

Global Forum on Strategic Communications 2019

October 23-24, 2019

@DisinfoPortal @DFRLab
#StratComDC

Wednesday, October 23

8:30 - 9:00 **Registration and Breakfast**

9:00 - 9:20 **Welcome Remarks**

Geysa González, Deputy Director for Policy Partnership, Digital Forensic Research Lab, Atlantic Council

🐦 [@geyshapaola](#)

Damon Wilson, Executive Vice President, Atlantic Council

🐦 [@DamonMacWilson](#)

9:20 - 9:35 **Storyteller #1**

Vicky Xiuzhong Xu, Researcher, Australian Strategic Policy Institute

🐦 [@xu_xiuzhong](#)

9:35 - 10:50

Panel I: Understanding China's Information Operations

While experts have covered much ground unpacking Kremlin disinformation, another state actor looms large: China. This session will seek to explain China's information operations—their tactics, targets, and aims—and how they compare to the Kremlin's campaigns.

Nathan Beauchamp-Mustafaga, Policy Analyst, RAND Corporation

🐦 [@RANDCorporation](#)

Dr. King-wa Fu, Associate Professor, Journalism and Media Studies Center, University of Hong Kong

🐦 [@JMSCHKU](#)

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

🐦 [@ShanthiKalathil](#)

Laura Rosenberger, Senior Fellow and Director, Alliance for Securing Democracy, The German Marshall Fund of the United States

🐦 [@rosenbergerlm](#)

Chaired by:

Bethany Allen-Ebrahimian, Journalist

🐦 [@BethanyAllenEbr](#)

10:50 - 11:10

Coffee Break

11:10 - 11:25

Storyteller #2

Commissioner Věra Jourová, *Commissioner for Justice, Consumers, and Gender Equality*, European Commission (via video)

🐦 [@VeraJourova](#)

11:25 - 12:40

Panel II: What and What Not to Regulate

Since allegations emerged that malicious state and non-state actors, particularly Russia, have used social media platforms to influence US and European elections, lawmakers have sought ways to respond. Now, following insufficient self-regulation efforts by platforms, there is an opportunity for democratic governments to step in and build guidelines for companies' behavior. What can and should be done and to what extent should government be involved?

Jessica Dheere, *Deputy Director, Ranking Digital Rights*, New America

🐦 [@jessdheere](#)

Ambassador Eileen Donahoe, *Executive Director, Global Digital Policy Incubator*, Stanford University

🐦 [@EileenDonahoe](#)

Tiffany Li, *Visiting Professor*, Boston University School of Law

🐦 [@tiffanycli](#)

Marietje Schaake, *Former Member of European Parliament*, Kingdom of the Netherlands

🐦 [@MarietjeSchaake](#)

Chaired by:

Dr. Alina Polyakova, *Director, Project on Global Democracy and Emerging Technologies*, Brookings Institution

🐦 [@apolyakova](#)

12:40 - 13:45

Lunch Break

13:45 - 14:00

Storyteller #3

Rema Rajeshwari, *Superintendent of Police*, Indian Police Service

🐦 [@rama_rajeshwari](#)

14:00 - 15:15

Panel III: Confronting Everyday Falsehoods

From debates around climate change, to vaccines, to major historical events, false information has become part of our everyday discourse, affecting everything from policy to public health. This session will look at examples of misleading information around these subjects and explore the best strategies for building societal resilience.

Kristofer Goldsmith, *Chief Investigator and Associate Director for Policy and Government Affairs*, Vietnam Veterans of America; *President*, High Ground Veterans Advocacy

🐦 [@KrisGoldsmith85](#)

Dr. Heidi Larson, *Director*, The Vaccine Confidence Project; *Professor of Anthropology, Risk and Decision Science*, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

🐦 [@ProfHeidiLarson](#)

Joseph McCarthy, *Associate Editor*, The Weather Channel

🐦 [@notjoemccarthy](#)

Travis View, *Co-Host*, QAnon Anonymous Podcast

🐦 [@travis_view](#)

Chaired by:

Dr. Kate Starbird, *Assistant Professor of Human Centered Design & Engineering*, University of Washington

🐦 [@katestarbird](#)

15:15 - 15:35

Coffee Break

15:35 - 15:50

Storyteller #4

David Carroll, *Associate Professor of Media Design*, Parsons School of Design

🐦 [@profcarroll](#)

15:50 - 17:00

Panel IV: Personal Data: What, Who, How, and Why?

