in Post-Smolensk Poland

Agnieszka Sztajdel, PhD Researcher, Political and Social Sciences, European University Institute, San Domenico di Fiesole, Poland/Italy

16⁰⁰ – 16¹⁵

COFFEE BREAK (Kupka & Seifert Room)

16¹⁵ – 17⁰⁰

KEYNOTE LECTURE (Havel Room)

American Journalism, Donald Trump and the Era of Post-Truth

Christian Christensen, Professor of Journalism, Stockholm University, USA/Sweden

Mr. Christensen will discuss Trump and how the US media that enabled his bigotry played a role in his pre-election mainstreaming, as well as how mainstream journalism had used Trump's attacks against "fake news" as a way to re-enforce "traditional" journalistic practice. Mr. Christensen will take the position that the media "crisis" in which the US finds itself is a result of decades of structural and professional decay, and that Trump is actually the result of this decay, and not the cause.

Introduction:

Graham Griffith, Media Strategist, Career Public Radio Producer, USA

17⁰⁰ – 18⁰⁰

PANEL (Havel Room)

The American Presidential Elections and the Shifting Media Environment

Chair:

Radka Pudilová, Coordinator, “Russian Influence in Public Space“ Project, Open Society Fund Prague, Czech Republic

Speakers:

Trump, the First Facebook President: Why Politicians Need Our Data Too

Jennifer Pybus, Lecturer in Digital Culture and Society, Department of Digital Humanities, King’s College London, United Kingdom

Political Art, Memes and Power – The American Elections of 2016 as an Artistic Phenomenon

Bohdan Sklarzski, Associate Professor of Political Science, American Studies Center, University of Warsaw, Poland

16¹⁵ – 17⁴⁵

PANEL (Mucha Room)

How Can People Believe This Stuff? The Keys to the Power of Fake News

Chair:

Tony Curzon Price, Associate Editor, openDemocracy, United Kingdom

Speakers:

“Only an Idiot Would Search for Objective Truth”: Fake Media from the Perspective of Audience Studies

Elina Noppari, Media Researcher, University of Tampere, Finland

Fake Stories: How the British Media Countered Facts with National Myths

Imke Henkel, Senior Lecturer, University of Lincoln, Germany/United Kingdom

Politics of Scholarship in the Post-Truth Era

Onur Sesigur, PhD Candidate in Communication, Istanbul Bilgi University, Turkey

The Growing Influence of the Media on a Worldview

Violeta Khomenko, Bukovinsky State Medical University, Chernivtsi, Ukraine

18⁰⁰ – 19⁰⁰

GLASS OF WINE & NETWORKING (Kupka & Seifert Room)

Journalist, Combatant, Useful Idiot: How Russian Propaganda Benefits from Polarization

Remarks:

Anna G. Arutunyan, Journalist, Writer, Moscow Correspondent, USA Today, Russia/USA

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 04

09⁰⁰ – 09¹⁵

REGISTRATION (Room 201, Růžnický dům, New York University Prague)

09¹⁵ – 10⁰⁰

KEYNOTE LECTURE (Havel Room)

Plots Against Russia

*IN COOPERATION WITH THE NEW YORK UNIVERSITY PRAGUE AND THE OPEN SOCIETY FUND
PRAGUE*

Eliot Borenstein, Professor of Russian and Slavic Studies, New York University, USA

Mr. Borenstein will speak about the role of paranoid fantasy in contemporary Russian political discourse and culture, examining the frameworks that have allowed conspiracies to flourish. In particular, by devoting careful attention to less immediately legible genres of popular fiction, to Internet fan communities and to a variety of recent political and philosophical tracts, Mr. Borenstein will show that some of the more extreme manifestations of conspiratorial thought in the contemporary Russian media owe their prominence (and relative coherence) to these very phenomena that were only recently dismissed as the irrelevant fringe.

Introduction:

Vanda Thorne, New York University Prague, Czech Republic

Remarks:

Mark Galeotti, Research Fellow, Institute of International Relations Prague, United Kingdom/Czech Republic

10⁰⁰ – 11⁰⁰

PANEL (Havel Room)

Best Practices: Projects That Fight Fake News and Deal with Fact-Checking and Media Literacy

IN COOPERATION WITH THE HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG PRAGUE AND THE OPEN SOCIETY FUND PRAGUE

Chair:

Zuzana Lizcová, Research Fellow, Association for International Affairs, Czech Republic

Speakers:

Czech Version of StopFake.org

Patrik Felcer, Project Assistant of StopFake.org, Association for International Affairs, Czech Republic

Media and Information Literacy: A Case Study in Ukraine

Erin Murrock, Senior Program Officer, Irex, USA

Mehri Karyagdyeva, Director of Programs for Ukraine, Irex, USA

Factczech.cz Project

Jeremy Druker, Executive Director, Transitions, Founder, Press Start, USA/Czech Republic

