CALL FOR PAPERS

DISINFORMATION AND DIGITAL MEDIA AS A CHALLENGE FOR DEMOCRACY
European Integration and Democracy Series, Vol. 6

The Centre for Direct Democracy Studies (CDDS) at the Faculty of Law of the University of Białystok, Poland (UwB) is pleased to announce a call for papers for the upcoming sixth volume in the *European Integration and Democracy* Series, devoted to **challenges for democracy, the rule of law (*Rechtsstaat*) and the respect for fundamental rights, posed by contemporary disinformation practices and digital media**.

For the present volume, the Centre will work together with the Research Group on Law, Science, Technology and Society (LSTS) at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), Belgium and the Department of Media and Communication of Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR), the Netherlands. The planned book will be co-edited by Elżbieta Kużelewska (CDDS), Georgios Terzis (VUB), Daniel Trottier (EUR) and Dariusz Kloza (VUB).

Background to the research question

This book is motivated, to a large extent, by the recent developments in information, misinformation and disinformation practices. From the beginning of history, various and diverse means or channels of communication have been employed to inform, misinform (unintentionally) and disinform (deliberately); the book will focus mainly on the last of these practices, frequently labelled 'fake news'. Yet, in recent decades, the emergence and progress of new information and communications technologies (ICT), combined with the ever more increasing digitalisation and globalisation of almost every aspect of modern life, have opened new and uncharted avenues to that end. The 2016 referendum on the departure of the United Kingdom from the European Union (the so-called 'Brexit') and the presidential elections in the United States – and related, alleged disinformation practices – are perhaps the strongest reminder of the importance and power of disinformation in society. These developments, in turn, bring about profound ramifications for the very existence and functioning of a democratic polity. In particular, they affect the values and principles on which the European integration project as well as many other Western democratic polities have been built: human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law (*Rechtsstaat*) and respect for human rights, among others. These democratic polities are only at an early stage of understanding the implications of disinformation practices and digital media. Therefore, the relations between democracy and these practices merit critical analysis and academic attention.

Topics of interest

This edited book aims to contribute to a better understanding of contemporary disinformation practices and digital media. Its overall goal is to map and analyse their impacts on democracy *sensu largo* and, eventually, to draw lessons for the future. More concretely, the book will explore topics such as:

▪ **setting the scene:** mapping and delineating 'fake news', 'post-truth', 'alternative facts' and other catch-all terms related to contemporary disinformation practices; mapping and delineating contemporary 'digital' media; exploring their forms, contents, meaning, causes, historical development as well as the benefits and threats that they might pose both to individuals, groups and societies;

▪ **modus operandi:** the functioning, purposes and power of disinformation in human life and in society; the role of emotions, emerging technologies (e.g. social media and other platforms, algorithms, artificial intelligence), relevant social practices (e.g. manipulation, propaganda, surveillance) as well as other factors (e.g. media literacy) in disinforming;

▪ **democracy:** the relation between these disinformation practices, on the one hand, and democracy, on the other; especially their impacts on and their ramifications for democratic values (e.g. pluralism, veracity, trust) and processes (e.g. public debates, elections and accountability), the rule of law (*Rechtsstaat*), and the respect for human rights (e.g. fair trial, freedom of expression, privacy and personal data protection);

- **case studies:** the changes brought about by these disinformation practices to various sectors of public life, e.g. macro- and micro economy, banking, finance, business, innovation, research and technology development, religion, media, arts and culture, etc.; the change brought about to specific societal challenges, e.g. migration, climate change, hate speech, etc., the change brought about to individual countries (jurisdictions);
- **roles and responsibilities:** identifying the key actors – policy-makers, media outlets, journalists, service providers, technology developers, non-governmental organisations, religious associations, artists, etc. and the public at large – and discussing their roles and responsibilities in the production and circulation of as well as in confronting disinformation; the consequences of such confrontation for democracy, the rule of law (*Rechtsstaat*) and the respect for fundamental rights.

Moreover, the Editors welcome further proposals for topics to be explored. The book will take a broad, interdisciplinary perspective, analysing the subject-matter from the diverse viewpoints of philosophy, ethics, law, history, political science, economy, business management, sociology, psychology, geography, linguistics, computer science, journalism and media studies, science and technology studies (STS), among others. In addition, comparative analyses are strongly encouraged.

Envisaged timeline

30 June 2018	– deadline for extended abstracts (1st stage)
31 July 2018	– invitation to submit full contributions
15 October 2018	– deadline for final submissions (2nd stage)
30 November 2018	– notification of acceptance after double blind peer-review process
31 December 2018	– deadline for submission of a camera-ready version
ca. June 2019	– book ready

Information for the authors

- Submissions are made in a two-stage procedure:
  - in the 1st stage, extended abstracts (ca. 1,500 – 3,000 words) will be evaluated by the Editors to assess their quality and suitability to the overall project;
  - in the 2nd stage, full submissions will undergo a double, blind peer-review process by appointed, external and anonymous reviewers.
- Full contributions should normally be between 6,000 – 15,000 words; contributions of both shorter and higher word length may also be submitted, subject to negotiation with the Editors.
- **Submissions should be made anonymously in British English and sent via the *EasyChair* platform at https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=eids6.**
- The Authors will not be remunerated for their contributions.
- Questions, if any, are welcome at eids6@easychair.org.

European Integration and Democracy Series

A well-established book series, *European Integration and Democracy* was launched in 2011 at the Centre for Direct Democracy Studies (CDDS) at the University of Białystok, where is its managed and edited. Since 2014, the Series is published by Intersentia, a reputable international printing house based in Belgium and the United Kingdom. Each volume in the Series tackles a timely, pressing issue that is of utmost importance for the European integration project and, at the same time, that poses a challenge to the values and principles on which this project has been built. Up to date, the Series has produced five edited volumes, analysing – through that lens – issues ranging from the elections to the European Parliament to trans-Atlantic data privacy relations, to migration.[1] All books in the Series originate from a call for papers and the submissions received go through a double, blind peer-review process, in accordance with the Guaranteed Peer-Review Contents (GPRC) standard.

<div align="right">Elżbieta KUŻELEWSKA, Georgios TERZIS, Daniel TROTTIER and Dariusz KLOZA</div>

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[1] These are: E. Kużelewska and D. Kloza (eds.), *The Challenges of Modern Democracy and European Integration*, European Integration and Democracy Series, Vol. 1, Aspra-JR: Warsaw-Białystok 2012, 249 pp.; E. Kużelewska and D. Kloza (eds.), *Elections to the European Parliament as a Challenge for Democracy*, European Integration and Democracy Series, Vol. 2, Aspra-JR: Warsaw-Białystok 2013, 371 pp.; E. Kużelewska, D. Kloza, I. Kraśnicka and F. Strzyczkowski (eds.), *European Judicial Systems as a Challenge for Democracy*, European Integration and Democracy Series, Vol. 3, Intersentia: Cambridge 2015, 244 pp.; D.J.B. Svantesson and D. Kloza (eds.), *Trans-Atlantic Data Privacy Relations as a Challenge for Democracy*, European Integration and Democracy Series, Vol. 4, Intersentia, Cambridge 2017, 567 pp.; E. Kużelewska, A. Weatherburn and D. Kloza (eds.) *Irregular Migration as a Challenge for Democracy*, European Integration and Democracy Series, Vol. 5, Intersentia, Cambridge 2018, 334 pp.