From monitoring and surveillance to personal information willingly shared online, any actor seeking to influence opinions or behaviors—including advertisers, political campaigns, and malicious actors—can now access vast amounts of personal data. This session will look at what type of data is being collected, who collects it, how they collect and use the data, and why we should be concerned.

Christina Gagnier, *Partner, Intellectual Property, Internet and Technology Practice*, Gagnier Margossian LLP

🐦 [@gagnier](#)

Dr. Iliia Siatitsa, *Legal Officer*, Privacy International

🐦 [@ilia_siatitsa](#)

Chaired by:

Joe Uchill, *Cybersecurity Reporter*, Axios

🐦 [@JoeUchill](#)

17:00 - 17:20

Closing Remarks

Ambassador Daniel Fried, *Weiser Family Distinguished Fellow*, Atlantic Council

🐦 [@AtlanticCouncil](#)

17:30 **Participants Reception**
Tony and Joe's Seafood Place

Thursday, October 24

8:30 - 9:15 **Registration**

9:15 - 9:20 **Welcome Remarks**

Graham Brookie, *Director and Managing Editor, Digital Forensic Research Lab,*
Atlantic Council
🐦 [@GrahamBrookie](#)

9:20 - 10:00 **Opening Fireside Chat**

Christopher Krebs, *Director, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency,*
US Department of Homeland Security
🐦 [@CISAKrebs](#)

H.E. Karin Olofsdotter, *Swedish Ambassador to the United States*
🐦 [@OlofsdotterK](#)

10:00 - 12:00

Session 1

Workshop 1A: Back to Elections: Lessons from 2019

As democracies continue to find ways to protect the democratic process from malign interference, there's much to learn from allies and partners worldwide. This session will bring together experts from Latin America, Asia, and Europe to discuss recent elections, including notable efforts to defend the democratic process before, during, and after voting.

Naman Aggarwal, *Asia Pacific Policy Counsel, Access Now*
🐦 [@namanwa](#)

Sasha Havlicek, *Founding CEO, Institute for Strategic Dialogue*
🐦 [@ISDglobal](#)

Rafael Morales Ramírez, *Managing Director, Gurú Electoral*
🐦 [@Rafael_Morales](#)

Tai Nalon, *Executive Director and Co-founder, Aos Fatos*
🐦 [@tainalon](#)

Chaired by:

Ella Carlberg, *Senior Advisor, Homeland Security Affairs, Embassy of Sweden in the United States*
🐦 [@SwedeninUSA](#)

Workshop 1B: Deepfakes, Shallowfakes: What Should We Fear and What to Do?

While the wave of sophisticated, high-quality “deepfakes” has not arrived in the way many experts expected, cheap fakes and altered audio have already begun infiltrating our information space and targeting the most vulnerable populations. This session will look ahead at the potential damage of “shallowfakes” and manipulated audio, and begin strategizing on solutions, particularly driven by civil society and platforms, to prepare the public for this challenge.

Dr. Nicholas Diakopoulos, Assistant Professor in Communication Studies and Computer Science, Director, Computational Journalism Lab, Northwestern University

🐦 [@NorthwesternU](#)

Sam Gregory, Program Director, WITNESS

🐦 [@SamGregory](#)

Dr. Hafiz Malik, Associate Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering Department, University of Michigan–Dearborn

🐦 [@UM_Dearborn](#)

Chaired by:

Moira Whelan, Founding Partner, Blue Dot Strategies

🐦 [@moira](#)

Workshop 1C: Private Messaging Apps

Outside of social media platforms, private messaging applications have become one of the main tools used to spread false information. The challenges of detecting and countering misinformation on these apps are well known: end-to-end encryption makes it impossible to track false narratives and, efforts to monitor them would violate fundamental democratic freedoms. Experts will discuss democratic solutions and lessons learned on countering falsehoods on messaging apps.