10⁰⁰ – 11⁰⁰

PANEL (Mucha Room)

Oligarchs, Illiberal Policies, and What Can Be Done

Chair:

Marie Heřmanová, Faculty of Humanities, Charles University, Anthropictures, Studio of Anthropological Research, Czech Republic

Speakers:

Changing Ownership Structure in the Hungarian Media Market: From a Pluralistic Media Landscape to an Oligarch Structure

Agnes Urban, Associate Professor and Chair, Infocommunications Department, Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary

European Law Instruments Against Illiberal Media Policies

Gabor Polyak, Associate Professor, Institute for Communication and Media Studies, University of Pécs, Research Leader, Mertek Media Monitor, Hungary

The Alliance of Politicians and Oligarchs in Serbia

Dragan Štavljanin, Broadcaster, Balkan Service, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Serbia/Czech Republic

11⁰⁰ – 11¹⁵

COFFEE BREAK (Kupka & Seifert Room)

11¹⁵ – 12¹⁵

KEYNOTE PANEL (Havel Room)

A War for People's Minds

IN COOPERATION WITH THE OPEN SOCIETY FUND PRAGUE

Mark Galeotti, Research Fellow, Institute of International Relations
Prague, United Kingdom/Czech Republic

Martin Hála, Sinologist, Lecturer, Author of Sinopsis.cz, Czech Republic

Two leading experts will discuss how the Russian and Chinese governments manipulate state media at home and abroad and limit the influence of any independent information.

Introduction:

Jeremy Druker, Executive Director, Transitions, Founder, Press Start, USA/
Czech Republic

12¹⁵ – 12³⁰

COFFEE BREAK (Kupka & Seifert Room)

12³⁰ – 14⁰⁰

PANEL (Mucha Room)

Recapturing the Public's Trust in a World of Fake Media and Fake News

Chair:

Howard Hensel, Air University, USA

Speakers:

Lessons in Media Literacy from Journalism History: Car V. Van Anda and the Origins of Knowledge-Based Journalism in the United States
Wafa Unus, PhD Candidate, Arizona State University, USA

Stop Filling Holes and Start Building Hills: Rethinking Independent Journalism's Production Processes in the Face of Fake News

Graham Griffith, Media Strategist, Career Public Radio Producer, USA

Reporting Solutions and Not Just Problems: An Introduction to Solutions Journalism

Jeremy Druker, Executive Director, Transitions, Founder, Press Start, USA/
Czech Republic

12³⁰ – 14⁰⁰

PANEL (Hrabal Room)

Disinformation Does Exist Elsewhere Too

Chair:

Odessa Primus, Founder and Director, Go Think Initiative, Czech Republic

Hate Speech in Social Media in the Arab World

Elsayed Bekhit, Journalism and Media Professor, Cairo and Zayed University, Egypt

Introduction to Post-Truth Politics in Turkey: Conspiracies, Politics and Terrorism

Sarphan Uzunoğlu, Lecturer, Kadir Has University, PhD Candidate, Media and Communication Studies, Galatasaray University, Turkey

The Misinformation Echo System in Africa

Bashir Sa'ad, Media Researcher, Journalist, Nigeria

Covering War in the Era of Post-Truth Politics

Abdulnasser Ahmed Al-Abri, PhD Student, University of Glasgow, Oman/United Kingdom

14⁰⁰ – 15⁰⁰

CLOSING AND LUNCH (Kupka & Seifert Room)

VENUES

Embassy of Germany

Vlašská 19, 118 00 Praha-Malá Strana (Lesser Quarter, Prague 1)

New York University Prague

Richtrův dům, Malé náměstí, 11/459, Praha 1

VENUE OVERVIEW



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



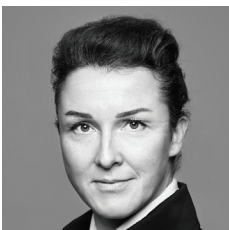
Eliot Borenstein is a Professor of Russian and Slavic Studies at New York University. His early publications dealt largely with issues of sexuality and masculinity in Slavic literature. His work *Men Without Women: Masculinity and Revolution in Russian Fiction, 1917-1929* (2000), won the 2001 award for best book in literature or cultural scholarship from the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages. Borenstein's current research is on popular culture and among his publications are *Overkill: Sex and Violence in Contemporary Russian Popular Culture* (2008), *Iteration through Innovation: Russian Popular Culture Today* (2004) and *Russia's Alien Nations: Imagining the Other after Socialism, and Catastrophe of the Week: Apocalyptic Entertainment in Post-Soviet Russia*. He is currently working on *Plots against Russia*, which is both a blog and a book in progress.



Christian Christensen is a Professor of Journalism in the Department of Media Studies at Stockholm University in Sweden. Professor Christensen's research has examined the intersections of journalism, politics, and technology. He has published numerous articles and book chapters on WikiLeaks, in addition to other pieces on the relationship between technology and social change. Professor Christensen is also a regular contributor of opinion pieces to The Guardian, and other international outlets, on issues related to media and politics.



Mark Galeotti is a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of International Relations Prague and the Principal Director of the Mayak Intelligence Consultancy. He is a specialist in modern Russian politics, history, and security affairs, and transnational and organized crime. Galeotti studied history at the Robinson College at Cambridge University and has a doctorate in political science from the London School of Economics. In the past he worked as Professor of Global Affairs at New York University, and was the head of History at Keele University in the UK. He was also a special advisor at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, covering post-Soviet organized crime and Russian security and intelligence services.



Cathrine Gyldensted was the world's first Director of Constructive Journalism at Windesheim University of Applied Sciences in the Netherlands. She has been offering consulting services, trainings, and workshops for professional reporters and editors worldwide, as well as being a frequently invited expert at professional and academic conferences. Gyldensted initiated the idea to apply positive, moral, and prospective psychology to the field of journalism, coining the term 'constructive journalism' academically. She has worked as an investigative reporter, foreign news reporter, radio anchor, and executive producer for several Danish media platforms before obtaining her master's degree in Applied Positive Psychology from the University of Pennsylvania in 2011. Gyldensted has published several books, such as *Handbook of Constructive Journalism* (2014), and *From Mirrors to Movers. Five Elements of Positive Psychology in Constructive Journalism* (2015). Recently Gyldensted cofounded Open Eyes - The Global Institute of Journalism for the Future located in Amsterdam.



Martin Hála is Sinologist, Lecturer, Founder, and Director of Sinopsis.cz, a joint project between AcaMedia and the Institute of East Asian Studies at Charles University in Prague. He studied in Prague, Shanghai, Berkeley, and Harvard, taught in Prague and Bratislava, and led projects in various countries in Asia. In 2014 - 2015, he was the Regional Manager for Asia Pacific at the Open Society Foundations.



Ute Schaeffer is the Head of the Media Development Department and the Deputy Director of Deutsche Welle Akademie. Deutsche Welle Akademie is Germany's leading organization for international media development, supporting the development of free and transparent media, quality journalism, and also offers programs to boost media skills. Schaeffer's research and reports focus on human rights, political and economic development, and the challenges in the process of democratic transition. Schaeffer has been reporting for Deutsche Welle from different countries in Africa, the Middle East, and Eastern Europe. In May 2018 her new book, titled "*Fake not Fact - How Populists, Bots and Trolls Attack Democracy*" will be published.



Aurora Wallace is a Professor in the Department of Media, Culture, and Communication at New York University, specializing in media history, urbanism, architecture, and crime. She is the author of *Media Capital: Architecture and Communication in New York City* (2012), and *Newspapers and the Making of Modern America* (2005), as well as articles in *Journalism History*, *Philosophy and Geography*, *Space and Culture*, *Environmental Values*, *Journal of Visual Culture*, and *Crime, Media, Culture*.

CONFERENCE FACT SHEET

Prague Media Point is an annual international conference, dedicated to discussing the changing media landscape in a professional, political, economic, and social context. These events gather leading academics, journalists, media executives, and experts from around the world to exchange experiences, establish new contacts, and debate challenges facing both traditional and new media. Prague Media Point is organized by **Transitions**, a nonprofit organization established to strengthen the professionalism, independence, and impact of the news media in the post-communist countries of Europe and the former Soviet Union, and **KEYNOTE**, an organization specializing in organizing conferences and events that lead to cutting-edge international encounters, bring new ideas to life, and facilitate a unique networking experience.

Steering Committee Members:

Tony Curzon Price, Associate Editor, openDemocracy

Jeremy Druker, Executive Director, Transitions, Founder, Press Start

Sai Felicia Krishna Hensel, Director, Global Cooperation Initiative

Alenka Jelen Sanchez, ECREA Advisory Board Member, University of Stirling

Jakub Klepal, Executive Director, Forum 2000 Foundation

Jiří Pehe, Director, New York University in Prague

Václav Štětko, Lecturer, Communication and Media Studies, Loughborough University, Researcher, Charles University

Gavan Titley, Chair, Migration and the Media, ECREA Diaspora, National University of Ireland

Eva van de Rakt, Director, Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung Prague

Christopher Walker, Executive Director, National Endowment for Democracy

Partners:



We would like to thank to all our partners!

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The conference on social media:

#PMP

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/keynotesro/>

Twitter: @keynote07

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