Dr. Kiran Garimella, Michael Hammer Postdoc, Institute for Data, Society and Systems, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

🐦 [@gvrkiran](#)

Maria Koomen, Senior Program Manager, Democracy, Conflict and Governance Program, Carnegie Europe

🐦 [@mariakoomen](#)

Caio Machado, Lawyer and Google Policy Fellow, Institute for Technology and Society (ITS-Rio); Researcher, Oxford Internet Institute

🐦 [@caiocvm](#)

Dr. Mayank Varia, Associate Research Professor of Computer Science, Boston University

🐦 [@mvaria](#)

Chaired by:

Yuri Beckelman, Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director, Office of Congressman Mark Takano

🐦 [@YuriBeckelman](#)

12:00 - 12:20

Lunch

12:20 - 13:00

Fireside Chat

The Hon. Elissa Slotkin, Congresswoman for Michigan's 8th Congressional District, US House of Representatives

🐦 [@RepSlotkin](#)

Graham Brookie, Director and Managing Editor, Digital Forensic Research Lab, Atlantic Council

🐦 [@GrahamBrookie](#)

13:15 - 15:15

Session 2

Workshop 2A: Fake Personas, Fake Engagement: The Marketplace for Social Media Manipulation

From comments to likes to fake accounts, there is an entire marketplace that operates to facilitate manipulation of day-to-day online discourse. This session will have experts unpack and detail these tools, as well as offer steps that governments and social media platforms can and should take to curb this market.

Sebastian Bay, Senior Expert, NATO Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence

🐦 [@sebastian_bay](#)

Stephanie MacLellan, Digital Democracy Fellow, Public Policy Forum

🐦 [@smaclellan](#)

Bret Schafer, Media and Digital Disinformation Fellow, Alliance for Securing Democracy, The German Marshall Fund of the United States

🐦 [@SecureDemocracy](#)

Dr. Saiph Savage, Director, Human Computer Interaction Laboratory, West Virginia University

🐦 [@saiphcita](#)

Chaired by:

Melanie Smith, Cyber Intelligence Analyst, Graphika Inc.

🐦 [@MelanieFSmith](#)

Workshop 2B: Cyber Capabilities: A Tool to Fight Disinformation?

As we have seen from the "Macron Leaks" and the hacking of the Democratic National Committee's email server, cyber operations have played an instrumental role in aiding disinformation campaigns, working to destabilize elections and the political discourse more broadly. This session will unpack recent cases and strategize on whether cyber capabilities can be used as a tool to stop malign actors from carrying out information operations.

Lee Foster, Senior Manager, Information Operations Intelligence Analysis, FireEye

🐦 [@LeeFosterIntel](#)

Tom Kellermann, Chief Cybersecurity Officer, Carbon Black Inc.

🐦 [@TAKellermann](#)

Liisa Past, Chief National Cyber Risk Officer, Government Office of the Republic of Estonia

🐦 [@LiisaPast](#)

Megan Stifel, Senior Policy Counsel, Global Cyber Alliance; Senior Fellow, Cyber Statecraft Initiative, Atlantic Council

🐦 [@MeganStifel](#)

Chaired by:

Franklin Kramer, Distinguished Fellow, Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security, Atlantic Council

🐦 [@ACScowcroft](#)

Workshop 2C: Media: Success Stories from the Newsroom

While most discussions surrounding the media's role in spreading disinformation have focused on the challenges facing journalists, newsrooms worldwide have been seeking ways to collaborate, innovate, and inform the public. In this session, journalists, editors, and other experts will discuss the success stories of newsrooms working together to counter disinformation.

Jane Lytvynenko, Reporter, BuzzFeed News

🐦 [@JaneLytv](#)

Alexios Mantzaris, News and Information Credibility Lead, Google News Lab

🐦 [@Mantzaris](#)

Matthew Rosenberg, Correspondent, The New York Times

🐦 [@AIMattNYT](#)

Chaired by:

Maksym Eristavi, Research Fellow, Eurasia Center, Atlantic Council

🐦 [@MaximEristavi](#)

This event is supported by:

