

To: Alexander Lazar[alazar@mdanderson.org]; Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]
Cc: rchernaskey@miburosolutions.com[rchernaskey@miburosolutions.com]; Linda Listrom[lindalistrom@gmail.com]; James V Lawler[james.lawler@unmc.edu]; Clint Watts[clintonwatts@icloud.com]
From: Clint Watts
Sent: Mon 11/8/2021 9:05:45 PM
Subject: Connecting with Kate Starbird - COVID commission
Received: Mon 11/8/2021 9:10:01 PM
[smime.p7s](#)

Kate

I hope you're well and things are going smoothly out at University of Washington. I recently had a great fortune to meet some of the top doctors and researchers that are part of the Covid Commission. They are looking to connect with people that work on misinformation and disinformation specifically with regards to Covid. I told them that you're the best in the field
Alex, Linda and James

Kate Starbird runs an amazing resource group at the University of Washington and I think she's one of the worlds best in the space. Connecting you here so that you can follow up with her and I'll speak to you all on Friday. Best wishes to all
Clint

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To: Scherer, William[William.Scherer@mail.house.gov]
Cc: Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 1/20/2022 5:15:46 PM
Subject: Re: January 6th Meeting today
Received: Thur 1/20/2022 5:15:48 PM

Hi Bill,
I can go until 12:30 (PT) / 3:30 (ET)

Kate

On Jan 20, 2022, at 8:07 AM, Scherer, William <William.Scherer@mail.house.gov> wrote:

Hello Katie and Renee – are you willing to go 60 minutes today if needed? Lots of interest from committee in the discussion.

I realize schedules likely already set but thought I'd check.

Thanks- Bill

William (Bill) T. Scherer
Chief Data Scientist
House Select Committee to Investigate the
January 6th Attack on the U.S. Capitol
Professor, Systems Engineering
University of Virginia
Cell: 202-697-2893

On Jan 14, 2022, at 12:53 PM, Scherer, William <William.Scherer@mail.house.gov> wrote:

Hello Kate – great – let's do Thursday @ 11:30am Pacific (2:30 East). Is teams or zoom better?
I look forward to talking - Bill

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Friday, January 14, 2022 2:12 PM
To: Scherer, William <William.Scherer@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdirresta@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: January 6th

Hi Bill,

I'm happy to chat. I have some flexibility next Wed at 11am (Pacific) and Thurs 10-noon (Pacific).

Kate

On Jan 13, 2022, at 3:44 PM, Scherer, William <William.Scherer@mail.house.gov> wrote:

Hello Alex, Kate, and Renee- I'd love to set-up a call and talk about what we are doing. Based on your thoughts, I could invite some other fellow senior members of the committee. Many thanks for the quick response - Bill

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 13, 2022, at 4:22 PM, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi, William-

You probably want to chat with some combination of Dr. Kate Starbird from UW or Renee and I from Stanford.

-Alex

From: Scherer, William <William.Scherer@mail.house.gov>
Date: Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 1:20 PM
To: info@eipartnership.net <info@eipartnership.net>
Cc: Scherer, William <William.Scherer@mail.house.gov>, Scherer, William T (wts) <wts@virginia.edu>
Subject: January 6th

Hello: I'd like to know if there is a contact I can speak with regarding your Long Fuse report, and in particular the data used. I'm working, as a faculty at the University of Virginia with the House Select Committee, on investigations into the Jan 6 attack on the Capitol. Thanks- Bill

William T. Scherer
Professor, Systems Engineering
wts@virginia.edu
William.Scherer@mail.house.gov
<https://engineering.virginia.edu/faculty/william-t-scherer>

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To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to info+unsubscribe@eipartnership.net.

To: Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Sat 12/11/2021 1:56:32 PM
Subject: Delayed Response | Media Contact Re: A piece by me on Lawfare regarding the report
Received: Sat 12/11/2021 1:56:32 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you in a timely manner.

If this is a media request, please contact Michael Grass (megrass@uw.edu), the Communications Manager at the Center for an Informed Public, who may be able to coordinate a time for us to chat or find another researcher at the Center who can speak with you.

Warm regards,
Kate

To: rdirستا@stanford.edu[rdirستا@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 1/31/2022 10:10:20 PM
Subject: Delayed Response | Media Contact RE: Connecting EIP with Bridgespan
Received: Mon 1/31/2022 10:10:20 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you in a timely manner.

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Warm regards,
Kate

To: rdirستا@stanford.edu[rdirستا@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 12/1/2021 7:20:33 PM
Subject: Delayed Response | Media Contact RE: Scheduling an EIP "post-mortem" for mid-December
Received: Wed 12/1/2021 7:20:33 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you in a timely manner.

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Warm regards,
Kate

To: Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 11/23/2021 7:57:09 PM
Subject: Delayed Response | Media Contact Re: Washington Post Editorial
Received: Tue 11/23/2021 7:57:09 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you in a timely manner.

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Warm regards,
Kate

To: rdirستا@stanford.edu[rdirستا@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 11/26/2021 4:17:32 AM
Subject: Delayed Response | Media Contact Re: Canceled: Recurring paper meeting
Received: Fri 11/26/2021 4:17:32 AM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you in a timely manner.

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Warm regards,
Kate

To: Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 11/18/2021 2:57:38 PM
Subject: Delayed Response | Media Contact Re: Commission Coverage
Received: Thur 11/18/2021 2:57:38 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you in a timely manner.

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Warm regards,
Kate

To: rdirستا@stanford.edu[rdirستا@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 12/8/2021 9:22:35 PM
Subject: Delayed Response | Media Contact RE: Agenda
Received: Wed 12/8/2021 9:22:35 PM

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Warm regards,
Kate

To: clintonwatts@icloud.com[clintonwatts@icloud.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 11/23/2021 5:53:56 PM
Subject: Delayed Response | Media Contact Re: Hiring Announcement - Senior Social Media Analyst and Social Media Analysts specializing in Chinese language
Received: Tue 11/23/2021 5:53:56 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you in a timely manner.

If this is a media request, please contact Michael Grass (megrass@uw.edu), the Communications Manager at the Center for an Informed Public, who may be able to coordinate a time for us to chat or find another researcher at the Center who can speak with you.

Warm regards,
Kate

To: kstarbi@uw.edu[kstarbi@uw.edu]
Cc: mica42@uw.edu[mica42@uw.edu]
From: Renee DiResta (via Google Docs)
Sent: Tue 12/7/2021 10:06:52 PM
Subject: Document shared with you: "4 - Narratives (NEW, WITHOUT HISTORY) "
Received: Tue 12/7/2021 10:07:32 PM

rdiresta@stanford.edu shared a document



rdiresta@stanford.edu has invited you to **edit** the following document:



4 - Narratives (NEW, WITHOUT HISTORY)



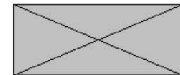
rdiresta@stanford.edu is outside your organization.

[Open](#)

If you don't want to receive files from this person, block the sender from Drive

Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA

You have received this email because rdiresta@stanford.edu shared a document with you from Google Docs.



To: Francis Fukuyama[ffukuyam@stanford.edu]
Cc: Daniel E. Ho[dho@law.stanford.edu]; Erik Brynjolfsson[erik.brynjolfsson@gmail.com]; Katrina Ligett[kligett@gmail.com]; Ashish Goel[ashishg@stanford.edu]; Francis Fukuyama[f.fukuyama@stanford.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]; Celia Clark[celia.clark@stanford.edu]; Kaci Danae Peel[kpeel@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 11/9/2021 9:19:11 PM
Subject: Re: Stanford HAI Fall Conference
Received: Tue 11/9/2021 9:19:14 PM

That was great. Thanks for inviting me. Lots of great ideas to keep thinking about...

Kate

On Nov 9, 2021, at 12:58 PM, Francis Fukuyama <ffukuyam@stanford.edu> wrote:

Thanks very much for inviting us.

Frank

From: Daniel E. Ho <dho@law.stanford.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 9, 2021 11:16 AM
To: Erik Brynjolfsson <erik.brynjolfsson@gmail.com>
Cc: Katrina Ligett <kligett@gmail.com>; Ashish Goel <ashishg@stanford.edu>; Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Francis Fukuyama <ffukuyam@stanford.edu>; Francis Fukuyama <f.fukuyama@stanford.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>; Celia Clark <celia.clark@stanford.edu>; Kaci Danae Peel <kpeel@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: Stanford HAI Fall Conference

We are so grateful to you all for kicking off the conference with such a great discussion -- thanks so much!

Dan

On Tue, Nov 9, 2021 at 11:15 AM Erik Brynjolfsson <erik.brynjolfsson@gmail.com> wrote:

Thank you, Katrina, Kate, Frank, Ashish and Renee.

That went really well -- what a great way to launch the conference.

Well done!

Erik

On Tue, Nov 9, 2021 at 11:00 AM Katrina Ligett <kligett@gmail.com> wrote:

Thanks so much for the opportunity to participate in this discussion! I hope to have opportunities to continue the conversation!

Best,
Katrina

On Tue, Nov 9, 2021 at 7:36 PM Celia Clark <celia.clark@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi Everyone!

I hope you saw my Zoom message. We are still on with Eric Lander. I will let you into the room in about 8mins. Thank you all for arriving early. I truly appreciate it!

Thanks!
Celia

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 9, 2021 9:33 AM
To: Celia Clark <celia.clark@stanford.edu>
Cc: Francis Fukuyama <ffukuyam@stanford.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>; kligett@gmail.com;
Francis Fukuyama <f.fukuyama@stanford.edu>; Daniel E. Ho <dho@law.stanford.edu>; Erik Brynjolfsson
<erik.brynjolfsson@gmail.com>; Kaci Danae Peel <kpeel@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: Stanford HAI Fall Conference
Importance: High

I'm waiting in the Zoom room...

Kate

On Nov 3, 2021, at 10:34 AM, Celia Clark <celia.clark@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi Everyone –

Thank you again for agreeing to participate in HAI's November 9-10 Fall Conference on Policy & AI: Four Radical Proposals for a Better Society.

Your session will be on November 9 from 9:45-11:00am PT. A few days ago I sent you all a calendar invite with the Zoom link and password. Please join the Zoom **no later than 9:30am PT.** When you join the Zoom, you will be in a waiting room. I will let you into the main room once your session is about to start. **When you enter the Zoom room, we will be live!**

We will be livestreaming the Zoom so the audience can watch live and ask questions through an application called Slido, which the Renee will manage.

When you enter the main Zoom room, keep your video and mic off until you are introduced.

Renee will be introduced by Erik Brynjolfsson. Once Renee is introduced, she will intro Frank who will then do a 15min presentation on his proposal. After 15mins, Renee will then introduce Kate and Katrina.

The session breakdown will be 15 - Proposal, 45 - Panel discussion, 15 - Audience Q&A

If you are unfamiliar with Zoom, please let me know and I can either setup a quick practice session or send you a Zoom guide.

@Francis Fukuyama if you are planning to have a slides, please send me the deck before EOD Monday.

@Renee DiResta I will send you details on audience Q&A and script.

Please let me know if you have any questions. My cell is 415-416-8869. If you have any issues on the day of the event, please text or call me.

Thanks everyone!
Celia

From: Celia Clark
Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 10:53 AM

To: Francis Fukuyama <ffukuyam@stanford.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>; Erik Brynjolfsson <erik.brynjolfsson@gmail.com>; Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Cc: Francis Fukuyama <f.fukuyama@stanford.edu>; kligett@gmail.com; Daniel E. Ho <dho@law.stanford.edu>
Subject: RE: Stanford HAI Fall Conference

Hi Everyone –

We were able to move your session to November 9 at 10:00-11:15am PT. I will send everyone a calendar invite shortly.

Thanks!
Celia

From: Francis Fukuyama <ffukuyam@stanford.edu>
Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 7:10 AM
To: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>; Erik Brynjolfsson <erik.brynjolfsson@gmail.com>; Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Cc: Celia Clark <celia.clark@stanford.edu>; Francis Fukuyama <f.fukuyama@stanford.edu>; kligett@gmail.com; Daniel E. Ho <dho@law.stanford.edu>
Subject: RE: Stanford HAI Fall Conference

Thanks to everyone for accommodating this time change.

Frank

From: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 4:47 PM
To: Erik Brynjolfsson <erik.brynjolfsson@gmail.com>; Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Cc: Celia Clark <celia.clark@stanford.edu>; Francis Fukuyama <ffukuyam@stanford.edu>; Francis Fukuyama <f.fukuyama@stanford.edu>; kligett@gmail.com; Daniel E. Ho <dho@law.stanford.edu>
Subject: RE: Stanford HAI Fall Conference

Works for me as well.

From: Erik Brynjolfsson <erik.brynjolfsson@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 12:50 PM
To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Cc: Celia Clark <celia.clark@stanford.edu>; Francis Fukuyama <ffukuyam@stanford.edu>; Francis Fukuyama <f.fukuyama@stanford.edu>; kligett@gmail.com; Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>; Daniel E. Ho <dho@law.stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: Stanford HAI Fall Conference

Thanks, Kate!

On Mon, Oct 11, 2021 at 4:24 PM Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

The 9th works for me.

Kate

On Oct 11, 2021, at 1:52 PM, Celia Clark <celia.clark@stanford.edu> wrote:

Thanks Frank! We will try to make the 9th work.

Kate, Katrina, and Renee DiResta does Nov. 9 work for you?

From: Francis Fukuyama <ffukuyam@stanford.edu>
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 1:39 PM
To: Celia Clark <celia.clark@stanford.edu>; Francis Fukuyama <f.fukuyama@stanford.edu>; kstarbi@uw.edu; kligett@gmail.com; Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Cc: erik.brynjolfsson@gmail.com; Daniel E. Ho <dho@law.stanford.edu>
Subject: RE: Stanford HAI Fall Conference

Unfortunately, I've joined board of trustees that meets on the 10th and I will have to be traveling down to LA that day.

Frank

From: Celia Clark <celia.clark@stanford.edu>
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 1:32 PM
To: Francis Fukuyama <ffukuyam@stanford.edu>; Francis Fukuyama <f.fukuyama@stanford.edu>; kstarbi@uw.edu; kligett@gmail.com; Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Cc: erik.brynjolfsson@gmail.com; Daniel E. Ho <dho@law.stanford.edu>
Subject: RE: Stanford HAI Fall Conference

Hi Everyone –

November 9 may be an option. We will need to see if another panel can switch with your session. If we can't, are you able to move your schedule around for Nov. 10?

Thanks!
Celia

From: Francis Fukuyama <ffukuyam@stanford.edu>
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 1:14 PM
To: Celia Clark <celia.clark@stanford.edu>; Francis Fukuyama <f.fukuyama@stanford.edu>; kstarbi@uw.edu; kligett@gmail.com; Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Cc: erik.brynjolfsson@gmail.com; Daniel E. Ho <dho@law.stanford.edu>
Subject: RE: Stanford HAI Fall Conference

I'm afraid that I am no longer able to participate on the 10th but can on the 9th (your email gives both dates). I would be able to come to the session the evening of the 9th.

Regards,

Frank Fukuyama

Olivier Nomellini Senior Fellow
Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law
Director, Ford Dorsey Masters in International Policy
Freeman Spogli Institute for Intl Studies
Stanford University
616 Jane Stanford Way. Room C151
Stanford, CA 94305-6055

From: Celia Clark <celia.clark@stanford.edu>
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 12:59 PM
To: Francis Fukuyama <f.fukuyama@stanford.edu>; kstarbi@uw.edu; kligett@gmail.com; Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>

To: Celia Clark[celia.clark@stanford.edu]
Cc: Francis Fukuyama[ffukuyam@stanford.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]; kligett@gmail.com[kligett@gmail.com]; Francis Fukuyama[f.fukuyama@stanford.edu]; Daniel E. Ho[dho@law.stanford.edu]; Erik Brynjolfsson[erik.brynjolfsson@gmail.com]; Kaci Danae Peel[kpeel@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 11/9/2021 5:33:20 PM
Subject: Re: Stanford HAI Fall Conference
Received: Tue 11/9/2021 5:33:23 PM

I'm waiting in the Zoom room...

Kate

On Nov 3, 2021, at 10:34 AM, Celia Clark <celia.clark@stanford.edu> wrote:

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@Renee DiResta I will send you details on audience Q&A and script.

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Cc: Francis Fukuyama <f.fukuyama@stanford.edu>; kligett@gmail.com; Daniel E. Ho <dho@law.stanford.edu>
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Cc: Celia Clark <celia.clark@stanford.edu>; Francis Fukuyama <f.fukuyama@stanford.edu>; kligett@gmail.com; Daniel E. Ho <dho@law.stanford.edu>
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To: Erik Brynjolfsson <erik.brynjolfsson@gmail.com>; Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Cc: Celia Clark <celia.clark@stanford.edu>; Francis Fukuyama <ffukuyam@stanford.edu>; Francis Fukuyama <f.fukuyama@stanford.edu>; kligett@gmail.com; Daniel E. Ho <dho@law.stanford.edu>
Subject: RE: Stanford HAI Fall Conference

Works for me as well.

From: Erik Brynjolfsson <erik.brynjolfsson@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 12:50 PM
To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Cc: Celia Clark <celia.clark@stanford.edu>; Francis Fukuyama <ffukuyam@stanford.edu>; Francis Fukuyama <f.fukuyama@stanford.edu>; kligett@gmail.com; Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>; Daniel E. Ho <dho@law.stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: Stanford HAI Fall Conference

Thanks, Kate!

On Mon, Oct 11, 2021 at 4:24 PM Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

The 9th works for me.

Kate

On Oct 11, 2021, at 1:52 PM, Celia Clark <celia.clark@stanford.edu> wrote:

Thanks Frank! We will try to make the 9th work.

Kate, Katrina, and Renee DiResta does Nov. 9 work for you?

From: Francis Fukuyama <ffukuyam@stanford.edu>
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 1:39 PM
To: Celia Clark <celia.clark@stanford.edu>; Francis Fukuyama <f.fukuyama@stanford.edu>; kstarbi@uw.edu; kligett@gmail.com; Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Cc: erik.brynjolfsson@gmail.com; Daniel E. Ho <dho@law.stanford.edu>
Subject: RE: Stanford HAI Fall Conference

Unfortunately, I've joined board of trustees that meets on the 10th and I will have to be traveling down to LA that day.

Frank

From: Celia Clark <celia.clark@stanford.edu>
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 1:32 PM
To: Francis Fukuyama <ffukuyam@stanford.edu>; Francis Fukuyama <f.fukuyama@stanford.edu>; kstarbi@uw.edu; kligett@gmail.com; Renee DiResta <rdirresta@stanford.edu>
Cc: erik.brynjolfsson@gmail.com; Daniel E. Ho <dho@law.stanford.edu>
Subject: RE: Stanford HAI Fall Conference

Hi Everyone –

November 9 may be an option. We will need to see if another panel can switch with your session. If we can't, are you able to move your schedule around for Nov. 10?

Thanks!
Celia

From: Francis Fukuyama <ffukuyam@stanford.edu>
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 1:14 PM
To: Celia Clark <celia.clark@stanford.edu>; Francis Fukuyama <f.fukuyama@stanford.edu>; kstarbi@uw.edu; kligett@gmail.com; Renee DiResta <rdirresta@stanford.edu>
Cc: erik.brynjolfsson@gmail.com; Daniel E. Ho <dho@law.stanford.edu>
Subject: RE: Stanford HAI Fall Conference

I'm afraid that I am no longer able to participate on the 10th but can on the 9th (your email gives both dates). I would be able to come to the session the evening of the 9th.

Regards,

Frank Fukuyama

Olivier Nomellini Senior Fellow
Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law
Director, Ford Dorsey Masters in International Policy
Freeman Spogli Institute for Intl Studies
Stanford University
616 Jane Stanford Way. Room C151
Stanford, CA 94305-6055

From: Celia Clark <celia.clark@stanford.edu>
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 12:59 PM
To: Francis Fukuyama <f.fukuyama@stanford.edu>; kstarbi@uw.edu; kligett@gmail.com; Renee DiResta <rdirresta@stanford.edu>
Cc: erik.brynjolfsson@gmail.com; Daniel E. Ho <dho@law.stanford.edu>
Subject: Stanford HAI Fall Conference

Hi Everyone –

Thank you again for agreeing to participate in HAI's November 9-10 Fall Conference on Policy & AI: Four Radical Proposals for a Better Society. A few days ago, we made the tough decision to move the event to virtual. However, we are planning to host a keynote reception and dinner on campus and would love

for speakers to attend. We can still offer travel assistance if needed.

Due to the change to virtual, we had to move the agenda around. **Your session on Addressing Dis/Misinformation will now take place on November 10 from 10:00am-11:15am PT. However, since this is virtual, we would need you to be available from 9:45am-11:30am PT.** Below is your session breakdown.

10:00-11:15am: Addressing Dis/Misinformation - Middleware: Choosing your own algorithms

Proposer: Francis Fukuyama

Panelist: Kate Starbird and Katrina Ligett (we may add a panelist from industry)

Moderator: Renee DiResta

Breakdown: 15min - Proposal, 45min - Panel discussion, 15min - Audience Q&A

What we need from you:

1. Does the Nov. 9 from 9:45am-11:30am PT still work for your schedule?
2. Would you like to attend the reception and dinner on the evening of Nov. 9 at Stanford?

Soon I will send you more details on the virtual event. We try to make this simple for speakers, so we use Zoom as our platform.

We hope the new schedule works and that you still have the time to travel to Stanford to attend the dinner.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,
Celia

Celia Clark, MS
she/her/hers
Events Manager
Institute for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence (HAI)
Stanford University
Office: 650-725-4537
Cell: 415-416-8869

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////////////////////

Erik Brynjolfsson

<https://digitaleconomy.stanford.edu/>

<https://brynjolfsson.com/>

To: Celia Clark[celia.clark@stanford.edu]
Cc: Francis Fukuyama[ffukuyam@stanford.edu]; Francis Fukuyama[f.fukuyama@stanford.edu]; kligett@gmail.com[kligett@gmail.com]; Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]; erik.brynjolfsson@gmail.com[erik.brynjolfsson@gmail.com]; Daniel E. Ho[dho@law.stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 10/11/2021 11:23:52 PM
Subject: Re: Stanford HAI Fall Conference
Received: Mon 10/11/2021 11:23:53 PM

The 9th works for me.

Kate

On Oct 11, 2021, at 1:52 PM, Celia Clark <celia.clark@stanford.edu> wrote:

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Regards,

Frank Fukuyama

Olivier Nomellini Senior Fellow
Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law
Director, Ford Dorsey Masters in International Policy
Freeman Spogli Institute for Intl Studies
Stanford University
616 Jane Stanford Way. Room C151
Stanford, CA 94305-6055

From: Celia Clark <celia.clark@stanford.edu>
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 12:59 PM
To: Francis Fukuyama <f.fukuyama@stanford.edu>; kstarbi@uw.edu; kligett@gmail.com; Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Cc: erik.brynjolfsson@gmail.com; Daniel E. Ho <dho@law.stanford.edu>
Subject: Stanford HAI Fall Conference

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Proposer: Francis Fukuyama
Panelist: Kate Starbird and Katrina Ligett (we may add a panelist from industry)
Moderator: Renee DiResta
Breakdown: 15min - Proposal, 45min - Panel discussion, 15min - Audience Q&A

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Soon I will send you more details on the virtual event. We try to make this simple for speakers, so we use Zoom as our platform.

We hope the new schedule works and that you still have the time to travel to Stanford to attend the dinner.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,
Celia

Celia Clark, MS
she/her/hers
Events Manager
Institute for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence (HAI)

Stanford University
Office: 650-725-4537
Cell: 415-416-8869

To: clint@miburosolutions.com[clint@miburosolutions.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 11/8/2021 9:10:03 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Connecting with Kate Starbird - COVID commission
Received: Mon 11/8/2021 9:10:03 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

If this is a media request, please contact Michael Grass (megrass@uw.edu), the Communications Manager at the Center for an Informed Public, who may be able to coordinate a time for us to chat or find another researcher at the Center who can speak with you.

Warm regards,
Kate

To: rdiresta@stanford.edu[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 11/4/2021 3:42:43 PM
Subject: Delayed Response RE: Middleware discussion
Received: Thur 11/4/2021 3:42:43 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

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Warm regards,
Kate

To: Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Sat 11/6/2021 3:27:50 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Embargoed Report
Received: Sat 11/6/2021 3:27:50 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

If this is a media request, please contact Michael Grass (megrass@uw.edu), the Communications Manager at the Center for an Informed Public, who may be able to coordinate a time for us to chat or find another researcher at the Center who can speak with you.

Warm regards,
Kate

To: Ryan Merkley (Consultant)[Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 11/1/2021 8:44:19 PM
Subject: Re: Publishing timing?
Received: Mon 11/1/2021 8:44:23 PM

Thanks Ryan!

Kate

On Nov 1, 2021, at 1:07 PM, Ryan Merkley (Consultant) <Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org> wrote:

Hi Kate,

We're targeting Nov 15. We'll have a detailed roll-out to Commissioners this week - we have a couple of things to finalize before we send it.

We'll also be sending embargoed copies out early to tech advisors, commission expert presenters, etc. Those will also go this week. We'll send the Commission that copy as well so you have it in hand.

I hope you're doing well.

r.

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Monday, November 1, 2021 3:49 PM
To: Ryan Merkley (Consultant) <Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org>
Subject: Publishing timing?

Hi Ryan,
I hope you're doing well and the things have calmed down some for you.

Do you know when the final report will be released?

Kate

To: Ryan Merkley (Consultant)[Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 11/1/2021 7:49:36 PM
Subject: Publishing timing?
Received: Mon 11/1/2021 7:49:37 PM

Hi Ryan,
I hope you're doing well and the things have calmed down some for you.

Do you know when the final report will be released?

Kate

To: rdiresta@stanford.edu[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 10/29/2021 4:38:19 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Recurring paper meeting
Received: Fri 10/29/2021 4:38:19 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

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Warm regards,
Kate

To: Francis Fukuyama[ffukuyam@stanford.edu]
Cc: Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]; Katrina Ligett[kligett@gmail.com]; Francis Fukuyama[f.fukuyama@stanford.edu]; Celia Clark[celia.clark@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 11/4/2021 4:30:27 PM
Subject: Re: Middleware discussion
Received: Thur 11/4/2021 4:30:29 PM

I could do a quick chat Monday 3:30-4pm (ET).

Kate

On Nov 4, 2021, at 8:45 AM, Francis Fukuyama <ffukuyam@stanford.edu> wrote:

Renee,

I'm out of the country now but could talk when I'm back Monday at 3:30pm. I imagine Ashish and I could do our presentation in about 10 minutes.

Frank

I can do any time tomorrow afternoon post-1:30pm PT
Monday, I'm free at either 3-4pm PT, or 5pm PT

Frank, approximately how long do you need for presenting your middleware proposal? Katrina, I know you have a proposal as well, so I was thinking you could speak briefly after Frank/Ashish (who I see mentioned in the script but not on this email chain...).

From: Katrina Ligett <kligett@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 28, 2021 9:45 AM
To: Francis Fukuyama <ffukuyam@stanford.edu>
Cc: Francis Fukuyama <f.fukuyama@stanford.edu>; Celia Clark <celia.clark@stanford.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdirresta@stanford.edu>; Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; reneedirestapa@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Middleware discussion

Thank you so much! I'm looking forward to our conversation!

Best,
Katrina

On Tue, Oct 26, 2021 at 5:33 PM Francis Fukuyama <ffukuyam@stanford.edu> wrote:

Katrina,

I'm attaching the latest writeup in the Journal of Democracy. The JOD then held a symposium in which several people replied to the article, in the link below (you need to scroll down to the bottom of the page), including my response.

<https://www.journalofdemocracy.org/issue/july-2021/>

We are preparing a short middleware demo (only a couple of slides), but they won't be ready until closer to the session.

Best,

Frank

From: Katrina Ligett <katrina@cs.huji.ac.il>

Sent: Monday, October 25, 2021 11:31 PM

To: Francis Fukuyama <f.fukuyama@stanford.edu>

Cc: Celia Clark <celia.clark@stanford.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdirresta@stanford.edu>; Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; reneedirestapa@gmail.com

Subject: Middleware discussion

Dear Frank,

I was wondering if you could share the most recent writeup about the Middleware proposal, or perhaps your slides, in advance of our discussion?

Thanks very much, and looking forward to it,
Katrina

On Tue, Oct 26, 2021 at 3:42 AM Celia Clark <celia.clark@stanford.edu> wrote:

Zoom link and password will be added later.

9:45-11:00am PT

Addressing Dis/misinformation - Middleware: Choosing your own algorithms

Proposer: Francis Fukuyama

Kate Starbird

Katrina Ligett

Moderator: Renee DiResta

Breakdown: 15 - Proposal, 45 - Panel discussion, 15 - Audience Q&A

Full Agenda: <https://hai.stanford.edu/2021-fall-conference-agenda>

To: rdirستا@stanford.edu[rdirستا@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 11/17/2021 6:19:22 PM
Subject: Delayed Response | Media Contact Re: Canceled: Recurring paper meeting
Received: Wed 11/17/2021 6:19:22 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you in a timely manner.

If this is a media request, please contact Michael Grass (megrass@uw.edu), the Communications Manager at the Center for an Informed Public, who may be able to coordinate a time for us to chat or find another researcher at the Center who can speak with you.

Warm regards,
Kate

To: Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org[Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 11/1/2021 8:11:11 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Publishing timing?
Received: Mon 11/1/2021 8:11:11 PM

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Warm regards,
Kate

To: rdiresta@stanford.edu[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 11/9/2021 5:37:12 PM
Subject: Delayed Response RE: Stanford HAI Fall Conference
Received: Tue 11/9/2021 5:37:12 PM

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Warm regards,
Kate

To: Jeff Hancock[hancockj@stanford.edu]
Cc: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]; Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 10/18/2021 5:02:19 PM
Subject: Re: IRB determination for the social media component
Received: Mon 10/18/2021 5:02:22 PM

Taking Elliott off that list, because that was a really bad auto-fill. :)

Yes. We should talk about the ethnographic IRB next. My sense is that will be “expedited” which should make a “single IRB” doable.

Kate

On Oct 18, 2021, at 9:22 AM, Jeff Hancock <hancockj@stanford.edu> wrote:

Thanks Kate, and understood on the 'not human subjects' designation. We'll get started here on the social media IRB.

Elena and Sunny, can we coordinate on that this week? Wed at noon or at 2 would work for me for a quick call to get it started.

Kate, I believe the next step in our IRB plan is to start on the qualitative/ethnographic IRBs. Can we add that as a brief point in our meeting on Friday?

--Jeff

*Jeff Hancock
Harry and Norman Chandler Professor of Communication
Founding Director, Stanford Social Media Lab
Stanford University*

On Mon, Oct 18, 2021 at 8:35 AM Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu> wrote:

Thanks for this – looping in Elena from our end...

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Saturday, October 16, 2021 1:27 PM
To: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>; Jeffrey T. Hancock <hancockj@stanford.edu>; Elliott Stevens <res22@uw.edu>
Subject: IRB determination for the social media component

Hi folks,

We just received our “not human subjects” determination for the social media component of the research. Because the IRB doesn't look at these, we can't use a “single IRB” for both institutions on this and you'll likely have to get your own.

I'm attaching our forms in case you want to use anything for your own process.

Also, we're looking forward to our "launch" meeting this coming Friday. We've been waiting for Mike Caulfield to join us — yesterday was his first day, and we're REALLY excited to get started.

Kate

To: rdiresta@stanford.edu[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 10/18/2021 3:36:05 PM
Subject: Delayed Response RE: IRB determination for the social media component
Received: Mon 10/18/2021 3:36:05 PM

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Warm regards,
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To: Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 10/22/2021 4:13:08 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Aspen Commission: Important Updates
Received: Fri 10/22/2021 4:13:08 PM

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To: Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org[Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 10/18/2021 1:24:47 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Share request for "ACID EDIT - Report Recommendations (10.05.2021)"
Received: Mon 10/18/2021 1:24:47 PM

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Cc: Ryan Merkley (Consultant)[Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org]; Garrett Graff[Garrett.Graff@aspeninstitute.org]; Carner Derron[Carner.Derron@aspeninstitute.org]; Kristine Gloria[Kristine.Gloria@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Sun 10/17/2021 6:07:48 PM
Subject: Re: Few Updates
Received: Sun 10/17/2021 6:07:49 PM

Hi everyone,

I took a read through. I offered a single word recommendation in the Essay. I couldn't edit the Recommendations doc, but there's an error in the Civic Empowerment section — I think "ain Corporation" is supposed to be "RAND Corporation". Otherwise, this looks good to me. I think the essay navigates around some of the stickier challenges and we got some really great stuff into the recommendations. I'm open to either option re: the final decision on the Truth and Transformation element — either a more specific recommendation or some blending into the essay.

Great job pulling this all together. And good luck down this final stretch. Thanks for including me!

Warmly,
Kate

On Oct 15, 2021, at 1:40 PM, Vivian Schiller <Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org> wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

Some important updates to our note from yesterday. We've heard from several of you that you'd like time for some additional review of the document now that all the edits are in. This was always our intention — I apologize that this was unclear. We also have heard that some of you would like more clarity on how your contributions will be described. Detail on all that below.

Also, if you have questions or concerns at any point, please reach out to myself or Ryan directly — it's much more difficult for us to address concerns if we don't know about them, or if we only hear them second-hand.

Authorship

The report will be presented as a report from the Aspen Commission on Information Disorder, co-authored and signed by our three co-chairs, with all Commissioners listed as contributors. We propose that the text will read as follows:

"This report is authored by the three co-chairs of the Aspen Commission on Information Disorder: Katie Couric, Rashad Robinson, and Chris Krebs. The Commissioners contributed to the report throughout the process through research, deliberation and discussion, and collaborative working groups which produced the draft recommendations. While the group had broad alignment on the insights and direction of the recommendations, Commissioners were not required to fully endorse every recommendation and insight in the final report."

Report - from here to final

The report copy has just been through our copy-editor. We are asking each one of you to review the edited docs ([essay](#), and [recommendations](#)). Should you find any errors or have any questions, please comment directly into the doc. Once you've completed your review, we'd like to hear from each one of you to sign off on the report. Please do so by the **end of the day on Tuesday Oct 19**. We'll use the balance of the week to address any identified issues. The report will then go to our designer, and you'll all see the final product prior to publication.

Truth and Transformation

There are still significant concerns remaining from Commissioners about the Truth and Transformation recommendation. A number of you have asked for it to be rescoped to focus narrowly on information disorder with very specific actions, or to have it moved out of the recommendations, or categorized as an area for further study. We will work with the co-chairs to identify a solution here, and will report back to you with their decision and any next steps before that is finalized.

Really, this is almost over. Really and truly. But not quite yet. Thank you!

Thanks,

Vivian

--

Vivian Schiller

Executive Director, Aspen Digital

The Aspen Institute

+1-240-463-0496

@vivian

<image001[15].png>

To: rdiresta@stanford.edu[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 10/11/2021 5:10:19 PM
Subject: Delayed Response RE: Logos for you all?
Received: Mon 10/11/2021 5:10:19 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

If this is a media request, please contact Michael Grass (megrass@uw.edu), the Communications Manager at the Center for an Informed Public, who may be able to coordinate a time for us to chat or find another researcher at the Center who can speak with you.

Warm regards,
Kate

To: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
Cc: Jeffrey T. Hancock[hancockj@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 10/11/2021 11:25:06 PM
Subject: Re: Logos for you all?
Received: Mon 10/11/2021 11:25:06 PM

Thanks!

I've sent this off to Sara with our CIP logo and this logo which will have to do double duty as the Stanford/IO logo for now.

But Jeff, please send any other logos so I can add going forward.

Kate

On Oct 11, 2021, at 10:09 AM, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu> wrote:

Here you are!

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Saturday, October 9, 2021 5:43 PM
To: Jeffrey T. Hancock <hancockj@stanford.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Subject: Logos for you all?

Hi Jeff and Renee,

I'm building a slide for the NSF for the SaTC grant and want to make sure we have the right logos for you two. Can you please send me (by Monday) any logo that you might want me to include? (They gave me a quick turnaround for this task!)

Kate

<internet-observatory-2.png>

To: Jeff Hancock[hancockj@stanford.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Sat 10/9/2021 9:42:37 PM
Subject: Logos for you all?
Received: Sat 10/9/2021 9:42:38 PM

Hi Jeff and Renee,

I'm building a slide for the NSF for the SaTC grant and want to make sure we have the right logos for you two. Can you please send me (by Monday) any logo that you might want me to include? (They gave me a quick turnaround for this task!)

Kate

To: Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 10/14/2021 3:22:45 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Report Copy is Done!
Received: Thur 10/14/2021 3:22:45 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

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Warm regards,
Kate

To: smspoliticalinfluencers@gmail.com[smspoliticalinfluencers@gmail.com]
Cc: Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 10/13/2021 10:31:47 PM
Subject: Abstract for Social Media + Society's call for Special Issue on Political Influencers
Received: Wed 10/13/2021 10:31:48 PM
[Starbird-DiResta-Abstract.docx](#)

Dear editors,

We are thrilled to submit this abstract for your consideration for Social Media + Society's call for Special Issue on Political Influencers.

Thank you,
Kate

Title: Exploring top-down and bottom-up dynamics of online influence within a participatory disinformation campaign

Authors: Kate Starbird, Renee DiResta, Isabella Garcia-Camargo, Matt DeButts

The 2020 U.S. election was accompanied by a sustained effort to construct and propagate a false meta-narrative of widespread voter fraud. This narrative took root among a substantial portion of the U.S. population, functioning to undermine trust in election procedures and election results, and eventually motivating a violent political protest — for some an attempt to prevent certification of what they believed to be fraudulent election results — at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021.

Following other scholars, we examine this activity as a disinformation campaign. Contrasting with descriptions of disinformation that emerged from 2016 — where researchers and journalists focused on a coordinated campaign by a foreign government — we conceptualize this campaign as a domestic and participatory one, where elites and online crowds collaborated to produce and spread disinformation. In this paper, we explore both the top-down and bottom-up dynamics of this participatory disinformation campaign, and the role that influencers played as conduits.

For this research, we employ a primarily qualitative approach to the study of social media activity around four distinct narratives within this larger campaign. Starting with seed data from three platforms (Twitter, Facebook, and Parler), we follow the digital traces to describe how influencers and participatory crowds worked across platforms to produce and amplify false and misleading narratives of voter fraud. We explore relationships between credentialed, high-visibility influencers (i.e. elites in media and politics) and the audiences with whom they work to co-create and distribute disinformation. We identify and describe the roles that uncredentialed influencers play — e.g. in moving content between online crowds and credentialed influencers. We also highlight how some of these influencers began to organize on top of these false and misleading narratives of voter fraud, and how online action manifested as and connected to offline action.

This work contributes to a more nuanced understanding of disinformation as well as the different kinds of actors that function to seed, produce, and spread it. Its implications include considerations for social media platforms — and possibly government regulators — including recommendations for increased focus on the dynamics of influence, rather than the substance of content, as they work to minimize the spread of false and misleading narratives.

To: Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Sat 10/9/2021 6:39:45 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Please review the new report draft
Received: Sat 10/9/2021 6:39:45 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

If this is a media request, please contact Michael Grass (megrass@uw.edu), the Communications Manager at the Center for an Informed Public, who may be able to coordinate a time for us to chat or find another researcher at the Center who can speak with you.

Warm regards,
Kate

To: Vivian Schiller[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Sat 10/9/2021 6:01:43 PM
Subject: Re: Please review the new report draft
Received: Sat 10/9/2021 6:01:44 PM

Added some comments. I'm particularly adamant about adjusting those definitions. The current definitions of mis/disinformation in there don't line up with historical perspectives or the evolving conversations around participatory disinformation. At the very least, we should avoid invoking the contested views on that.

I highly recommend:

- Misinformation = false information, not necessarily intentional
- Disinformation = false or misleading information, purposefully created or strategically amplified to mislead for a purpose — i.e. political, financial, or social gain

Kate

On Oct 8, 2021, at 1:23 PM, Vivian Schiller <Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org> wrote:

Hi Kate, Hoping you can take a look at the revised [context essay](#) and [recommendations copy](#). Both are shorter and generally tighter. Hope this solves some of your concerns but for sure we want to hear from you! You can just drop any comments right into the doc – or reach out here. . Thanks
Vivian

--

Vivian Schiller

Executive Director, Aspen Digital

The Aspen Institute

+1-240-463-0496

@vivian

<image001[33].png>

To: Isabella Garcia-Camargo[bellagc@stanford.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 9/29/2021 5:02:27 PM
Subject: QAnon paper
Received: Wed 9/29/2021 5:02:33 PM
[QAnon Italy Paper draft.pdf](#)

Hi Bella and Renee,

I tracked down the paper and authors (Irene Pasquetto). Unfortunately, I also tipped her off that it has been accepted before the official acceptances go out (tomorrow, it seems). Whoops!

In any case, we should definitely cite this. And I think it's a great example of the style we might want to use.

Kate

Disinformation as Infrastructure: Making and maintaining the QAnon conspiracy on Italian digital media

ANONYMOUS

Building from sociotechnical studies of disinformation and of information infrastructures, we examine how – over a period of eleven months – Italian QAnon supporters designed and maintained a distributed, multi-layered “infrastructure of disinformation” that spans multiple social media platforms, messaging apps, online forums, alternative media channels, as well as websites, databases, and content aggregators. Examining disinformation from an infrastructural lens reveals how QAnon disinformation operations extend well-beyond the use of social media and the construction of false narratives. While QAnon conspiracy theories continue to evolve and adapt, the overarching (dis)information infrastructure through which “epistemic evidence” is constructed and constantly updated is rather stable and has increased in size and complexity over time. Most importantly, we also found that deplatforming is a time-sensitive effort. The longer platforms wait to intervene, the harder it is to eradicate infrastructures as they develop new layers, get distributed across the Internet, and can rely on a critical mass of loyal followers. More research is needed to examine whether the key characteristics of the disinformation infrastructure that we identified extend to other disinformation infrastructures, which might include infrastructures put together by climate change denialists, vaccine skeptics, or voter fraud advocates.

CCS Concepts: • **Human-centered computing** → **Collaborative and social computing**; • **Social and professional topics** → **Computing / technology policy**.

Additional Key Words and Phrases: social media, information infrastructures, disinformation, misinformation, media manipulation

ACM Reference Format:

anonymous. 2021. Disinformation as Infrastructure: Making and maintaining the QAnon conspiracy on Italian digital media. In *Proceedings of '21: ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing ('21)*. ACM, New York, NY, USA, 32 pages. <https://doi.org/10.1145/nnnnnnn.nnnnnnn>

1 INTRODUCTION

In this paper, we examine what we refer to as an “infrastructure of disinformation.” Our case study is the QAnon conspiracy theory, and specifically its instantiation on Italian digital media and in the Italian language. QAnon is typically described as a right-wing conspiracy theory derived from a series of “Q Drops” (also referred to as “droplets of truth”). Drops are short, cryptic posts released on the image boards 4chan and 8chan by an anonymous individual self-identified as Q, and they are written “as if seeking interpretation by a participatory audience” [54]. The QAnon phenomenon has been discussed through a variety of analytical lenses, notably as a religion or faith [56], as a behavioral tendency or identity-confirming dynamic [55], and as a participatory game [41]. A growing number of scholars, however, are investigating QAnon as a research movement, as it is characterized by specific epistemic practices. The practice of endless research is key to QAnon. Its influencers often refer to QAnon itself as a “research group” and invite followers to “do your research” as a mechanism for sense-making [18, 54]. QAnon research activities never happen in a vacuum but

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Manuscript submitted to ACM

53 always in the context of highly structured and well-organized systems of sense-making [18, 54]. For example, Donovan
54 & Friedberg [18] discuss how Pizzagate-theory supporters created and spread special codes on forums and platforms
55 with the goal of inviting other users to compare, discuss, and use them as signs of early evidence in what they describe
56 as a guided research process. Pizzagate, then, can be better understood as an extended research effort, rather than
57 as a single campaign or a narrative organized around a breaking news cycle. Similarly, Marwick & Partin (2020) –
58 reconstructing the process through which Q Drops become proofs – argue that QAnon’s “institutionalized orientation
59 towards knowledge production distinguishes QAnon from other conspiratorial online communities, which primarily
60 rely on anecdotal evidence rather than systematic inquiry to sow doubt in scientific consensus” [54]. Via *systematic*
61 *inquiry*, QAnon supporters intend “to produce certainty via the construction of alternative facts” [54].
62
63

64 Building on this understanding of QAnon as a research phenomenon, we investigate QAnon affiliates as the designers
65 and users of a distributed “infrastructure of (dis)information.” Scholars within CSCW and related fields have long studied
66 the design and maintenance of information infrastructures in the context of scientific endeavors [21, 35, 40, 77], arguing
67 that such infrastructures are essential for the organization and sustainability of today’s scientific work. Similarly, we
68 argue that the infrastructure put in place by QAnon supporters is central to their work as disinformation agents. We show
69 how – over a period of eleven months – Italian QAnon influencers/designers engineered a distributed, multi-layered
70 infrastructure of disinformation that spans multiple platforms, websites, databases, aggregators, tools, forums, and
71 alternative media channels. Examples of infrastructural work include linking and tagging QAnon “research material”
72 in provisional, ever-changing networks of meanings; designing and maintaining web databases that automatically
73 aggregate and translate QAnon content coming from the US into Italian; organizing multiple, international sources of
74 disinformation into curated collections; and engineering algorithmic tools (e.g., chat bots) to help with the management
75 and maintenance of different layers of the infrastructure.
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78

79 The infrastructural lens helps us to establish the wide variety of daily activities of QAnon influencers/designers
80 beyond that of managing social media accounts and creating false narratives. The influencers/designers’ endgame is not
81 only to promote disinformation campaigns, but also to create new tools and systems of distributed sense-making that
82 are distributed and sustainable over time. Influencers/designers deploy different layers of such distributed infrastructure
83 in order to legitimize certain theories at the expense of others and guide users (their followers) towards an agreed-upon
84 explanation of events. We found that, while their conspiratorial theories keep evolving and adapting, the infrastructure
85 through which these are sustained and made sense of is rather stable and has increased in size and complexity over time.
86 Most importantly, once the infrastructure is in place and its users (the QAnon followers) successfully adopted its daily
87 practices and routines, there is little operations like deplatforming and shadowing can do to eradicate it. Deplatforming
88 is a time-sensitive effort. Platforms work as springboards for disinformation infrastructures. The longer platforms
89 wait to intervene, the harder it is to eradicate disinformation infrastructures as they create new layers and distribute
90 themselves beyond social media platforms.
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94 Our analysis also brought to light specific dynamics of power that, we believe, distinguish QAnon disinformation
95 infrastructure from information infrastructures, such as those developed in scientific environments. We found that – at
96 least among Italian QAnons – QAnon influencers manage infrastructural and epistemic work in an authoritarian fashion.
97 The frontend of the QAnon infrastructure is available to all, while its design and backend is tightly controlled by a few
98 key figures (i.e., the QAnon influencers/designers). Influencers/designers do not allow their followers to participate in
99 any negotiation over how information is organized or curated. While influencers are the designers of the infrastructure,
100 followers are its consumers and users. Critical infrastructural and epistemic decisions are imposed onto the community
101 of followers/users in a top-down fashion with little transparency. Influencers’ almost unlimited epistemic power seems
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105 to derive at least in part from their status as designers of the infrastructure. QAnon followers appear to highly respect
106 influencers' relentless effort and ability to build information resources, guides, websites, tools, and other infrastructural
107 components. Followers/users regard influencers as experts who conduct specialized work. Influencers/designers also
108 retain control over whether a QAnon supporter can become a maintainer of the infrastructure (e.g., a developer of
109 chat bots). Being elected a maintainer of the infrastructure is considered a privilege, and, for this reason, users gladly
110 conduct it as free labor.
111

112 We chose to study the infrastructural work of QAnons on the Italian digital environment, as opposed to in the US or
113 in any other region, for several reasons. First, all authors have extensive experience researching Italian digital media,
114 culture, and society. Second, we wanted to bring attention to the process through which disinformation operations
115 that originate in the US take root in foreign countries, given that – so far – research on disinformation operations
116 paid great attention to the phenomenon almost exclusively in the opposite direction (e.g., disinformation operations
117 that originate in foreign countries such as Russia and Iran and then spread in the US). Also, at the moment, research
118 on QAnon outside of the US is scarce or generalist in nature [45]. Lastly, given its relatively limited scale, the Italian
119 instantiation of QAnon represents an ideal case study for our methodological approach, which is mostly qualitative in
120 nature. Typically, digital ethnographic methods employed to study online communities and Internet cultures collect
121 and examine “thick data” on one or a few well-defined and limited in scale case studies [14, 29].
122
123
124

125 2 WHAT ARE INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURES? 126

127 Theoretically, we take an interdisciplinary approach with supportive literature and methodologies from infrastructure
128 studies and disinformation studies, which are both prominent within the CSCW community. We study infrastructure as
129 a “fundamentally relational and distributed entity” made of layers of both physical and abstract entities [79]. From
130 disinformation studies we derive the concept that particular individuals (disinformation agents) rely on their status
131 as online influencers to initiate the spread of a disinformation campaign [80, 83]. Overall, we take from this line of
132 work the proposal to study disinformation as an active, participatory process of digital gatekeeping, and focus on the
133 processes of information curation enacted by disinformation agents, as opposed to solely looking at how it is received
134 by audiences [81].
135
136
137

138 2.1 Sociotechnical and information infrastructures 139

140 Star & Ruhleder (1995) proposed what is now a classic definition of infrastructure: a “fundamentally relational and
141 distributed entity” that emerges for people in practice and structure [79]. An infrastructure is relational in the sense that
142 the daily work of one person is the infrastructure of another [79]. It is distributed through its layers of both physical and
143 abstract entities, such as computers, tools, humans, protocols, standards, and memory practices [8, 36]. These different
144 components are studied as parts of the same complex and constantly changing network [8]. Within infrastructure
145 studies, these are theorized through a sociotechnical lens, which refutes the idea that social and technical phenomena
146 are distinct and contradictory [77] [8], as social and technical problems and solutions exist in a relation of codependency
147 and mutual shaping. The sociotechnical approach also offers the concept of affordance, a well-known analytical tool
148 within CSCW: the idea that technology allows humans to accomplish a finite number of actions. These actions can be
149 multiplied and are sometimes exponentially increased, but cannot be infinite. Hence infrastructures, like laws, “create
150 both opportunities and limits; they promote some interests at the expense of others” [19, 90].
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154 The key modalities through which infrastructures are built and maintained are summarized in Table 1. For its
155 participants, an infrastructure is neither “natural” nor “automatic,” but it is learned through time and practice. By adopting
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157 routines and formalizing processes, participants become members of the infrastructure. When an infrastructure works
 158 properly, it normally becomes invisible and taken for granted. However, such stability is only apparent: infrastructures
 159 continue to change and are subject to moments of breakdown, especially if they are not properly maintained [38, 88].
 160 Failure and restoration are then recognized as core dimensions of an infrastructure and key to its ability to support
 161 speeding up and accelerating over time. “Maintainers” – those responsible for the hard and often neglected work of
 162 repairing infrastructures – are necessary to the infrastructures as much as designers, inventors, and early adopters [32].
 163
 164

165 Base-line functioning	Different perspectives, standards, conventions of practice, and cultural and organizational challenges need to be in place in order for the infrastructure to function. Routines are particularly important. In order to function, an infrastructure needs to be woven into the daily practices of the workers.
166 Co-dependent layering	An infrastructure is built upon other layers, and, at the same time, is shaped and constrained by its relations to them. In this sense, infrastructures are embedded in other structures, social arrangements, and technologies.
167 Participation & membership	To actively participate in an infrastructure is neither “natural” nor “automatic” for participants, but is something that is learned as a part of a membership within a particular professional, social, or cultural community.
168 Flux & stability	Because technologies, humans, and policies involved in the infrastructure constantly change, infrastructures themselves also keep evolving. Indeed, infrastructures are unstable systems.

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Table 1. Key characteristics of an infrastructure, from Star and Ruhler (1994)

200 Reformulating Castells (1996) and Hughes’ work (1983) [10, 33], scholars of infrastructures have also developed
 201 a model for understanding how infrastructures change over time [20, 37]. Infrastructures are initially about the
 202 accomplishment of scale as they grow into networks. During their formation, infrastructures are sites of intense conflict.
 203 Discrepancies in the fundamental experience and vision of infrastructures start to emerge and materialize especially in
 204 the relation to designer assumptions and user expectations [8]. Also, developing infrastructures can disconnect existing
 205 institutional, legal, and property regimes. If they survive this initial phase, infrastructures undergo an intermediate phase
 206 in which they adapt and mutate to finally become heterogeneous systems linked to each other via the consolidation of
 207 agreed upon gateways (e.g., standardizations). Once in place, provisional winners and losers are established. It is in
 208 this stage that the infrastructure “disappears” and is taken for granted [7, 21]. The concept of “momentum” signifies
 the necessary condition under which the infrastructure develops in trajectories and path dependencies [39]. The key
 takeaway here is that once an infrastructure begins to grow in a specific direction, it is hard to change it [39].

Here, we are interested in computer-based, information infrastructures. Key to an information infrastructure is its
 ability “to flow and translate” information from a local to a global level, as well as across time and space [8, 19, 57].
 Information infrastructures can be of many kinds. Scholars within the CSCW community (and related fields) have paid
 great attention to the study of information infrastructures within the sciences and governments. Science infrastructures
 – sometimes called cyberinfrastructures [3, 69] – are keys to the coordination of today’s large-scale, distributed scientific
 collaborations. They consist of “layers that sit between base technology (databases, metadata schemas, etc.) and domain-
 specific science” [3, 69]. Collaborative work has been found to be necessary for the design and successful adoption of a

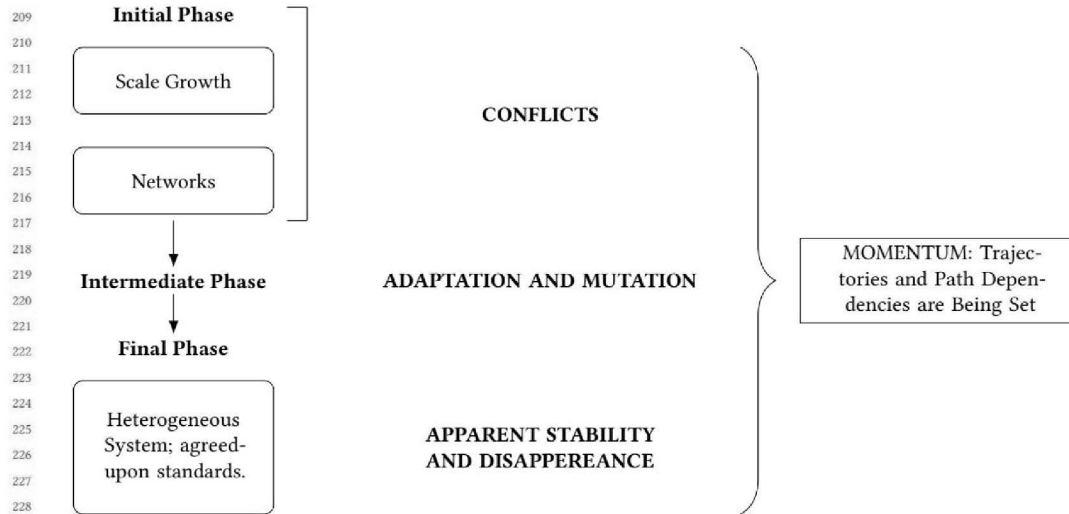


Fig. 1. Evolution of an infrastructure over time

science information infrastructure [64]. Individuals with different skills, backgrounds, and perspectives need to find ways to collaborate in its construction. For example, technologists in charge of building the technical infrastructure (computer engineers, software developers, data curators, etc.) need to collaborate with domain experts who will be using the information to produce knowledge (scientists, clinicians etc.) [8, 68].

Most importantly, information infrastructures within the sciences rely on the design and maintenance of controlled vocabularies, classification schemas, and ontologies to work effectively and produce knowledge, allowing information to move within and across disciplinary frameworks [40]. In this sense, ontology work is seen as “a quintessential act of distribution – taking knowledge out of a closed community of practice and allowing for its reuse and reshaping by others in different fields” [8]. As Bowker reminds us via Star, “an infrastructure occurs when the tension between local and global is resolved” [8, 79]. Hence, science information infrastructures are expressions of specific “epistemic cultures,” namely “those amalgams of arrangements and mechanisms – bonded through affinity, necessity, and historical coincidence – which, in a given field, make up how we know what we know” [11]. And “boundary objects” – entities that are both plastic enough to adapt to local needs and constraints of the parties employing them, yet robust enough to maintain a common identity across sites [78] – can help the process of knowledge transfer between communities. For example, scientists use databases to negotiate competing practices and priorities across different communities [4, 35].

Bureaucratic systems are another example of information infrastructures [9]. Bureaucratic categories and standards are technically and socially constructed, and their design demands infrastructural workers to make critical decisions over what counts as knowledge, and about the hierarchical relationship between different knowledge objects [85]. Bureaucratic categories and standards, then, contribute to the representation of objects in the standardized representations of just about anything: diseases, animals, human races, pharmaceutical products, and so on. These categories “take on life in the daily practices of industry, medicine, science, education and government” [85]. Bureaucratic infrastructures, like science infrastructures, have a great power in shaping modern life, as much as Edwards suggested that our interaction

261 and reliance on information infrastructures to navigate the world is a fundamental component of our own condition of
262 being modern, or, in his words that “[t]o be modern is to live within and by means of infrastructures” [20].
263

264 **2.2 Disinformation: definitions and current approaches** 265

266 Alongside science and bureaucratic information infrastructures, emerging disinformation infrastructures are gaining
267 political ground and public influence. Their aim is also to produce and promote novel ways of knowing. However,
268 they start from very different premises, which are false, misleading or manipulative in nature. Where information
269 infrastructures aim to produce knowledge, “disinformation infrastructures” aim to produce falsehood, confusion and
270 social disruption.
271

272 “Disinformation” is generally used to refer to the creation and/or distribution of deliberately false or misleading
273 information [34]. Practices of disinformation have been studied by many, in a variety of disciplines (psychology,
274 network science, political science, media studies, etc.) [47, 49], including CSCW [2, 13, 80]. The research presented in
275 this paper builds on a line of work within disinformation studies that sees disinformation as the product of politically-
276 motivated agents who create, share, and amplify disinformation content to generate chaos and disorder [44, 53, 80] [58].
277 Disinformation agents, like scientists and bureaucrats, operate within the constraints of technological affordances, such
278 as user-interface interactions (e.g., tweet or repost), algorithms, and advertising models.
279

280 The organized work of disinformation agents is traditionally described with the framework of “disinformation
281 operations” or “disinformation campaigns.” The modern notion of a disinformation operation is for the most part
282 derived derived by Bittman [5] and, later, Rid [70]. These scholars characterize disinformation operations as top-
283 down, centrally-coordinated interventions. Also referred to as “active measures,” disinformation operations are the
284 methodological outputs of large bureaucracies (i.e., state actors), rely on tactics of systematic deception, require
285 participation from the media and the public (intentional or not), are meant at changing behavior (especially in terms
286 of political attitudes) and are always directed toward a specific end, usually to weaken the target adversary [5, 70].
287 Operations also normally contain some degree of falsehood, for example forged documentation might be presented
288 as reliable evidence, disinformation agents may pretend to be someone they are not, and online accounts involved
289 in the surfacing or amplification of an operation may be inauthentic [70]. Most importantly, Rid observes that these
290 operations consistently tap into existing fears and existing prejudices of the target, whether the target is the society at
291 large, an individual, or an organization, gently and slowly exacerbating those concerns and nudging them along specific,
292 pre-established directions [70]. To illustrate this, Rid gives the example of a 1959 anti-Semitic campaign organized
293 by the Komitet Gosudarstvennoy Bezopasnosti (KGB) in Berlin. This campaign was effective precisely because it
294 tapped into existing sentiments, it did not invent anything new (antisemitism was still common among the German
295 population). Existing trauma constituted the raw material for a successful operation. Thus, disinformation operations
296 extract and weaponize “basic truths” – also referred to as “rational cores” – that can be easily verified but that can also be
297 manipulated with the addition of half-truths, exaggerations, or lies [80]. At-scale, disinformation operations are attacks
298 against a liberal epistemic order, or a political system that places its trust in essential custodians of factual authority (e.g.,
299 political and scientific institutions). Thus, over the course of years, operations may affect how the targeted audience
300 perceives reality [70].
301

302 Building on the field of crisis informatics and prior studies of misinformation, Starbird et al. argued that disinformation
303 can also be more generally understood as a campaign – an assemblage of information actions – employed to mislead for a
304 strategic, political purpose [80]. Starbird et al. work shows that, because they are participatory in nature, disinformation
305 campaigns can involve different degrees of coordination [80]. Disinformation campaigns can be “orchestrated” by a set
306

313 of paid actors or automated bots or entirely driven by organic traffic [91]. Freelon et al. showed how Russian social
314 media trolls on Twitter exploited racial and political identities to infiltrate distinct groups of authentic users, playing
315 on their group identities [26]. Starbird et al. argued that the campaign against the White Helmets was particularly
316 successful because of its ability to reach diverse audiences across platforms: it sustained itself through consistent and
317 complementary use of social media platforms and “alternative” news websites [89]. Linvill et al. identified a three-phase
318 life cycle of Internet Research Agency (IRA) engagement’s with authentic users, which was key to introducing new troll
319 accounts, to increasing their prominence, and, finally, to amplifying the messages these external accounts produced [50].
320

321 Others have researched more precisely the active role played by disinformation actors in shaping the success and
322 adoption of disinformation narratives [17, 18, 76]. This line of work openly challenges the idea that disinformation
323 campaigns are passively received by audiences and accepted via identity-confirming dynamics. Instead, audiences, by
324 engaging in an active process of collective sense-making, are deliberately convinced to believe in a certain narrative.
325 Particular individuals rely on their status as online influencers to initiate the spread of a campaign [84]. To propagate
326 their narratives and artifacts, these individuals might employ manipulation tactics that can include altering one’s
327 identity or the source of the artifact, changing the meaning or context of an artifact, and using artificial coordination,
328 such as bots [17, 18, 76]. The expression “trading up the chain” refers to the how key users first popularize narratives
329 on message forums (e.g., 4chan) and then increase the visibility of those same narratives via more mainstream media
330 actors such as social media influencers, bloggers, commentators, and partisan media personalities [52].
331

332 Following this line of work, we study disinformation as an active, participatory process of digital gatekeeping, and
333 focus on the processes of information curation enacted by disinformation agents, as opposed to solely looking at how
334 disinformation is received by audiences [81]. For the purpose of this paper, we understand the QAnon phenomenon as
335 an instance of a disinformation operation or, better, a campaign, as opposed to, for example, a case of online activism.
336 Our observations show that QAnon influencers rely on tactics of systematic deception, often employ forged documents
337 as evidence, their campaigns are directed toward specific political targets and ends and tap into existing fears and
338 trauma within the Italian population. Italian QAnon influencers often use pseudonyms and construct false identities
339 around these by claiming competence and expertise that they do not have. For example, they claim to be scholars of
340 international politics or special forces agents. However, our investigative work strongly suggests that they are neither
341 (after identifying their legal names and public records). One key difference between QAnon and other disinformation
342 operations is that QAnon is not state-sponsored in the traditional sense of the term, though it received public support
343 from politicians in the United States, notably from former US President Donald Trump and Congressional Representative
344 Marjorie Taylor Greene. We would also like to acknowledge that the QAnon phenomenon – like most disinformation
345 campaigns – operates with varying degree of coordination, awareness and intent. Thus, a limitation of this paper is
346 that we were not always able to draw a clear, unequivocal line between those QAnons who actively and intentionally
347 mislead others from those QAnons who are passively misled and honestly believe in the QAnon narratives.
348

349 2.3 “Deplatforming” as a countermeasure to online disinformation

350 Over the last five years or so “deplatforming” has become a prominent tactic to counter hate and false speech online.
351 It is typically defined as “the action or practice of preventing someone holding views regarded as unacceptable or
352 offensive from contributing to a forum or debate, especially by blocking them on a particular website” [16]. In practice,
353 deplatforming interventions can focus on single users, specific groups, or entire websites. People and websites have been
354 deplatformed at different layers of the Internet infrastructure, including Web hosting services, social media platforms
355 and mobile apps. Famous cases include the deplatforming of Milo Yiannopoulos, a former Breitbart personality who was
356

365 removed from Twitter for targeting individuals with harassment campaigns in 2017; the Daily Storm, a central Internet
366 hub for white nationalists that was banned from multiple Web hosting services and apps the same year following
367 clashes and a death at a “Unite the Right” rally in Charlottesville (Virginia, USA); Alex Jones, the host of American
368 far-right conspiracy theory website InfoWars who was removed by YouTube, Spotify, Apple, and Facebook for inciting
369 hatred and violence in 2018; and, recently, Donald Trump and thousands of QAnon accounts linked to storming of the
370 US Capitol in early 2021, who were suspended by Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube [24, 51].
371

372 Deplatforming is a contested territory. Arguments in favor or against it tend to rotate around either “ethical/legal”
373 aspects or its actual efficacy in limiting the spread of dangerous speech online. Those concerned with the former aspect
374 question whether private companies should retain control over Internet speech and whether deplatforming should
375 be the same for all individuals independent on their level of online and offline influence [24]. Those concerned with
376 its efficacy argue that deplatforming could turn extremists into martyrs and that mass-migration of deplatformed
377 extremists to alternative platforms could result in even more extreme and less diverse online spaces [72]. Anecdotal
378 evidence suggests that deplatforming works, at least partially, as both Yiannopoulos and Jones general prominence
379 in public discourse has significantly diminished [72]. However, scholarly literature on either aspect of the debate
380 is scarce and results are preliminary in nature. Chandrasekharan et al. studied the deplatforming of the subreddits
381 r/fatpeoplehate and r/coontown, banned by Reddit in 2015 for violating its harassment policies. They found that a
382 significant amount of offending users had left the platform and migrated to the alternative platform Voat and other
383 subreddits, which did not record a significant increase in extreme speech [12]. Recently, Roger investigated the behavior
384 of some popular American far-right influencers after deplatforming [72]. First, he observed “a revival of the Web,” as
385 deplatformed influencers heavily rely on personal websites, blogs, and subscription-based services such as freespeech.tv
386 to communicate with their audiences. Second, he found that the messaging app Telegram served as a refuge for the
387 deplatformed. As observed by Roger, Telegram, because of its combination of private chats and public channels, offers
388 a set of sociotechnical affordances that are attractive to those users seeking “to retain control over what is known
389 about oneself while still participating (and becoming popular) on social media,” a concept also referred to as “social
390 privacy” [67]. Overall, Roger found that on Telegram deplatformed influencers had thinner audiences and seem to use a
391 milder, less-extreme language, while their level of posting remained stable [72].
392

393 A factor that is often discussed as crucial in determining the impact of a deplatforming operation is its timing. In
394 the case of Donald Trump and QAnon deplatforming in early 2021, even those who are generally against the idea of
395 societies depending on companies to police speech online seem to agree that, in the absence of an alternative and given
396 the gravity of the situation, the deplatforming of Trump and QAnon in January 2021 was “the right thing to do” at that
397 moment in time [24]. Others have argued that the deplatforming arrived too late and as a convenient decision driven by
398 the shifting political context and alliances (i.e., the election of Joe Biden) [24]. As we will discuss in the findings section
399 of this paper, a large number of QAnon accounts had been already banned by Facebook and Twitter in a previous,
400 large-scale deplatforming operation that occurred in the Fall of 2020 [30]. Thus, it could be argued that deplatforming
401 operations against QAnons were implemented too late to substantially invert the course of history and prevent the
402 attack on the US Capitol. In the discussion section, we present some insights that – assuming that our findings can be
403 replicated in the US context – may help explain why that might have been the case.
404

412 3 METHODOLOGY

413 This paper centers on a set of questions to investigate the QAnon conspiracy theory on Italian digital media from an
414 infrastructural lens. Building upon the work of scholars like Donovan [44], Marwick [52], Starbird [80] and Tufekci [84],
415

417 we ground our work in the premise that disinformation is better understood as a process that is actively designed and
418 curated by key individuals, via different degrees of coordination. However, by adopting an infrastructural lens, we
419 bring together single units of analysis, such as narratives, manipulation tactics, processes of gatekeeping, etc., and we
420 co-investigate these as they operate in relation to the technical, organizational, and procedural infrastructural work put
421 in place by disinformation agents. Our guiding research questions are derived from the literature on infrastructure
422 studies and are aimed at identifying and revealing the functioning of different aspects of the Italian QAnon infrastructure.
423
424

425 Guiding research questions:

- 426 ■ What are the sociotechnical layers and components of the QAnon infrastructure?
 - 427 □ How do these layers and components relate to each other?
- 428 ■ What individuals and groups contribute to the design and maintenance of the QAnon infrastructure?
 - 429 □ What are their daily practices and routines?
- 430 ■ How is information produced and organized?
 - 431 □ How does information travel from context to context? How is sense made of it by different communities? Are
 - 432 there ontologies, classifications, and standards in place?
- 433 ■ How is collaborative work accomplished?
 - 434 □ Can we identify boundary objects or boundary work?
- 435 ■ How does the infrastructure change during the period of observation?
 - 436 □ Can we identify moments of fragility, breakdown, or path dependency?

442 Our main research method is investigative digital ethnography [27]. This approach combines digital ethnographic
443 methods typically employed to study online communities and Internet cultures, as found in Biella Coleman’s foundational
444 work on Anonymous [14, 15], among others [29], along with virtual ethnography [6, 31], with digital investigative
445 techniques from journalism and security studies [27, 76]. The period of data collection spans eleven months, and
446 extends from early 2020 – when the conspiracy theory gained considerable ground in Italy due to COVID-19 – to
447 Mid-November 2020, following the US general elections. Given its novelty and limited scale, the emergence of the
448 QAnon operation on Italian digital media constitutes an ideal case study for our methods and scope. We first manually
449 identified a set of key influencers who were advancing QAnon narratives on Italian digital media. We reconstructed
450 how these agents worked across platforms and in collaboration with one another. Building on these initial data points,
451 we conducted some quantitative analyses of public Twitter API data that enabled us to identify further key influencers,
452 popular hashtags, and levels of engagement over time (see “Note on Twitter data analysis” below). During Summer
453 2020, two of the authors kept weekly diaries of QAnon activities on Facebook, Twitter, and Telegram, and exchanged
454 notes and comments during daily or weekly meetings with the research team. In October and November 2020, the
455 authors downloaded and coded Telegram chats conversations according to a coding schema developed from the guiding
456 research questions (Fig. 2). We archived images and video via archive.is and The WayBack Machine, when possible, or
457 via screenshots.
458
459
460
461

462 Our digital observational work builds on the recognition that “everything in the digital environment can be gamed
463 and manipulated” by the wide variety of people and entities with incentive to do so [76]. Disinformation activities are
464 described by following a trail of data, interactions, connections, and other digital breadcrumbs that disinformation
465 operatives leave behind [27]. Such investigative work takes nothing at face value and presupposes that things which
466 appear to be quantifiable and data-driven – likes, shares, retweets, traffic, product reviews, advertising clicks – are easily
467
468

469	Variable 1. Relational components: "The daily work of one person is the infrastructure of another"
470	E.g., Veleno I& Sandro etc. built a tool that automatically translates Q Drops into Italian. What kind of infrastructures
471	do Italian QAnons design? Who is responsible for the design? Who maintains these layers of the infrastructure?
472	Who uses them?
473	
474	Variable 2. Distributed components: "An infrastructure if made of layers of both physical and abstract entities, such
475	as computers, tools, humans, protocols, standards, and memory practices"
476	E.g., The influencers coordinate the infrastructural work, but how exactly? Who is responsible for doing what?
477	What kind of other layers exist? How do different layers relate to each other?
478	
479	Variable 3. Tension between global and local: "An infrastructure exists when tension between local and global is
480	resolved"
481	E.g., Influencers put in place specific techniques to translate global ideas from the US into the local Italian context.
482	What are these techniques? What other tensions between local and global can be identified?
483	
484	Variable 4. Ontology and classification schemas: "It is a quintessential act of distribution — taking knowledge out of
485	a closed community of practice and allowing for its reuse and reshaping by others in different fields"
486	E.g., Influencers organized QAnon research material in curated collections and research guides. How is information
487	organized and curated into structures? Who is responsible for this work? Who uses it and to do what?
488	
489	Variable 5. Boundary objects: "Entities that are both plastic enough to adapt to local needs and constraints of the
490	several parties employing them, yet robust enough to maintain a common identity across sites"
491	E.g., Q Drops might work as boundary objects. What are some examples of Q Drops that worked like boundary
492	objects? Can we find other boundary objects?
493	
494	Variable 6. Participation and membership: "To actively participate in an infrastructure is neither 'natural' nor
495	'automatic' for participants, but is something that is learned through time and practice"
496	E.g., QAnon Telegram chats are highly regulated spaces. Not everyone can participate or intervene. How is mem-
497	bership to the group defined? Who makes these decisions? How do users 'practice' being members of the movement?
498	
499	Variable 7. Stability vs breakdown: "Because technologies, humans, and policies involved in the infrastructure
500	constantly change, also infrastructures themselves keep evolving. Indeed, infrastructures are unstable systems."
501	E.g., QAnon infrastructures passed different phases of growth, breakdown and maintenance. What are those phases?
502	Can we identify those phases and describe them in detail?
503	
504	Variable 8. Momentum and path dependencies: "The concept of 'momentum' signifies the necessary condition under
505	which the infrastructure develops in trajectories and path dependencies. Once an infrastructure takes a direction for
506	its growth it is hard to change it."
507	E.g., The pandemic hits, the infrastructure grows into new networks. What are some key infrastructural decisions
508	that changed the path of the infrastructure indefinitely?
509	

Fig. 2. Codebook for Telegram chat conversations

(and often) manipulated. As Silverman noted [76], "by trusting nothing at first, we can engage in work that reveals what we should and should not trust." It is hard to imagine how we could have studied QAnon infrastructural practices if not (primarily) ethnographically. One of the key characteristics of this work is the speed at which influencers change their tactics in order to circumvent deplatforming and shadow-banning operations. Many popular QAnon pages on Facebook and groups on Telegram, for example, purposefully avoid defining themselves as members of a QAnon operation. These

tactics make it difficult to identify them via automated searches. We found these pages through the observation and tracking of key agents over time, listening to their interviews, videos, podcasts, and reading through their chats daily. Telegram chats were another crucial data point. As is their very nature, chats are composed of a variety of conversations that build on each other and unfold in a nested fashion. One user might launch a topic at 8:00 am, and this topic might gain traction multiple times over the course of the day in the chat, resulting in several pieces of conversation that sometimes respond to one another, sometimes are completely disconnected from the prevailing thread. At the same time, that same day on the very same chat, many other topics might pop up, started by the same or by other users. Today's chats conversations might refer back to older conversations, or they might mention symbols, language, and metaphor that mean nothing to an external or automated eye, but that signify a very specific meaning to those active within the QAnon group. Patient observations, note-taking, and iterative coding allowed us to keep track and make sense of key data points that emerged within QAnons activities online.

Note on Twitter data analysis

Building from our ethnographic work, we first identified a series of keywords, hashtags, nicknames and symbols typically employed by QAnon Italian influencers on Twitter to self-identify as QAnon affiliates (see Table 2). Then, we manually selected ten prominent accounts that employed such terminologies in the Twitter names, handles or profile descriptions, and that seemed particularly active and had an established audience. Next, we analyzed 29,056 tweets and retweets published between January 1st, 2020 and July, 24th, 2020 by these ten Twitter accounts. Accounts analyzed published in Italian.

We produced four analyses of these accounts' activities on Twitter. Results are visualized in Figures 7 to 10. The visualizations represent the variations in levels of activity of the ten accounts over the period of study (Figure 7), a ranking of the selected accounts based on number of followers (Figure 8), a ranking of the most active accounts overall (Figure 9), and a ranking of the accounts based on level of engagement (Figure 10).

Our methodology follows an incremental step approach:

- Definition of the thematic area of research (informed by ethnographic observations)
- Choice of social network of interest (informed by ethnographic observations)
- Choice of time interval to analyze (informed by ethnographic observations)
- Search keyword definitions (informed by ethnographic observations)
- Data collection and processing: data is cleaned and filtered to eliminate background noise (quantitative)
- Data analysis: the collected data has been analyzed for critical evaluation (quantitative + qualitative)
- Interpretation: results are interpreted by contextualizing them with ethnographic data (informed by ethnographic observations)

4 FINDINGS

4.1 The "rational core" of QAnon and its Italian instantiation

The QAnon conspiracy theory resembles elements of both traditional disinformation operations and contemporary, Internet-based disinformation campaigns. In a sense, it is a top-down, centrally coordinated operation, allegedly initiated by a single figure, Q, who claims to have special access to classified information, and is purportedly responsible for the

573	Hashtags	#EnjoyTheShow ! #WWG1WGA #InItTogether #TheGreatAwakening #Trump #17Q #Q #Wayfair #HumanTrafficking #FakeNewsAlert #WeAreTheNewsNow #WWG1WGA #QAnon #Trump #Trump2020 #TheGreatAwakening #SheepNoMore #COVID19 #MAGA #MIGA #MEGA #GodWins #TheStormIsUponUs #PainIsComing #5G #wayfairchildtrafficking #FakeNewsMedia #ArrestSoros #SorosEnemyofthepeople #QDrop703 #QAnonSentMe
580	Keywords	Sovranità, antiliberale, anti UE, massoneria, tempesta, massoneria, liberalismo, individualismo, obamagate
582	Symbols	3 stars
583	Emoticons	Frogs, eagles, turtles, trophies
584	Others	National flags (USA, Italy, Germany)

Table 2. Linguistic elements considered for accounts selection

585
586
587
588
589 periodic release of classified information in the form of “Q Drops” (also referred to as “droplets of truth”). Q Drops can
590 be seen as single messages tied together by an overarching narrative based on some elements of truth, what Bittman
591 and Starbird would define as “a rational core” – a basic truth that can be easily verified but that can also be manipulated
592 with the addition of half-truths, exaggerations, or lies [80]. The rational core behind most Q narratives is that corruption,
593 pedophilia, and child abuse are problems in the world. QAnon influencers present themselves as agents who work in
594 the dark to protect children and eradicate corruption worldwide. The overarching, irrational false claim is that a group
595 of wealthy and powerful Democrats – called “the deep state” – runs a pedophile ring while ruling the world from the
596 shadows. QAnon supporters present Donald Trump as the savior of humanity, who will eventually defeat the “deep
597 state evil.”
598
599

600 QAnon is participatory and highly distributed endeavor [86], as groups all around the world access, reuse, and
601 interpret Q Drops in their local contexts. In addition to the US, QAnon groups emerged predominantly in the UK,
602 Germany, and Italy [45]. Concerns with child abuse and corruption are often combined with common right-wing
603 narratives. The exact configuration of such narratives varies across countries and local contexts. While it is beyond the
604 scope of this paper to discuss the ideological stance of QAnon narratives, we briefly review their configuration in the
605 Italian context to provide context based on our own observations and data collections. Similar to US QAnons, Italian
606 QAnon supporters strongly oppose freedom of movement across national borders. In the Italian context, nationalistic
607 undertones are paired with anti-European Union sentiments. Italian QAnons also share with US QAnons an emphasis
608 on individual over collective values and rights in a libertarian fashion. The antipathy for government interference is
609 evident in their characterization of COVID-19 emergency protocols as a “public health dictatorship,” or of the Italian
610 government itself as “a fascist regime” because of its attempts to limit anti-lockdown protests and penalize individuals
611 who refused to wear protective masks during the COVID-19 emergency.
612
613

614 Italian QAnon anti-globalist sentiments often translate into a dislike of late-stage capitalism, as it is embodied by
615 multinational corporations like McDonalds, Microsoft, Amazon, most pharmaceutical companies, etc. This goes hand
616 in hand with their distrust of “official science,” as they see it as a product of “big pharma” and “the deep state.” Not
617 surprisingly, some Italian QAnons identify themselves as ex-members of the Italian party Movimento 5 Stelle, “5 Stars
618 Movement.” The Movement – which included several members who expressed skepticism of “official science” and global
619 economies – has been losing popularity since it made a deal with the Italian center-left party, Partito Democratico, in
620 2019, leaving fertile ground for QAnon conspiracy theories to take root in its disenfranchised ex-members. We also
621
622
623
624

625 observed elements of technophobia, as many Italian QAnons fear advancements in technology – some supporters
 626 noted their use of burner phones to avoid tracking, others deleted all apps from their smartphones, or got rid of their
 627 televisions.
 628

629 “NO VAX, NO MCDONALD’S, NO AMAZON, NO TV, NO BANK, NO 5G, NO PEDO, NO WAR”
 630
 631

632 Fig. 3. A list of keywords as they appear on the profile description of an Italian QAnon supporter on Twitter.
 633

634
 635 Italian QAnon supporters call for state intervention in support of unemployed people and small businesses. They
 636 explicitly advocate for a welfare state that supports the low and middle class and taxes exclusively foreign corporations.
 637 Thus, Italian QAnon is characterized by a national-socialist undertone and it cultivates an antipathy for plutocracies. Also
 638 consistent with European national-socialist ideologies is the presence of antisemitism. We observed several instances
 639 of antisemitic rhetoric, such as references to the Elders of Zion. In Italy, antisemitism is a wide-spread phenomenon,
 640 as in many other European countries, it is then hard to establish whether QAnon supporters are antisemitic or just
 641 representative of the general population. Italian QAnons also share a fascination of strong leaders, such as former US
 642 President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin. On Telegram, Italian QAnons actively fund raised for
 643 the Trump 2020 re-election campaign (or at least attempted to), as they believe that Trump intends to intervene in
 644 Italian politics to clean up its corruption.
 645
 646

647 Overall, our observations suggest that – in the Italian context, at the very least – the claim that a deep state-organized
 648 ring of pedophiles controls the world is only one aspect of a multifaceted social and political ideology. On their channels
 649 and in chats, Italian QAnons openly demand a “sovrani state” that stops immigration, is independent from the EU,
 650 provides widespread and ever-lasting economic security for its citizens, and heavily taxes multinational (non-Italian)
 651 companies. At the same time, from their perspective, the nation-state should not be allowed to interfere with the
 652 individual freedoms of Italian citizens in any way.
 653
 654
 655

656 4.2 The origins: QAnon as a “research movement”

657 Hillary Clinton has been a preferred subject of American conspiracy theories since the early 90s [87]. It should not surprise,
 658 then, that false accusations against Clinton constituted the building blocks of the QAnon conspiracy theory. During
 659 the 2016 US presidential election cycle, building on previous allegations against Clinton [92], American conspiracy
 660 theorists invented and promoted the “Pizzagate” conspiracy theory on the 4chan message board – the same board that
 661 will later be used by Q to post publicly for the first time. Proponents of Pizzagate falsely claimed that leaked John
 662 Podesta emails – Hillary Clinton’s campaign manager – contained coded messages that linked some Democratic Party
 663 officials to an alleged human trafficking and child sex ring [18, 54]. Pizzagate supporters also claimed that a pizzeria
 664 called “Comet Ping Pong” in Washington, D.C. was a key hub of the non-existent child sex ring. The false theory went
 665 viral and some conspirators acted on the theory. In Fall 2016, the restaurant staff received death threats from conspiracy
 666 theorists [42], and in early December 2016 a man from North Carolina traveled over 300 miles to Comet Ping Pong to
 667 investigate the conspiracy and fired a rifle three times inside the restaurant [43].
 668
 669
 670

671 The Pizzagate case is an important tool of analysis, as it contained signs of what QAnon’s infrastructural and epistemic
 672 practices would become [18]. QAnon research activities do not happen in a vacuum but always in the context of a highly
 673 structured and well-organized system of sense-making. They created and spread special codes on forums and platforms
 674 with the goal of inviting other users to compare, discuss, and use them as signs of early evidence in a guided research
 675
 676

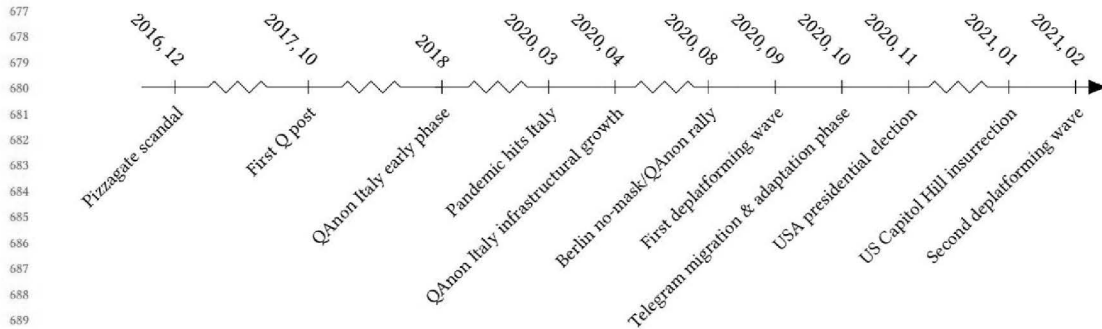


Fig. 4. QAnon Italy Infrastructure: Timeline of Key Events

process. These elaborated ways of collective sense-making have been identified as “evidence collage” [18]. As Donovan and Friedberg noted (2019), “Pizzagate was not the product of a single campaign organized around a breaking news event” [18]. Instead, they suggest, Pizzagate is better understood as an “extended effort” that was coordinated across multiple platforms, and that eventually culminated in the coverage of Pizzagate on both mainstream and alternative news, conspiracy media outlets, and alternative and independent blogs.

After Pizzagate, conspiracy theorists’ activities on message boards gradually started to converge around the overarching effort of revealing the supposedly secret activities of an “evil deep state” controlled by the Democratic Party. In October 2017, a 4chan user posting as “Q” claimed that a series of extraditions and arrests related to the deep state were being deployed around the world. Among many other claims, Q also linked the unsolved murder of Democratic National Committee staffer Seth Rich to Hillary Clinton, and implied that Hillary Clinton was somehow responsible for the tragic plane crash that killed John F. Kennedy Jr. in 1999. A few months later, Q moved their activities to 8chan, where Q consolidated the idea of QAnon as a “research movement” on the CBTS (“Calm Before The Storm”) sub-board. On the sub-board, Q repeatedly invited its followers to “do their research” – a slogan that is still prominent among QAnon supporters at the time of our data collection. American QAnon research activities are supported by a series of research tools such as aggregators, databases, websites, video and radio channels, affiliated blogs, forums, among others. In the following pages we will describe how a similar infrastructure was designed and promoted by Italian QAnon supporters over time (see Figure 4).

4.3 QAnon in Italy: early stages 2018/2019

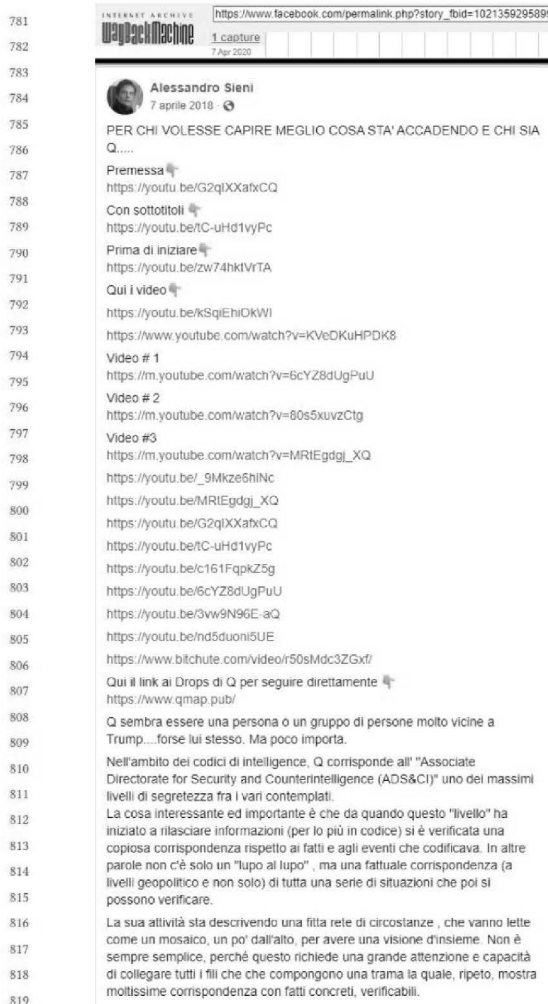
Traces of QAnon theories can be found on Italian digital media since 2018 [71]. A preliminary analysis of Italian Google searches for “QAnon,” QAnon Facebook posts (CrowdTangle data), and tweets matching the keywords “WWG1WGA” (“Where We Go One, We Go All” – a motto taken up by QAnon supporters) and “QAnon” suggested that QAnon narratives were present on the Italian digital media landscape well before the pandemic [71]. By using the Wayback Machine and manual retrieval of old posts, we found that in this initial pre-pandemic, pre-infrastructure phase (2018-2019), Italian “early QAnon influencers” promoted QAnon narratives on Italian media as they were presented to them by American QAnon accounts. They would carefully translate QAnon narratives in Italian, detail by detail, reference by reference, but they would avoid completing or enriching such narratives with personal interpretations of events – as

729 they would do at later stages of infrastructure building. Early QAnon influencers made little or no references to Italian
730 political and social context, and instead directly re-shared posts from US QAnon accounts, which were either reposting
731 Q Drops or posting news articles from US right-wing media such as The Gateway Pundit, Fox News, and One America
732 News Network.
733

734 Among these early influencers, the account “Alessandro Sieni” caught our attention for the highly structured and
735 articulated cross-platform, information organizational work that he put in place. Sieni created a series of consecutive,
736 intertwining online information resources and “research guides” that translated into Italian the most prominent QAnon
737 theories and concepts, posting long Facebook posts that linked to and built on each other in a Russian doll fashion
738 – with the oldest message at the center of the matryoshka and the more recent ones composing its external layers.
739 Rhetorically and thematically, newer posts built on older posts and references them as key resources. None of these
740 posts is currently visible on Facebook; an example of an archived public post from 2018 is available at this URL [75]. See
741 also Figure 5, (a). Each post was 2000 to 6000 words in length and followed a recursive structure. Sieni’s posts would
742 start by linking to a set of American QAnon Youtube and BitChute videos (with Italian captions), to be watched as
743 the “premises” for what was to follow [62, 65]. See also Figure 5, (b). Each video had the goal of building up “evidence”
744 towards constructing the core QAnon narrative that liberal media and politicians lead democratic institutions not for
745 the well-being of the people or local businesses, but for their own benefit. This group, the narrative goes on, designed a
746 network of influence that reinforces itself, and that keeps others (e.g., conservatives) outside via “political correctness”
747 – a mechanism of the so-called “deep state.” Wars and the global economy are introduced as the evil products of the evil
748 network.
749

750 Sieni’s posts would then link to some of the many QAnon aggregator of Q Drops [66]. These posts would contain
751 detailed information about the identity of Q (or speculations about it), Q’s security privileges, Q’s ability to predict
752 events, and Q’s intention of building a group of “informed individuals” who – Sieni specifies – “must voice their natural
753 and honest desire to learn how the world really works.” In these posts, Sieni maintains that “One thing is certain, [...]”
754 you will be able to understand by yourself what is happening. We all have the possibility of studying and understanding
755 key issues deeply, giving up easy explanations from mainstream media.” Since the very beginning, QAnon influencers
756 stressed the idea that being a QAnon is voluntary, independent, and serious commitment that requires research and
757 direct engagement, not a hobby or a game. Sieni also offered a “research compendium” with all the main theories
758 translated into Italian [48], curated by the account “LileStarseed” – which would later become one of the most active
759 Italian QAnon accounts on Twitter. Then, the posts would go on presenting a list of topics that are central to the
760 QAnon theory – each post would contain the old topics along with new ones. Topics are first listed, then discussed and
761 annotated with links to sources and “evidentiary material” (source example [25], link to evidence example [82]). Each
762 Facebook post would build on previous Facebook posts, adding new content and sources, and each one would link to
763 previous Facebook posts.
764

765 Each of Sieni’s posts received around one hundred thousand likes, hundreds of comments, and on average around one
766 thousand shares. In a 2019 post, Sieni introduced a group of self-proclaimed “Italian QAnon Patriots” called “Oracolo
767 Quantico” (in EN: Quantum Oracle) [61] (see Figure 6), explaining that the Oracolo Quantico group operates as a
768 “network” that embraces multiple platforms, and that “each platform is dedicated to a specific mission.” Facebook
769 should be used for discussing and spreading information. Twitter for gaining new intel and information from American
770 fellows [they refer to such pieces of critical intel as “intercontinental missiles”]. The official website [61] would be
771 a repository of “verified information,” including memes, documents, and data to be used as “bullets” to counter the
772 narratives diffused by the mainstream media. The most important mission of a Q Patriot – Sieni continues – “is the
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(a) Archived Alessandro Sieni Facebook post



(b) Alessandro Sieni BitChute video

Fig. 5. Examples of Sieni's Facebook posts and videos

responsibility of managing alternative information, [...] and this is our mission for the Great Awakening plan: to be careful narrators of this story until the truth is visible to all."

4.4 The Pandemic hits: The infrastructure grows into networks

Starting in March 2020, the activity of Italian QAnon accounts increased substantially on Italian digital media.

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Fig. 6. The website "Oracolo Quantico"

When the pandemic hits, the Twitter account @OracoloQuantico (presumably operated by Alessandro Sieni or one of his affiliates) is among the most active Twitter accounts. He often references and retweets other accounts, especially @LileStarseed, @g_Occhionero, and @giustinicchi. On March 31st, 2020, Sieni participated in an interview on Border Night radio, which also live-streams on the radio's YouTube channel [60]. The two hour-long conversation focused on how and why Q cannot be compared with previous anti-establishment groups who have failed and disappointed Italians, such as Movimento 5 Stelle. Central to Sieni's defense of Q is the idea that "we have enormous counter-factual data available to all that can demonstrate that Q actually knows what he is doing." After providing examples of supposedly accurate predictions by Q, Sieni talks about how Q invites people "who do this work" to stay critical. He adds that "the research work" has to be conducted "individually" because "if people think like individuals, they cannot be controlled like the masses."

During the initial phases of the pandemic in Spring 2020, while Italians were in lockdown, we noted a drastic thematic shift in the Italian QAnon narratives. Italian QAnon supporters now systematically re-contextualized QAnon theories into the European and Italian context. During the interview with Border Radio, Sieni highlighted that Italy itself occupies a central role in the organization of the "deep state." According to Sieni, "Europe is the continental expression of the American deep state" and "US and Russia are now in an alliance to take down the corrupted, liberal deep state globally and reinforce local nationalisms." Influencers re-contextualized US QAnon narratives into the local Italian political sphere through a variety of tactics (see Figure 12).

Another noted shift during the early stages of the pandemic was the slow but steady movement of activities from Twitter and Facebook towards Telegram chats. Two QAnon supporters self-identified with the nicknames of "Sandro Semper Fidelis" and "Veleno" led this effort in collaboration with a series of other smaller influencers (especially "Davide

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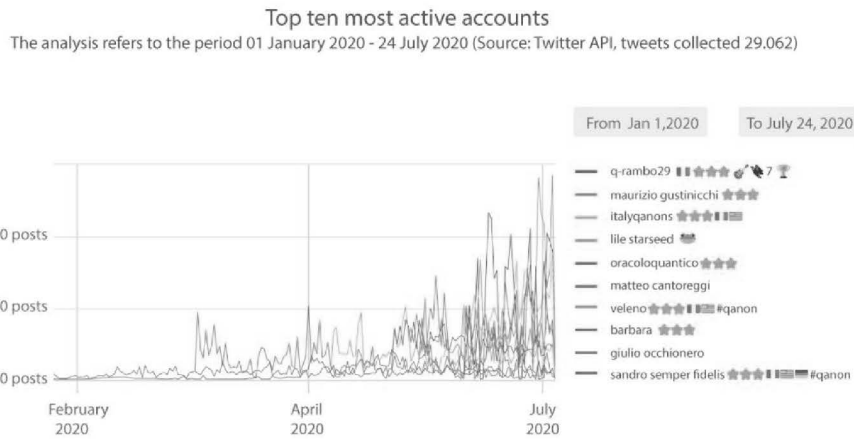


Fig. 7. This figure refers to the period between Jan 1st, 2020 and July 24th, 2020 and shows the top ten most active accounts over time.

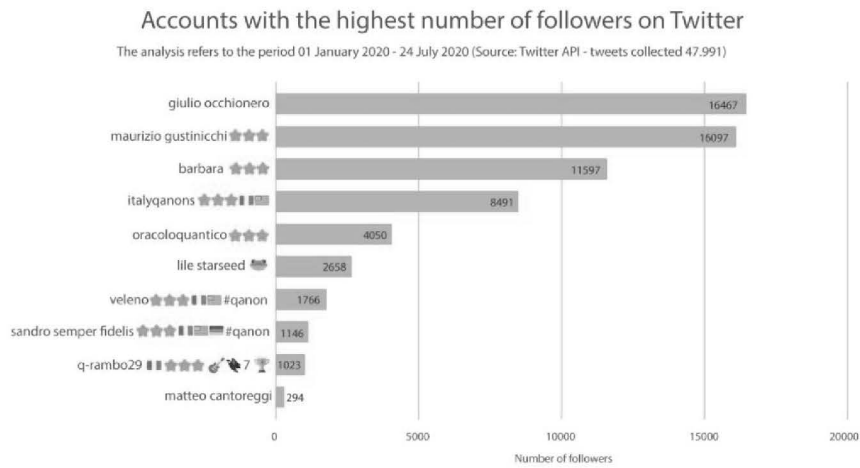


Fig. 8. This figure refers to the period between Jan 1st, 2020 and July 24th, 2020 and shows the accounts with the highest number of followers.

Cristallo” and “Giuliano Occhionero”) to recruit members for the chats. We focused our observations on the Italian QAnon chats with the highest volume of daily activity and membership: QAnon Italy (Sandro is the admin); Veleno

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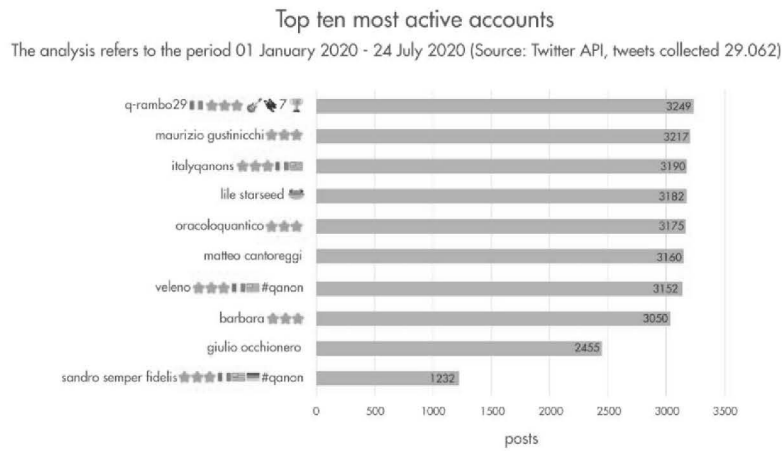


Fig. 9. This figure refers to the period between Jan 1st, 2020 and July 24th, 2020 and shows top ten most active accounts.

Accounts with the highest engagement on Twitter

The analysis refers to the period 01 January 2020 - 24 July 2020 (Source: Twitter API - tweets collected 29.056)

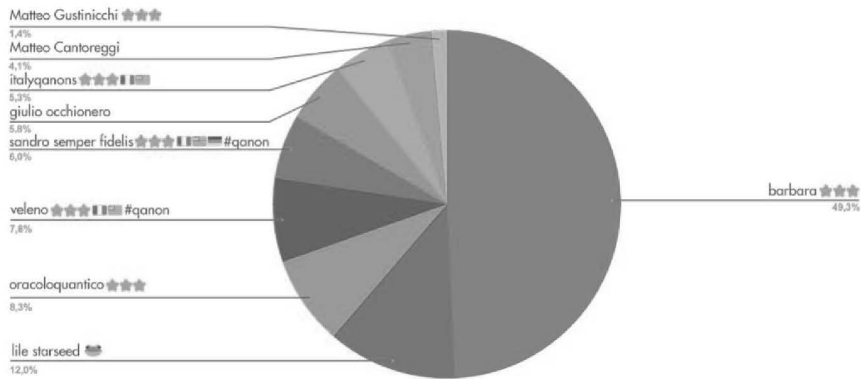


Fig. 10. This figure refers to the period between Jan 1st, 2020 and July 24th, 2020 and shows the accounts with the highest engagement on Twitter.

Quando Basta! (Veleno is the admin); and Q Research Italy (both Sandro and Veleno are admins). Sandro and Veleno present themselves as members of a team of “professional investigators” who have been doing this “research work” worldwide for a long time. These chats are highly regulated information spaces. Sandro and Veleno always have the final say on what is true, and what it is not. They release key information to their followers, who are allowed to

989 (IT) User: Per capire il piano Q dovete studiarlo. Smettetela di pretendere di capire tutto e subito come i ragazzini.
 990 (EN) User: To understand the Q plan you all have to study. Stop expecting to understand everything immediately as
 991 if you were children.
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993 Fig. 11. An extract from the live-chat feed of the Sieni's interview [60]
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996 comment on them, but only if they follow strict rules and behave within the language and thematic parameters set
 997 by Sandro and Veleno. Sandro and Veleno correct or even punish users whenever they express a viewpoint that is
 998 considered naive or inappropriate, use words or expressions that are not allowed, or share links or other external
 999 resources without the permission of the admin. For example, in August 2020, some chats members expressed support
 1000 for Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s intervention at the anti-COVID restrictions event in Berlin [59]. The video of Robert F.
 1001 Kennedy Jr.'s speech circulated widely on Italian chats. However, this behavior was censored by Sandro and Veleno who
 1002 explained that Robert F. Kennedy Jr. was not reliable given his affiliation with American liberals. Sandro and Veleno
 1003 also discouraged Italian QAnons from attending Italian lockdown protests, "as Q has never ordered to go in the streets
 1004 protesting." Also, according to Sandro and Veleno, the role of Italian QAnons is to conduct "serious research" on the
 1005 deep state, not to engage in political or activist work.
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1008 Our observations show a widespread use of chat bots. A "Rule Bot" returns the ruleset of the chat whenever a user
 1009 calls for it (e.g., by typing "/regole@Veleno_chatbot" in the "Veleno Quanto Basta!" chat), a security bot called "VoIP
 1010 Locker Bot" blocks accounts that are suspected to be "spies," a "Night Time" bot closes the chats at night and reopens
 1011 them in the morning, a "News" bot called "The Daily Global - NewsRoom" posts news about Q and international
 1012 politics and scandals from all over the world. Bots like VoIP Locker Bot are relatively simple to add to a chat and can be
 1013 easily downloaded from the Internet. However, to work effectively, these bots need to be tailored to the specific needs of
 1014 a group. The actual maintenance of these bots is external, as the users do not have access to the code, and any updates
 1015 or modifications are beyond the users' reach. Some other bots were created by Veleno, Sandro, and their collaborators.
 1016 To do so, a certain degree of programming skill is required. At the moment, Telegram supports an API Bot and libraries
 1017 for PHP, Node.js, Rust, Python, Ruby, Swift, Kotlin, Java, Go, C#, Elixir, C++, Dart, Lua, OCaml, Haskell, Scala, and Perl.
 1018 Most of the bots made in-house seem to be derived from the Telegram "BotFather," described by Telegram itself as "the
 1019 one bot to rule them all." Bots made with a traditional programming language need maintenance as the Telegram API
 1020 bot and libraries change over time.
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1023 4.5 Deplatforming operations & Post-election Infrastructuring

1024 Twitter and Facebook started to take action against Italian QAnon towards the end of the Summer and early Fall 2020.
 1025 Multiple accounts and pages were banned, including @Qanon_Patriot, @Veleno57432367, and @QanonItalia on Twitter;
 1026 and "The Q Italian Patriot," "We Are the Storm," and "Trump and Q Digital S." on Facebook. However, continuing to
 1027 follow influencers and groups after deplatforming, we noted several limitations to this deplatforming intervention.
 1028 First, it targeted only pages that contained the keyword QAnon or some versions of it. By doing so, the intervention
 1029 failed to identify and remove communities of established and committed users who did not directly identify as QAnon
 1030 supporters, but used the platforms to link to external resources related to QAnon and promote their personal websites
 1031 and news channels. For example, the Twitter account and Facebook page linked to Oracolo Quantico were never closed,
 1032 and the influencer Alessandro Sieni simply converted his open profile to a closed group to avoid deplatforming. Second,
 1033 most of the influencers who were successfully banned quickly re-engaged their audiences using alternative names for
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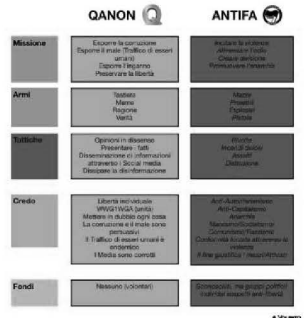


TACTICS	Examples
<p>Creating and distributing visual material</p>	<p>The user @avolpato created and shared a table that explains the differences between QAnon and Antifa, in Italian</p> 
<p>Linking US stories and personalities to Italian stories and personalities</p>	<p>@Chico91054645 posts an article about how Matteo Renzi (former Italian prime minister) finances Hillary Clinton's campaign in 2016</p> 
<p>Offering new interpretations of Italian events through the lens of US QAnon narratives</p>	<p>The conspiracy theory around Bibbiano's events were re-interpreted to be part of the activities of the deep state</p> 

Fig. 12. Some tactics used by Italian QAnon influencers to re-contextualize US QAnon narratives for local populations.

themselves and their pages. Both Sandro and Veleno created new accounts on Twitter and new community pages on Facebook that they then used to attract new members, such as the page “Il Pensiero Critico” (in EN: Critical Thinking).

1093 The new Facebook pages metadata were set up to avoid being identified as QAnon-affiliated pages by Facebook's
1094 algorithm (e.g., the page is categorized as a health and beauty blog).

1095 While new audiences on Twitter and Facebook were thinner compared to pre-deplatforming, Sandro, Veleno and the
1096 other influencers used these spaces to move their traffic to their Telegram chats and channels, where the volume of
1097 members and activity continued to increase. Overall, we noted that since deplatforming Sandro and Veleno increased
1098 their commitment to the management of Telegram chats and channels in several ways. With the US presidential election
1099 coming up, Sandro and Veleno's infrastructuring work on Telegram became more intense and sophisticated. They
1100 started to upload new content and articles on Qresearch.it almost daily, and to organize weekly online webinars to
1101 discuss and explain American politics to their followers. Webinars would be hosted by the influencers and have guests,
1102 often far-right influencers. Chats members paid a fee to register to these webinars (about 20 euros each). In addition,
1103 Sandro started to post daily "news videos" on his YouTube news channel – "Sandro Semper Fidelis The Newsroom" – in
1104 which he discusses current events and reads, translates and interprets news from American right-wing media such as
1105 Breitbart, The Epoch Times, etc. In these videos, Sandro presents "evidence" in support of QAnon theories in the form of
1106 headlines, interviews excerpts, screenshots, fabricated images, infographics and data visualizations taken from multiple
1107 American far-right mainstream and alternative media sources. The videos would then be cross-posted in the Telegram
1108 chats by Sandro and the other influencers. Sandro also started to record and post daily videos of himself talking about
1109 international politics (and its links to Italian politics) directly on Telegram. In this second category of recorded videos,
1110 Sandro appears dressed in business suits, while driving his car, supposedly to some important meetings. All videos are
1111 recorded while he is driving and might last between half hour to an hour. In these videos Sandro personally addresses his
1112 followers' concerns, questions and doubts. Often, he uses aggressive and sanctioning language towards those followers
1113 who question QAnon theories or did not respect the chats' rules. He also used this time to highlight his knowledge
1114 of "how the world works" and bring up several events he personally participated in or witnessed around the world,
1115 especially in Asia (important business meetings, conferences, etc.). During Fall and Winter 2020, Sandro posted at least
1116 one of these videos per day, normally in the mornings or in the evenings, or both. After posting, chat members would
1117 respond to the videos by thanking Sandro and asking for more videos and interactions.

1124 For about a week after Election Day, the activity level on the chats drastically increased. Chat transcripts were about
1125 three times longer than in the previous months. Starting on election night, and for about 48 hours, Veleno and Sandro
1126 left the chats almost entirely unregulated. During this time, chat members advanced all sorts of explanations for why
1127 Donald Trump did not win the election, including questioning the Q prophecy as a whole. However, starting on the
1128 fourth day following the election, Veleno and Sandro reinstated control over the chats. They deleted the entire chat
1129 history and began to impose harsh sanctions for antagonistic speech. During this phase, Veleno and Sandro sometimes
1130 employed aggressive and violent language towards those who questioned Q. While influencers often used offensive
1131 language towards chat members, users were generally discouraged to adopt similar language in the chats. Veleno and
1132 Sandro responded to their followers' skepticism by explaining that Q never promised Trump's re-election, instead
1133 Q predicted a period of chaos followed by a new world order. They engaged in the fervent translation and spread
1134 of disinformation about US elections and allegations of fraud. They did so by directly posting news, visualizations,
1135 and commentaries coming from the US, and also by producing and publishing translated versions of such content on
1136 their websites and news channels. Sandro and Veleno initially centered their repair strategy on the narrative that the
1137 elections were stolen and they seemed to honestly believe in a possible return of Donald Trump for a second term. By
1138 the time we concluded our observations in mid-November, the groups had unhappily accepted the electoral defeat (even
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though they were still convinced that the election was stolen), and the conversations had shifted toward promoting Trump's re-election in 2024.

Layers/components of a disinformation infrastructure	Explanation	Examples
TOOLS	Independent layers created autonomously, they exist outside mainstream platforms	Aggregators, Databases, Websites, Video and Radio Channels, Affiliated Blogs, Forums
PLATFORMS	Mainstream platforms used to amplify narratives and promote other infrastructural layers	Facebook, Twitter, Telegram, Youtube, etc.
PEOPLE	Individuals who create, maintain and support in various forms the infrastructure	Influencers, Maintainers, Followers
LINKS AND TAGS	Epistemic arrangements used to represent/manipulate the world	Satanist Pedo Rings, Public Health Dictatorship, 5G Conspiracy, etc.
BOUNDARY OBJECTS	Entities that are both plastic enough to adapt to local needs and constraints of the parties employing them, yet robust enough to maintain a common identity across sites	Q itself, Q Drops

Table 3. Key components of QAnon Italy's disinformation infrastructure

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 Tagging and linking (dis)information online

About a decade ago, Clay Shirky proposed that Web-based "folksonomies" and "tagging systems" would come to constitute new ways of organizing and retrieving information that would be more efficient than institutional and expert-driven information infrastructures [73, 74]. To function, expert-driven information infrastructures such as science and bureaucratic infrastructures rely on mutually exclusive categories and predetermined ontological and classification schemas. Because of their lack of flexibility and nuance, Shirky argued, such information infrastructures are often perceived as foreign by amateur users, they are at constant risk of becoming obsolete, and their maintenance costs grow at scale. Web-based tagging systems, on the other end, allow users to link Web URLs and other online information objects according to their own needs and views of the world. To paraphrase Shirky, online tagging systems leave users free to make sense of the world independently, instead of conceding to predetermined views of how the world works. These systems are also cheaper to produce as their construction relies on users' voluntary work. Shirky saw great value in user-driven folksonomy and tagging systems, "by letting users tag URLs and then aggregating those tags, we are going to be able to build alternate organizational systems, systems that, like the Web itself, do a better job of letting individuals create value for one another, often without realizing it."

Shirky envisioned the emergence of Web-based, alternative information infrastructures that do not use ontologies and classification schemas to make sense of the world, but rather rely on free-flowing links and tags proposed directly

1197 by the users. However, this vision failed to consider an important detail, namely that antagonist actors could also make
1198 use of such alternative information infrastructures for malicious and dangerous ends. In our work, we documented how
1199 highly motivated online users – Italian QAnon influencers – created, distributed, grew, and maintained over time an
1200 array of interlinked online information artifacts and structures. Like in the world envisioned by Shirkey, these users
1201 use Web functions such as linking and tagging to present information in ways that match their own needs and sets of
1202 values. QAnon influencers are first of all producers of data points to be further referenced. As others have argued, much
1203 like a scientific endeavor, QAnon “research work” is also empirical in aspiration [54]. However, neither the meaning nor
1204 the relationships between the information entities that QAnons create are organized in coherent structures like they are
1205 in science and bureaucratic information infrastructures. QAnon’s meaning and relationships can be reconfigured at any
1206 time, based on the changing agendas of QAnon agents. This is a first key difference between information infrastructures
1207 and disinformation infrastructures. The former establishes long-lasting, replicable meanings and relationships between
1208 information entities that are hard to modify: whenever new meaning/relationships are introduced, these are the subjects
1209 of intense negotiations and boundary work [22, 46]. Disinformation infrastructures, on the contrary, allow for constant
1210 changes and updates for what information entities mean and how they relate to each other.
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1212 A second key difference is that, at least in this disinformation infrastructure, there is no space for negotiations between
1213 those who design the infrastructure (influencers) and those who use it (followers) over what counts as knowledge
1214 and how such knowledge should be accessed and consumed. In scientific infrastructural work, for example, database
1215 engineers work in collaboration with the scientists who will be using those databases in order to define ontologies,
1216 metadata schemas, and other curatorial interventions that will eventually define the design of such systems (not without
1217 occasional disputes and tensions occurring, however) [4, 68]. On the contrary, QAnon influencers create, conceptually
1218 link and then distribute information objects to their supporters in a top-down fashion. Dissent is heavily sanctioned,
1219 especially during moments of infrastructural fragility (e.g., right after the 2020 US general election). Collaborative work
1220 is directed by the influencers and allowed only when it is useful to alleviate the burden of managing the infrastructure
1221 (e.g., to manage the chats), but not at a conceptual or curatorial level. This tactic of deliberately updating meanings in
1222 an authoritarian fashion – without allowing followers/users to question such decisions – is what allows conspiracy
1223 theorists to propose and maintain a world view that is essentially simple, as it does not need to explain contradictions
1224 and the uncertainty of provisional knowledge [55]. Contradictions and uncertainty are brushed aside by the constant
1225 production, distribution and imposition of new meanings and relationships between meanings. As others have observed,
1226 the net result is “a binary, red pill-blue pill world of epistemics, in which there are only two hermetically distinct
1227 streams of knowledge to choose from, his [the conspiracy theorist] preferred ‘truth’ and the other, ‘mainstream’, ‘official’
1228 version” [55].
1229

1230 Thus, the QAnon disinformation infrastructure is participatory in the sense that a distributed network of influencers
1231 participate in the creation of different components of the infrastructure, however: 1) such infrastructural/participatory
1232 work might or might not be coordinated between different influencers (i.e., different influencers might operate completely
1233 independent from one another, and still reuse each other infrastructural components) – a style of participation also
1234 described as “networked faction” [28], and 2) infrastructural/participatory work is not equally distributed between
1235 influencers and their followers (influencers do not negotiate decisions about infrastructural design and epistemic
1236 curation with their followers, who are solely asked to amplify the visibility of the infrastructure via content sharing and
1237 liking). We are currently studying whether this authoritarian dynamic is at play in other disinformation infrastructures.
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1249 5.2 Infrastructures beyond platforms and the limitations of deplatforming

1250 For the Italian QAnon infrastructure, the pandemic represented a critical moment of path dependency (see Figure
1251 4). Once the pandemic hit in late Winter 2020, the infrastructure experienced a sudden increase in its user base on
1252 social media platforms and started to grow into new networks. During Spring and early-Summer 2020, Italian QAnon
1253 influencers engaged in relentless infrastructuring work that led to the creation of various blogs, websites, databases,
1254 research guides, visual materials, chat management tools, and all sorts of alternative news channels (See Table 3). By
1255 mid-Summer 2020, Italian QAnon influencers heavily relied on their Telegram chats and on the infrastructural layers
1256 that they had personally built (their websites, aggregators, blogs, etc.) to organize, curate and present "evidence" in
1257 support of QAnon theories.
1258

1259 By the time Twitter and Facebook implemented deplatforming and shadowing interventions in the Fall of 2020, a
1260 widely distributed Italian QAnon infrastructure was already in place, and its epistemic practices had been successfully
1261 adopted by its core members. Those Italian QAnon influencers who were hit by the deplatforming interventions rapidly
1262 re-opened their Twitter accounts and Facebook pages and personal profiles. This time, they avoided identifying such
1263 accounts and pages as Q affiliates, and instead named them with generic expressions such as "Critical Thinking" (in
1264 Italian, "Pensiero Critico"). As observed by others, automated methods for detecting disinformation content and agents
1265 often miss the target as manipulators learn their ways around deplatforming algorithms – a tactic also referred to as
1266 "data or metadata crafting" [1].
1267

1268 Our findings confirm previous work showing that Telegram often becomes an important refuge for deplatformed
1269 influencers [72]. Influencers actively used their new Twitter accounts and Facebook pages to encourage followers to
1270 join their Telegram chats and channels, and, the other way around, they used their already formed Telegram networks
1271 to invite supporters to join their new pages and regain popularity on Twitter and Facebook. In a sense, influencers used
1272 Telegram as an infrastructural bridge to move their audiences from one corner of the infrastructure to the other. We
1273 also found that, while Telegram audiences were generally smaller compared to pre-deplatformed Twitter and Facebook
1274 audiences, the level of users' engagement on Telegram is somewhat deeper and more personal in nature. Overall, while
1275 Twitter and Facebook audiences engage with QAnon narratives selectively and with discontinuity, Telegram chats seem
1276 to host almost exclusively "true believers," which could be due to the fact that chats are highly controlled and regulated
1277 spaces. Finally, as found by Rogers [72], Telegram is also commonly used as a pointer to other resources, especially
1278 websites, blogs, news aggregators and alternative media channels.
1279

1280 The more distributed the infrastructure became, the more social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter became
1281 ancillary to the greater infrastructure. When the pandemic started in Winter 2020, the QAnon infrastructure heavily
1282 relied on social media platforms to seed and grow, attracting an initial group of core members, and convincing them
1283 to adopt the infrastructure as a natural component of their daily practices of sense-making – a process that has also
1284 been described as the "media-wraparound effect" [63]. However, once the infrastructure reached a moment of relative
1285 infrastructural stability in Summer 2020, QAnon campaigners would rely on social media for further growth, but their
1286 very existence did not depend on the platforms themselves (as it initially did).
1287

1288 These observations bring us to some considerations over the efficacy of Twitter and Facebook deplatforming
1289 operations in Fall 2020. First, time seems to be a crucial variable that determine the success and impact of a deplatforming
1290 intervention. It seems fair to hypothesize that if interventions had been deployed earlier in the year, when the QAnon
1291 infrastructure was still in its initial phase of seeding and growth, this might have prevented the QAnon infrastructure
1292 from fully developing across multiple corners of the Internet. This is what the infrastructural lens allow us to observe:
1293

1301 platforms function as essential springboards for disinformation campaign in their early stages, but campaigners'
1302 dependency over the platforms diminishes over time, as campaigners' infrastructures eventually outgrow them.

1303 So far, deplatforming operations have been implemented as one-time reactions to critical events (the spread of voter
1304 fraud disinformation during election time, the storming of US Capitol, etc.), typically after such events had already
1305 occurred. Instead, a better approach might be to have a plan to roll-out interventions at pre-determined and regular time
1306 intervals, independently from societal events. Blindly put, as information infrastructures need perpetual maintaining in
1307 order to function, disinformation infrastructure need perpetual dismantling in order to fail.
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1310 **5.3 Building disinformation infrastructures**

1311
1312 Theoretically, a primary goal of this paper is to introduce the concept of "disinformation infrastructure" into the
1313 fields of information infrastructure studies and disinformation studies. As noted, "disinformation" is generally used
1314 to refer to the deliberate creation and/or spread of false or misleading information [37]. The conceptual framework
1315 of disinformation operations argues that disinformation is best understood as a top-down, centrally-coordinated
1316 intervention that relies on tactics of systemic deception to mislead the public for a strategic, political purpose [5, 70].
1317 Others added that disinformation campaigns can also occur within different degrees of coordination between multiple,
1318 "networked factions" of disinformation agents [28, 80]. In planning a campaign, disinformation agents tap into existing
1319 trauma within the public, and extract, weaponize, and manipulate facts with the addition of half-truths, exaggerations,
1320 or lies. Hence, essentially, disinformation operations are attacks against a liberal epistemic order that places its trust in
1321 essential custodians of factual authority (e.g., political and scientific institutions) [5, 70].
1322
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1324 Each definition has its own merit as it enables the researcher to focus on different aspects of the disinformation
1325 conundrum. For us, adopting an infrastructural lens means first of all adopting a wide-ranging, organizational perspective
1326 that allows us to observe the phenomenon in all its digital, intertwining ramifications. An infrastructural approach
1327 brings together single units of analysis, such as narratives, manipulation tactics, processes of gatekeeping, etc., and
1328 co-investigate these as they operate in relation to the organizational, collaborative, and procedural, epistemic work put
1329 in place by the disinformation agents. By studying an infrastructure, as opposed to studying a campaign or a narrative,
1330 we see the QAnon disinformation operation from a distance, and we visualize all its complexities and distributions.
1331 Second, like others [54], we believe there is a value in examining disinformation as a form of "science...in reverse." Like
1332 scientists, disinformation agents are also invested in producing "proof" of world phenomena, but, unlike scientific
1333 theories, such explanations are based on falsehood and deception. The concept of disinformation infrastructure is
1334 first of all an invitation to closely examine the relentless work conducted by disinformation agents in designing and
1335 maintaining complex, ever changing socio-technical systems of meanings online, which – as we have seen – are adopted
1336 and promoted well beyond social media platforms. It allows us to point at the fact that agents of disinformation –
1337 in addition to cultivating social networks and producing false narratives via participatory practices – also invest a
1338 considerable amount of energy and time in designing, curating and maintaining the various tools and infrastructural
1339 components that help them distribute the supposed "evidence" brought in support of these narratives. Therefore, we
1340 define disinformation infrastructure as a multi-layered, relational and distributed sociotechnical entity that supports
1341 the maintenance and distribution of information that is false or misleading.
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1344 In the specific case of QAnon, the infrastructural lens adds complexity to previous characterizations of QAnon as an
1345 entertaining board game or as a faith-based activity. While these might be valid observations for QAnon followers,
1346 most QAnon influencers seem to be committed to the movement at a deeper level (at least in our sample) [54]. Many
1347 refer to the process of building websites and managing chats as "their daily work." For some, infrastructural work might
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1353 well be an actual source of income, as most influencers seem to be fluent in the language and techniques of Internet
1354 entrepreneurship and actively ask followers for donations of support to their work. Importantly, infrastructural work
1355 gives disinformation agents power over their followers in the form of authority and credibility. The Italian QAnon
1356 followers respect the influencers as they are responsible for the creation of the foundational information resources that
1357 they read, watch, and listen to – resembling the respect that the general public might develop towards experts who
1358 write scientific articles and analyze data. For a chat member, being invited by an influencer to help with infrastructural
1359 work (e.g., managing the chats) is considered a privilege.
1360

1361 Similar to science infrastructural work, disinformation infrastructural work is also cumulative in nature. Disinforma-
1362 tion agents build on previous, available infrastructural work to create and maintain additional informational resources.
1363 Different “teams” of disinformation agents (e.g., Sieni/LileStarseed/OracoloQuantico vs Sandro/Veleno/Davide) might
1364 work in parallel or even compete with each other to attract new followers, but they still use and reuse each other’s
1365 resources to construct their own branches of the QAnon disinformation infrastructure. The degree of coordination
1366 between different agents or groups of agents is important but not essential to the growth of the infrastructure. The
1367 mere availability of multiple distributed infrastructural components and the accessibility of existing infrastructure is
1368 needed to continue to grow. In a sense like scientists, disinformation agents reuse each other’s work, they intentionally
1369 reference and link others’ resources selectively, depending on alliances and personal sympathies [23].
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1373 6 CONCLUSIONS

1374 We examined how – over a period of eleven months – Italian QAnon supporters designed and maintained a distributed,
1375 multi-layered infrastructure of disinformation that spans multiple platforms, websites, databases, research guides,
1376 news aggregators, tools, forums, and alternative media channels. We used a composite analytical approach that
1377 builds on literature from sociotechnical studies of disinformation, on one hand, and of information infrastructure,
1378 on the other hand, to analyze and better understand the work that goes into the construction and amplification
1379 of false narratives online. Typically, susceptibility to disinformation has been explained by processes of motivated
1380 reasoning, confirmation bias, group identity dynamics, and limited reasoning skills [47]. However, our research is
1381 rooted in an alternative line of work within disinformation studies that adopts a sociotechnical approach to the study
1382 of disinformation [44, 54, 63, 80, 84]. This approach sees disinformation as the product of the participatory work
1383 of disinformation agents who create, share, and amplify disinformation content via ad hoc tactics of manipulation.
1384 Hence, disinformation is neither simply nor solely passively received by audiences, but it is through the proactive and
1385 communal work of specific and highly committed disinformation agents that disinformation can “trade up the chain” of
1386 the digital media ecosystem, reach audiences across multiple platforms, and find a loyal, sympathetic public [44, 54, 84].
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1391 The infrastructural lens brings to surface specific dynamics of power within the QAnon movement that distinguish
1392 such infrastructure from information infrastructures developed in science and bureaucratic systems. We found that
1393 Italian QAnon influencers/designers manage the QAnon infrastructure in an authoritarian fashion. The influencers
1394 control the design and maintenance of the infrastructure. Epistemic decisions are made and imposed on the community
1395 of followers/users in a top-down fashion. Followers are expected to participate by using the infrastructure to re-distribute
1396 and amplify epistemic evidence over the Internet, but they are not allowed to directly contribute to the design and
1397 curation of neither the various infrastructural components nor the evidence itself. In addition, contrary to science
1398 and bureaucratic information infrastructures, infrastructures of disinformation do not need to produce sustainable,
1399 long-standing ontologies and classification standards to organize and make sense of information. (Dis)information
1400 entities are simply linked to each other provisionally, based on what the influencers’ political agenda needs to prove
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1405 that day or week. Similarly, within disinformation infrastructures, evidence and reasoning processes do not need to be
1406 reproducible to be considered valid (as they need to be in science). This tactic of deliberately updating meanings and
1407 relation between meanings in an authoritarian fashion is what we believe allows conspiracy theorists to propose and
1408 maintain a world view that is essentially simple, as it does not need to explain contradictions and the uncertainty of
1409 provisional knowledge (as it happens in science).
1410

1411 Being that this work is the result of a mostly qualitative analysis based on a single case study, we have no claims
1412 over the generalizability of our results. More research is needed to examine whether the key characteristics of a
1413 disinformation infrastructure that we identified extend to other disinformation infrastructures. We do not expect
1414 all disinformation infrastructures to work in the same way, but to share a core set of features. Examples of other
1415 disinformation infrastructures might include the ones put together by climate change denialists, vaccine skeptics, or
1416 voter fraud advocates, among others. We also want to acknowledge that not all disinformation relies on an infrastructure.
1417 There might be false narratives that pop up suddenly on the Internet and reach high levels of engagement. However, we
1418 would hypothesize that an online disinformation operation or campaign needs a distributed information infrastructure
1419 to survive over time, especially to survive deplatforming operations.
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1421
1422 There are several reasons why we should pay close attention to the growth and establishment of such infrastructures
1423 of disinformation. First of all, because – for some internet users – these infrastructures are becoming fundamental
1424 resources for sense-making, namely, “the place to go” to understand the world. Just as scientists use science databases
1425 and academic journals for research purposes, and bureaucrats employ the census to understand and manage societal
1426 issues, citizens of the world are lured into consulting available disinformation infrastructures to make sense of the
1427 events surrounding them, form opinions, and act. Second, while conspiratorial theories and specific disinformation
1428 narratives keep evolving and adapting, the infrastructures that sustain them can be comparatively stable and increase
1429 in size and complexity over time. Like highways, these infrastructures are ready to be used whenever fuel (new
1430 disinformation narratives) is available. Finally, the infrastructural lens enables us to see how current measures to
1431 prevent, counteract and limit disinformation operations (e.g., deplatforming) are timely efforts. Platforms work as
1432 springboards for disinformation infrastructures, but the longer platforms wait to intervene, the harder it is to eradicate
1433 disinformation infrastructures as these create new layers, get distributed well beyond social media, and can rely on a
1434 critical mass of loyal followers. Lack of trust in the liberal epistemic order and in a social system that places its trust in
1435 political and scientific institutions does not emerge in a vacuum. While this sentiment might exist in latent form within
1436 the public, disinformation agents know how to amplify and exploit it for their own political agendas. Embracing this
1437 realization should speak to the need of an Internet infrastructure that is built in the public-interest and does not rely on
1438 commercial interests and priorities for standards of information quality.
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1618 news/old-clinton-conspiracy-theory-finds-new-life-jeffrey-epstein-news-n1034741)

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To: rdiresta@stanford.edu[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 9/29/2021 3:36:03 PM
Subject: Delayed Response RE: DARPA ISAT workshop pre-invite
Received: Wed 9/29/2021 3:36:03 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

If this is a media request, please contact Michael Grass (megrass@uw.edu), the Communications Manager at the Center for an Informed Public, who may be able to coordinate a time for us to chat or find another researcher at the Center who can speak with you.

Warm regards,
Kate

To: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 9/14/2021 8:03:30 PM
Subject: Re: DARPA ISAT workshop pre-invite
Received: Tue 9/14/2021 8:03:33 PM

I have this email for Bella:
isabellagc2010@gmail.com

I'll have 51 add her to his Google document when he makes that public. I asked him to sketch out the initial structure and analyses — and he's still working on that.

Kate

On Sep 14, 2021, at 9:58 AM, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu> wrote:

Ah! On that front – Bella would also love to help on the paper project you broached in the Slack w/Alex and I (mentioned again below). Meant to note that in Slack. Do you have her gmail?

I'll add the other UW folks to the invite list for the DARPA thing.

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 12:50 PM
To: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: DARPA ISAT workshop pre-invite

From our group... probably Emma (Spiro) would be best to speak re: “influencers”. But she’s also packed this year — serving as a Vice Dean of Research for her unit (iSchool).

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On Sep 14, 2021, at 8:03 AM, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu> wrote:

Same group! But there are different workshops, and then there are also intersections with DARPA programs (I am still trying to understand those relationships, I am very new to this). What is the topic of the one you were invited to?

Oct 18 is still probably relevant; the first will focus on “influence” dynamics, and then the second will look at political atomization/online sects. Joe is going to join the series as well; if there are other UW people you'd suggest, incl for Oct 4, I have invitation powers :)

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2021 8:34 PM
To: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: DARPA ISAT workshop pre-invite

Hi Renee,

Thanks for the invite. Is this different from the DARPA ISAT group led by Nadya Bliss? I'm just realizing that I'm getting two separate inquires to talk — and am wondering what the difference is.

I can't make the October 4 day/time. Might be able to swing October 18 (but that might not be a fit for my expertise?)

Kate

On Sep 13, 2021, at 12:55 PM, Renee DiResta <rdirresta@stanford.edu> wrote:

Dear Kate,

I wanted to reach out because I'm co-leading a DARPA ISAT workshop with Bonnie Dorr and Julia Hirschberg, which is focused on understanding 'bottom-up' influence dynamics and affective polarization on social media. An invitation will be coming your way from IDA with more information, but since I admire your work in this area I wanted to reach out in advance because I hope you can join.

There will be a series of three meetings of approximately four hours (including a 30 min lunch break), about two weeks apart.

- Oct 4: 10:30-2:30 ET: Understanding the influencer
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Recognizing everyone's limited time, there is no expectation of attending all three -- but we would particularly like you to join for the first, on Oct 4, given your expertise. We have a form [here](#) where you can indicate interest in attending one or more, *and* suggest work you've done or research questions you feel are important, that I can then synthesize into a pre-read.

Please do not forward this information to others, as the event will be by invitation only, but I'm happy to take feedback and answer questions.

best,
Renee

To: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 9/14/2021 4:49:46 PM
Subject: Re: DARPA ISAT workshop pre-invite
Received: Tue 9/14/2021 4:49:50 PM

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To: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 9/14/2021 12:34:08 AM
Subject: Re: DARPA ISAT workshop pre-invite
Received: Tue 9/14/2021 12:34:09 AM

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To: Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org[Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 9/28/2021 5:15:09 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Bravo Safiya!!!! MacArthur Genius!!
Received: Tue 9/28/2021 5:15:09 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

If this is a media request, please contact Michael Grass (megrass@uw.edu), the Communications Manager at the Center for an Informed Public, who may be able to coordinate a time for us to chat or find another researcher at the Center who can speak with you.

Warm regards,
Kate

To: Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Sun 9/26/2021 4:36:25 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Co-chair recommendation re: Public Restoration Fund
Received: Sun 9/26/2021 4:36:25 PM

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To: Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org[Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 9/22/2021 1:26:56 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Co-chair recommendation re: Public Restoration Fund
Received: Wed 9/22/2021 1:26:56 PM

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To: Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 10/5/2021 2:36:49 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Aspen Commission: New Drafts for your Review
Received: Tue 10/5/2021 2:36:49 PM

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To: Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org[Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 9/15/2021 12:27:36 AM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Fw: Quick chat re: s230 in super-spreaders?
Received: Wed 9/15/2021 12:27:36 AM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

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To: Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 9/15/2021 3:31:25 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: FW: My letter to the Commissioners (for distribution)
Received: Wed 9/15/2021 3:31:25 PM

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Cc: Yasmin Green[yasmingreen@google.com]; William Hurd[williamhurd@gmail.com]; Vivian Schiller[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Ryan Merkley (Consultant)
Sent: Wed 9/22/2021 1:22:12 PM
Subject: Re: Co-chair recommendation re: Public Restoration Fund
Received: Wed 9/22/2021 1:26:54 PM

I appreciate all of you stepping forward to advocate for it. As I said, we like the idea too, but want to ensure it doesn't create more questions than it attempts to answer. We're going to try to take the submitted edits and tighten it up -- the co-chairs did not want to move it without support from the WG, so give us the day with it.

Kathryn, to your question, we did investigate the questions around ability of FTC to allocate funds from fines, which it can do (and for which there is also precedent).

r.

From: Murdoch, Kathryn <kam@qdv.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 4:50 AM
To: Safiya Noble <safiy noble@gmail.com>; Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Ryan Merkley (Consultant) <Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org>
Cc: Yasmin Green <yasmingreen@google.com>; William Hurd <williamhurd@gmail.com>; Vivian Schiller <Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org>
Subject: Re: Co-chair recommendation re: Public Restoration Fund

I'm in a time zone that isn't conducive to contributing in a timely way but just wanted to say that while I left the Aspen session concerned that there were legal issues with this one, I don't have any sense of how these were resolved or if that is related to taking it out. It is a genuinely new idea and, as with so much of this, it deserves much more time than we were allocated. I agree with Safiya's suggestion about fees and fines.

Kathryn

From: Safiya Noble <safiy noble@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 12:34:49 AM
To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Ryan Merkley (Consultant) <Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org>
Cc: Yasmin Green <yasmingreen@google.com>; William Hurd <williamhurd@gmail.com>; Murdoch, Kathryn <kam@qdv.org>; Vivian Schiller <Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org>
Subject: Re: Co-chair recommendation re: Public Restoration Fund

...another option, which I put in the document as a comment, is to recommend that fines and fees levied against the sector go into the fund to do repair work and to address the needs of victims.

You could also suggest that NSF and other research agencies allocate more funding to those researching effective remedies to repair or strengthen democracy.

I never imagined all of the funding would come voluntarily from the tech sector – it would be a good PR opportunity for them, but most of the companies are too arrogant to understand the damage they are doing to society.

Safiya

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Date: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 3:28 PM
To: "Ryan Merkley (Consultant)" <Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org>
Cc: Safiya Noble <safiy noble@gmail.com>, "yasmingreen@google.com" <yasmingreen@google.com>, William Hurd <williamhurd@gmail.com>, Kathryn Murdoch <kam@qdv.org>, Vivian Schiller <Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org>

Subject: Re: Co-chair recommendation re: Public Restoration Fund

I'm disappointed on this as well. I agree that this is one of the potentially more impactful elements and could easily bridge to other recommendations. My sense is that, had there been earlier feedback on this and support for some investigation after the in person meeting, we could have addressed this criticism. So it does feel a bit frustrating to just be hearing and absorbing this now. But like Safiya, I don't know that I have additional cycles to put into this. :(

Kate

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 21, 2021, at 3:05 PM, Ryan Merkley (Consultant) <Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org> wrote:

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To be clear, I'm reaching out because we want to discuss. It's not an edict — and they specifically didn't want it to be that. But relative to the other recs, it doesn't come together as strongly and creates a lot of unanswered questions. For my part, I feel it would be stronger and less likely to be dismissed for those open questions in a "to explore section".

I think this is a good path to advance the idea in the time we have.

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Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 5:50 PM

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Cc: William Hurd <williamhurd@gmail.com>; Murdoch, Kathryn <kam@qdv.com>; Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>;

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Subject: Re: Co-chair recommendation re: Public Restoration Fund

Hi Ryan,

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From: "yasmingreen@google.com" <yasmingreen@google.com>

Date: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 2:15 PM

To: "Ryan Merkley (Consultant)" <Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org>

Cc: William Hurd <williamhurd@gmail.com>, Kathryn Murdoch <kam@qdv.com>, Safiya Noble <snoble@g.ucla.edu>, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>, Vivian Schiller <Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org>

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They've asked me to reach out to you as members of the working group to get your thoughts on this alternate proposal. The ideas in the recommendation would appear in the report in a section "for further study and consideration" but would not be one of the recommendations. I'd appreciate your thoughts as we're working through final edits now, and I'm happy to talk with anyone by phone or zoom if you have comments or questions.

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From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 9/21/2021 10:28:11 PM
Subject: Re: Co-chair recommendation re: Public Restoration Fund
Received: Tue 9/21/2021 10:28:12 PM

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Received: Tue 9/21/2021 10:05:23 PM

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Yasmin Green | Director of Research and Development, [Jigsaw](#) | Twitter: [@yasmind](#) |

To: Yasmin Green[yasmingreen@google.com]; William Hurd[williamhurd@gmail.com]; Murdoch, Kathryn[kam@qdvms.org]; Safiya UmojaNoble[snoble@g.ucla.edu]; Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]
Cc: Vivian Schiller[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Ryan Merkley (Consultant)
Sent: Tue 9/21/2021 8:34:28 PM
Subject: Co-chair recommendation re: Public Restoration Fund
Received: Tue 9/21/2021 8:34:44 PM

Hi Yasmin, Will, Kathryn, Safiya, and Kate,

The Co-chairs met today to review the recommendations and decide which ones will go forward. They discussed the public restoration fund, and while they think there are ideas worth exploring, they didn't feel like the proposal was 'fully baked' and ready for inclusion as a recommendation. They felt that the proposal still contained a lot of unanswered questions that meant it wasn't ideal as a recommendation.

However, they don't want to lose the ideas it contains, and proposed that we create a section for ideas that merit further study to highlight this proposal.

They've asked me to reach out to you as members of the working group to get your thoughts on this alternate proposal. The ideas in the recommendation would appear in the report in a section "for further study and consideration" but would not be one of the recommendations. I'd appreciate your thoughts as we're working through final edits now, and I'm happy to talk with anyone by phone or zoom if you have comments or questions.

Thanks,
Ryan

Ryan Merkley
Director, Commission on Information Disorder
Aspen Institute
+1-416-802-0662
@ryanmerkley



To: Jeff Hancock[hancockj@stanford.edu]
Cc: Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]; Sunny Xun Liu[sunnyxliu@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 9/16/2021 4:19:48 PM
Subject: Re: IRB for NSF grant, UW leading w/ another institution
Received: Thur 9/16/2021 4:19:50 PM

Great.

Jeff/Renee, I just sent over an invite for 2pm (Pacific) tomorrow.

Kate

On Sep 16, 2021, at 9:14 AM, Jeff Hancock <hancockj@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi Kate, Renee and Elena,

I'm also adding Sunny who will help us with IRB (and everything). Kate this all sounds good. Renee and Elena, let me know if you need help with the IRB. If you add me and Sunny to the protocol we can help directly.

Kate, talking tomorrow around other part sounds good. I'm free after 1.30.

--Jeff

*Jeff Hancock
Harry and Norman Chandler Professor of Communication
Founding Director, Stanford Social Media Lab
Stanford University*

On Thu, Sep 16, 2021 at 7:52 AM Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

Hi Jeff/Renee,

We have been communicating with our IRB folks. It looks like we'll have to split the IRB up into two different parts and for one of those parts (the basic social media analysis), because it's likely to be "not human subjects" or "exempt", both teams will have to file an IRB separately (to our different institutions). Apparently, one institution can't act as a "single IRB" for exempt or non-human subjects research.

Renee, I'm happy to send over what I draft for our IRB so you can use the same language to get yours started. It's probably very similar to an IRB you already have... so, you maybe need to talk to your folks to see if you can just add this grant to that existing IRB or whether you have to file a new one.

Jeff, for the other piece, it would be great to have at least one component of your team's research (whatever you hope to do in the next 6-12 months) sketched out so we can include in this proposal. I'm happy to chat sometime to think that through. (We do have some time pressure on the IRB, so maybe trying to sneak that into tomorrow or early next week — if you have any open slots — would be good.)

Let me know if we should plan to some time to chat this through.

Kate

Begin forwarded message:

From: HSD Rely <hsdrely@uw.edu>
Subject: RE: IRB for NSF grant, UW leading w/ another institution
Date: September 15, 2021 at 3:00:51 PM PDT

To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>, Crystal Welliver <welliver@uw.edu>
Cc: Mallory Shaw <mdshaw87@uw.edu>

Hello,

The UW IRB is willing to be the single IRB if the project is determined by the IRB to be non-exempt human subjects research. If the IRB determines that the project is entirely a mixture of not human subjects research and exempt human subjects research, your Stanford collaborators will need to seek their own determinations. If the UW IRB needs to be the single IRB, we can serve without charging fees or other costs.

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Activities that solely involve publicly available data should be included in a separate application. If the remaining activities that involve private data or interactions with participants are strongly interrelated like your initial email suggests, all of these activities should be included in one application. The IRB will need to evaluate all human subjects activities as a whole to determine whether this study qualifies for single IRB review since the activities are so interrelated. You can specify that you are only seeking approval for the initial activities at the moment, which will allow you to not need to provide as many details on the later activities but some information is required at the beginning. If my understanding of your initial email is incorrect and some activities can be separated out into discreet projects, those can be submitted as separate applications if that is easier.

Finally, as to how to describe the rapid response efforts, I am not sure how to recommend you communicate that because I am not clear on what is going on. If this is a feedback loop, then you could mention that you will do activities iteratively until you reach whatever is your endpoint. If it is something else, I would need to know more in order to advise you on the best way to represent this.

Hopefully this helps you get started but let me know if you have additional questions.

Thanks,
Jenny Maki
IRB Reliance Administrator
(206) 543 – 4798

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 11:35 AM
To: Crystal Welliver <welliver@uw.edu>
Cc: HSD Rely <hdsdrelly@uw.edu>; Mallory Shaw <mdshaw87@uw.edu>
Subject: Re: IRB for NSF grant, UW leading w/ another institution

Stanford IRB has not done any review on this. I'm including the letter they sent to that confirms they had not yet developed the protocols (or received IRB approval).

Kate Starbird
Associate Professor, UW HCDE
Co-Founder and Director of the Center for an Informed Public
kstarbi@uw.edu

On Sep 15, 2021, at 11:06 AM, Crystal Welliver <welliver@uw.edu> wrote:

Hi Jenny,
Yes – the eGC1 is A165026.
Crystal

From: HSD Rely <hdsdrelly@uw.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 10:54 AM
To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
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Subject: Re: IRB for NSF grant, UW leading w/ another institution

Hi Kate,

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I also ask because the grant application that I found for this eGC1 lists that Stanford already has IRB approval on July 1, 2021. Usually a letter of support to cede review to another agency is not listed as IRB approval on a grant application because the single IRB review has not been done and no reliance agreement is in place. Please explain what this date is referring to and confirm that the Stanford IRB has done no review or made no determinations about this study.

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Subject: Re: IRB for NSF grant, UW leading w/ another institution

Hello Jenny,

Thanks for your quick reply. I circled back with some of our team members, including Crystal Welliver, cced here.

For your first question — at the time of our submission, we were unaware that the NSF would be requiring a single IRB for this collaborative grant. That’s probably my fault, as I hadn’t done a collaborative grant before as a lead — and it seems that the NSF has changed its rules on this since I last took the compliance class. (We had several faculty and staff working on this grant, and none of us were aware of this requirement until our NSF Program Officer called us in June, saying we needed a letter ASAP.) My understanding is that we did reach out in June for a letter of determination for the NSF PO (which gave us time to put the IRB in place). But you’re right that this was not before the original proposal submission. We will definitely change our protocols on this for future submissions. I hope that this won’t damage our ability to accept this \$3M grant.

For your second question — yes, the main design components are all included in the document (though many of the details are missing). My sense of where we might be above the exempt level includes the “rapid response” activities, which are a kind of “intervention” in the public sphere and may put the participants (including members of

the collaborating organizations) at some risk (safety, reputational damage). We also have some experimental components (testing different ways of communicating to different audiences) that may rise above exempt status (exposing people to toxic content including conspiracy theories).

I'd be happy to jump on a call to chat more about this.

Thanks again for your time!

Kate Starbird
Associate Professor, UW HCDE
Co-Founder and Director of the Center for an Informed Public
kstarbi@uw.edu

On Sep 14, 2021, at 2:38 PM, HSD Rely <hdsdreply@uw.edu> wrote:

Hi Dr. Starbird,

Before I answer your specific questions, I have some preliminary questions.

Did you consult with anybody at UW HSD before you submitted the NSF application about whether the UW IRB could serve as the single IRB for this project? We ask that all researchers submitting grant applications consult with us prior to the grant submission about whether we can be the single IRB. This ensures that we have the right expertise and staffing levels to serve as the single IRB successfully. If we are not consulted prior to the submission, we may have to decline to be the single IRB which can cause problems with any just-in-time approvals. I ask about this because I could not find this project in our letters of support to serve as the single IRB but I may have missed it. Those letters of support can be very helpful in structuring the IRB application.

Also, is everything you have written into the NSF grant application included in brief description of aims and activities in section 1 of the draft IRB protocol? If there are additional aims and activities, please provide the grant application to us for a quick review. UW IRB will not serve as the single IRB if we determine that the study will receive an exempt determination because these studies are not eligible for single IRB review. Looking at what is currently written in section 1.5 especially, my impression is that this study would receive an exempt determination. If that is the case, then I would direct you to the corresponding review team to answer your specific questions.

Hopefully my questions make sense but let me know if anything is unclear.

Thanks,
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I have several questions, including:

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<SaTC-IRB-slide-SS2.png>

To: Jeff Hancock[hancockj@stanford.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 9/16/2021 2:52:42 PM
Subject: Fwd: IRB for NSF grant, UW leading w/ another institution
Received: Thur 9/16/2021 2:52:44 PM

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kstarbi@uw.edu

<SaTC-IRB-slide-SS2.png>

To: Ryan Merkley (Consultant)[Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 9/15/2021 4:57:57 PM
Subject: Re: Quick chat re: s230 in super-spreaders?
Received: Wed 9/15/2021 4:57:58 PM

(Clarifying that this was just re: the 230 piece. I think the recommendations for what platforms should do, including thresholds based on visibility, should be recommendations.)

On Sep 15, 2021, at 9:56 AM, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

I'm happy to leave it as b) an area of exploration. I do think it would need more discussion and reflection on the unintended consequences.

On Sep 14, 2021, at 5:27 PM, Ryan Merkley (Consultant) <Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org> wrote:

Hi Kate - Yasmin pointed me your way re: my question below.

From: Yasmin Green <yasmingreen@google.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 5:08 PM
To: Ryan Merkley (Consultant) <Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org>
Subject: Re: Quick chat re: s230 in super-spreaders?

Oooh, bringing recos to convergence and a close -- thank you so much! Kate Starbird put that language in and is the lead author on the proposal. Happy to join if its helpful, but recommend having the quick chat with her.

On Tue, 14 Sept 2021 at 17:03, Ryan Merkley (Consultant) <Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org> wrote:

Hi Yasmin,

We're working on the draft writeup for the report, which I'll be circulating shortly. I'm looking at the notes on s230 thresholds in superspreaders. Based on the conversation from the s230 working group, and what they were/were not willing to do, I think it either a) needs to be its own recommendation, which we'd have to put on Thursday's Commission for discussion, or b) should be framed as an area for exploration rather than a recommendation.

Got 5 min to talk it through?

r.

Ryan Merkley
Director, Commission on Information Disorder
Aspen Institute
[+1-416-802-0662](tel:+14168020662)
[@ryanmerkley](mailto:ryanmerkley@aspeninstitute.org)

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Yasmin Green | Director of Research and Development, [Jigsaw](#) | Twitter: [@yasmind](#) |

To: Ryan Merkley (Consultant)[Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 9/15/2021 4:56:57 PM
Subject: Re: Quick chat re: s230 in super-spreaders?
Received: Wed 9/15/2021 4:56:59 PM

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Aspen Institute
[+1-416-802-0662](tel:+14168020662)
[@ryanmerkley](https://twitter.com/ryanmerkley)

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To: Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 9/7/2021 11:41:33 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Report Draft: Upfront "Context" Section
Received: Tue 9/7/2021 11:41:33 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

As this is summer, I am also traveling intermittently (and turning off email to focus on writing from time to time), which means that there may be significant delay, even for messages that I do respond to.

If this is a media request, please contact Michael Grass (megrass@uw.edu), the Communications Manager at the Center for an Informed Public, who may be able to coordinate a time for us to chat or find another researcher at the Center who can speak with you.

Warm regards,
Kate

To: Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org[Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 9/1/2021 5:21:36 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Aspen Commission: POLL (please fill out) and final timeline
Received: Wed 9/1/2021 5:21:36 PM

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To: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 9/16/2021 4:15:02 PM
Subject: Re: Recurring paper meeting
Received: Thur 9/16/2021 4:15:04 PM

It does!
Kate Starbird
kstarbi@uw.edu

On Sep 16, 2021, at 8:02 AM, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu> wrote:

That works; the invitation is recurring for an hour but we can join at 10:30 tomorrow, does that work?

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Thursday, September 16, 2021 10:53 AM
To: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: Recurring paper meeting

I can't make 10am tomorrow, but could do 10:30?

Kate Starbird
Associate Professor, UW HCDE
Co-Founder and Faculty Director of the Center for an Informed Public
kstarbi@uw.edu

On Sep 15, 2021, at 2:40 PM, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi there,

renee diresta is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Paper workflow meeting
Time: Sep 17, 2021 10:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)
Every week on Fri, 20 occurrence(s)

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or

Android: <https://stanford.zoom.us/j/93881355109?pwd=YnZhNzlyVWx0cVNzcWVtV0MzRlJiUT09>
Password: 31

Or iPhone one-tap (US Toll): +18333021536,,93881355109# or +16507249799,,93881355109#

Or Telephone:

Dial: +1 650 724 9799 (US, Canada, Caribbean Toll) or +1 833 302 1536 (US, Canada, Caribbean Toll Free)

Meeting ID: 938 8135 5109

Password: 31

International numbers available: <https://stanford.zoom.us/j/abk9SiJNCf>

Meeting ID: 938 8135 5109

Password: 194154

SIP: 93881355109@zoomcrc.com

Password: 31

<Mail Attachment.ics>

To: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 9/16/2021 2:53:13 PM
Subject: Re: Recurring paper meeting
Received: Thur 9/16/2021 2:53:13 PM

I can't make 10am tomorrow, but could do 10:30?

Kate Starbird
Associate Professor, UW HCDE
Co-Founder and Faculty Director of the Center for an Informed Public
kstarbi@uw.edu

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Android: <https://stanford.zoom.us/j/93881355109?pwd=YnZhNzlyVkx0cVNzcWVtV0MzRlJiUT09>

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Meeting ID: 938 8135 5109

Password: 194154

SIP: 93881355109@zoomcrc.com

Password: 31

<Mail Attachment.ics>

To: Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org[Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 9/17/2021 10:10:12 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Final Report and Recommendations: Timeline, edits, approvals
Received: Fri 9/17/2021 10:10:12 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

If this is a media request, please contact Michael Grass (megrass@uw.edu), the Communications Manager at the Center for an Informed Public, who may be able to coordinate a time for us to chat or find another researcher at the Center who can speak with you.

Warm regards,
Kate

To: Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Sat 8/28/2021 10:16:41 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Readings for our next Commission Meeting (Thursday, September 2 1p - 3pET)
Received: Sat 8/28/2021 10:16:41 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

As this is summer, I am also traveling intermittently (and turning off email to focus on writing from time to time), which means that there may be significant delay, even for messages that I do respond to.

If this is a media request, please contact Michael Grass (megrass@uw.edu), the Communications Manager at the Center for an Informed Public, who may be able to coordinate a time for us to chat or find another researcher at the Center who can speak with you.

Warm regards,
Kate

To: Jeff Hancock[hancockj@stanford.edu]
Cc: Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 9/3/2021 6:03:00 PM
Subject: Re: NSF planning
Received: Fri 9/3/2021 6:03:02 PM

Let's jump on at 1:45pm:

<https://washington.zoom.us/my/katestarbird>

We can talk IRB and then maybe start planning a first "all hands" meeting between the two teams.

Kate

On Sep 3, 2021, at 10:32 AM, Jeff Hancock <hancockj@stanford.edu> wrote:

I have a meeting at 2 I can't move, but can jump on a call at 1.45 - might be good just to do a quick sync to get IRB stuff going.

Renee is in DC and moving from hotel to home this week so not sure if she'll be able to join.

*Jeff Hancock
Harry and Norman Chandler Professor of Communication
Founding Director, Stanford Social Media Lab
Stanford University*

On Fri, Sep 3, 2021 at 7:29 AM Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

Just realizing that we didn't manage to set a time for this (or it didn't get propagated to my calendar). I'm still free 1:45-2:30 this afternoon, if we can make that. Or we can look at next Friday. Could you both do 1:45-2pm today?

On Aug 24, 2021, at 9:01 AM, Jeff Hancock <hancockj@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi Renee,

Kate and I are available next Friday (Sept 3) to get together to start planning out our NSF project. Do you have any availability then? I'm pretty open from 10.30-3.30.

Hope all else is well!

--Jeff

*Jeff Hancock
Harry and Norman Chandler Professor of Communication
Founding Director, Stanford Social Media Lab
Stanford University*

To: Jeff Hancock[jhancockj@stanford.edu]
Cc: Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 9/3/2021 2:29:32 PM
Subject: Re: NSF planning
Received: Fri 9/3/2021 2:29:35 PM

Just realizing that we didn't manage to set a time for this (or it didn't get propagated to my calendar). I'm still free 1:45-2:30 this afternoon, if we can make that. Or we can look at next Friday.
Could you both do 1:45-2pm today?

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Hope all else is well!

--Jeff

*Jeff Hancock
Harry and Norman Chandler Professor of Communication
Founding Director, Stanford Social Media Lab
Stanford University*

To: clint@miburosolutions.com[clint@miburosolutions.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 9/9/2021 1:57:52 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Hiring Announcement For Miburo - Fall 2021
Received: Thur 9/9/2021 1:57:52 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

As this is summer, I am also traveling intermittently (and turning off email to focus on writing from time to time), which means that there may be significant delay, even for messages that I do respond to.

If this is a media request, please contact Michael Grass (megrass@uw.edu), the Communications Manager at the Center for an Informed Public, who may be able to coordinate a time for us to chat or find another researcher at the Center who can speak with you.

Warm regards,
Kate

To: clintonwatts@icloud.com[clintonwatts@icloud.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 8/23/2021 11:10:25 AM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Hiring Announcement - Social Media Analysts and Content Production Specialists
Received: Mon 8/23/2021 11:10:25 AM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

As this is summer, I am also traveling intermittently (and turning off email to focus on writing from time to time), which means that there may be significant delay, even for messages that I do respond to.

If this is a media request, please contact Michael Grass (megrass@uw.edu), the Communications Manager at the Center for an Informed Public, who may be able to coordinate a time for us to chat or find another researcher at the Center who can speak with you.

Warm regards,
Kate

To: Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 9/3/2021 6:47:30 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Updated Timeline, and Next Steps
Received: Fri 9/3/2021 6:47:30 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

As this is summer, I am also traveling intermittently (and turning off email to focus on writing from time to time), which means that there may be significant delay, even for messages that I do respond to.

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Warm regards,
Kate

To: Olga Belogolova[obelogolova@fb.com]
Cc: David Agranovich[dagranovich@fb.com]; Steven Siegel[ssiegel@fb.com]; Heather Alpino[halpino@fb.com]; Julia Carter Scanlan[jccarter@uw.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Sun 8/22/2021 7:03:33 PM
Subject: Re: Connecting about research opportunities
Received: Sun 8/22/2021 7:03:34 PM

Hi Olga,

I'm ccing our Director of Strategy and Operations at the UW Center for an Informed Public. We're thinking to schedule something during the week of September 13-17 with a few members of our team. (Our next week weeks are a little packed as we're working on hiring a new leader for our rapid response efforts).

Might that timeline work?

Kate

On Aug 18, 2021, at 5:34 PM, Olga Belogolova <obelogolova@fb.com> wrote:

Kate,

Thank you so much for getting back to me! And now, my turn to apologize -- I'm only just getting back from vacation myself. How about we shoot for the week of August 31? Let me know what days may work for you and we can work something out on our end. Definitely bring along your collaborators.

Very much looking forward to catching up and explore areas for further collaboration!

Olga

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Date: Friday, August 6, 2021 at 8:49 AM
To: Olga Belogolova <obelogolova@fb.com>
Cc: David Agranovich <dagranovich@fb.com>, Steven Siegel <ssiegel@fb.com>
Subject: Re: Connecting about research opportunities

Hi Olga,

Sorry for the slow response here. I took some time off for health reasons and then bridged that into a vacation. Just catching up on email.

I'm happy to chat about this. We are just confirming another big grant for rapid response collaborations — and I'd be happy to chat about places where we might collaborate. Definitely willing to schedule a time to chat, perhaps 2-3 weeks out. Would it be possible for me to bring along some of my collaborators?

Kate

On Jul 21, 2021, at 12:08 PM, Olga Belogolova <obelogolova@fb.com> wrote:

Kate,

I hope this note finds you well. Congrats again on continuing to expand the Center's rapid-response work around is- and disinformation research! I am excited to see the work that comes of it.

Separately, I wanted to reach out about another idea. As the team that leads work on

countering influence operations and coordinated inauthentic behavior at Facebook, we are always exploring more ways to engage with the independent research community.

As you know, we have been sharing information about our CIB networks with a set of civil society researchers for the last four years and those researchers have published independent analyses of those networks. We are looking to expand our engagement (and sharing) and we're hoping you'd be interested in having a conversation with our team (including our legal counterparts) around this opportunity.

If so, let us know when would work best in the next few weeks (or months) and we can set something up.

Looking forward to it!

Olga

--

Olga Belogolova

Policy Lead - Influence Operations

olgab@fb.com

<image001.gif>

To: Olga Belogolova[obelogolova@fb.com]
Cc: David Agranovich[dagranovich@fb.com]; Steven Siegel[ssiegel@fb.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 8/6/2021 3:48:36 PM
Subject: Re: Connecting about research opportunities
Received: Fri 8/6/2021 3:48:37 PM

Hi Olga,

Sorry for the slow response here. I took some time off for health reasons and then bridged that into a vacation. Just catching up on email.

I'm happy to chat about this. We are just confirming another big grant for rapid response collaborations — and I'd be happy to chat about places where we might collaborate. Definitely willing to schedule a time to chat, perhaps 2-3 weeks out. Would it be possible for me to bring along some of my collaborators?

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Looking forward to it!

Olga

--

Olga Belogolova
Policy Lead - Influence Operations
olgab@fb.com
<image001.gif>

To: Mike Caulfield[mica42@uw.edu]
Cc: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 12/9/2021 3:47:13 PM
Subject: Re: Agenda
Received: Thur 12/9/2021 3:47:14 PM

Mike,

Can you reach out to [REDACTED] 51 and ask them to attend to observe and take notes re: this meeting? I don't think we want to (audio) record it, but it would be great to have (researcher) notes.

Kate

On Dec 8, 2021, at 1:21 PM, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu> wrote:

Yup! Thanks for leading on this.

From: Mike Caulfield <mica42@uw.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 10:18 AM
To: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Cc: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Subject: Re: Agenda

Oh, also I think rather than one signature line it would be nice if it came from the three of us, so let me know if you're okay cosigning it as from Mike, Kate, and Renee

From: Mike Caulfield <mica42@uw.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 10:13 AM
To: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Cc: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Subject: Fw: Agenda

Renee,

We're sending an update on the postmortem today, and could use your eyes on it. Email and links are below. Two questions:

- Could you take a quick look at this and make sure it reflects our conversation yesterday?
- Is there anything we are missing? Any suggestions welcome.

Subject: Upcoming EIP Postmortem Meeting (and one small bit of pre-meeting homework)

We're excited to have you attend the two hour EIP postmortem meeting this coming Monday, December 13 (3 p.m. EST/Noon PST). We have an [agenda for the meeting here](#).

We do have a small bit of pre-meeting homework. To use the time most effectively and make sure we are getting perspective from all involved, we are asking that people from each team complete [one slide](#) in a

collaborative slide deck (template provided) that lists:

- a few activities, processes, or systems that you felt were effective in EIP
- a few activities, processes, or systems that you felt could be improved or replaced
- at least one emerging opportunity or threat related to future work (can be more)

This only has to be at a bullet-point level of detail, and we are looking for variety of insights more than a prioritized list: if you have unique insights based on your role or background, please get them in there. If the different people in your group have different perspectives, you can present different slides. The idea is that the slides will help frame the subsequent discussion.

Looking forward to seeing you on Monday,

(signed either Mike or Kate)

To: Yasmin Green[yasmingreen@google.com]
Cc: Safiya Umoja Noble[snoble@g.ucla.edu]; Murdoch, Kathryn[kam@qdv.org]; Diara-Jepris Townes[Diara-Jepris.Townes@aspeninstitute.org]; Ryan Merkley (Consultant)[Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 8/6/2021 2:50:26 PM
Subject: Re: Aspen - Harms Mtg 3 Prep
Received: Fri 8/6/2021 2:50:27 PM

In case I need to leave early, here are my lower level notes for today. Not exhaustive.

Platforms:

- have mechanisms to quickly identify and remove or limit the visibility of harmful content (and those who repeatedly spread it) before it can cause harm
 - have clear policies that can be quickly enforced — from suspensions to reductions in visibility (and slowing down) for certain content/users
 - holding areas for potentially harmful content (e.g. from users on probation) — that gets manually checked before releasing
 - address the superspreader/repeat offender phenomenon (as well as the coordinated inauthentic behavior phenomenon)
 - implement a “negligence” framework that holds accounts with more visibility (and accounts from public figures including anyone with a “blue check” and other influencers) to higher standards in regards to transparency and enforcement
- have addressed structural embedding of disinformation (in networks and algorithms)
 - trimmed toxic networks that have grown out of manipulation and (toxic) recommendations
 - addressed algorithmic manipulation, both new efforts and impacts from past exploitation
 - adjusted algorithmic recommendation to optimize on more than just engagement (e.g. information quality)
 - research suggests that high quality, balanced content doesn’t get as many clicks as content with a partisan framing... implement algorithms that counter this, rather than resonate with it...
 - demote sites like OccupyDemocrats and GatewayPundit — not just accounts but sites
- have implemented new designs to help people understand information provenance
 - including signals about the original source of information and how it reached them (who has amplified it along the way, how it has moved from one platform to another)
- have some ability to collaborate with other platforms (for example to address entities that use one site for content hosting and another for amplification) but without becoming unregulated “content cartels”
- have used their profits (from misinformation) to help fund research into educational interventions and community support for enhancing resilience to mis/disinformation
 - I might argue that education efforts need to extend beyond historically underrepresented communities and communities that are demonized by disinformation (that we noted in our last meeting) to include communities that are participating in that demonization
 - to include, e.g., libraries in rural communities, veterans, elders, PSAs on Fox News

Government

- has provided some guidance for platforms around harmful misinformation
- has mechanisms for holding platforms accountable for harms; including some mechanism for addressing toxic content on long tail platforms
 - suggested by others (and aligned with previous conversations with colleague Ryan Calo): perhaps using something akin to the “fraud” framework
- transparency: guidance for how to navigate tensions between transparency and privacy
 - and consideration of transparency — or research and other public good — when we develop privacy regulations
 - perhaps something around who warrants privacy vs who is “public” (related to visibility, influence, public figure, advertising organization, etc.)

People (Users):

- have the skills (and access to the right signals from the platforms, see:transparency) to identify false information, determine the credibility of sources, spot manipulation
 - to do this well, users need to understand how information reaches them (via influencers, algorithms, networks)
 - requires some level of transparency for everyday users
- understand not just how to spot misleading information but why they should apply their skills to determine if something is misleading before engaging with it or spreading it (civic responsibility)
- are empowered to do something about misinformation in their own lives, including correcting themselves and correcting misinformation (with empathy rather than derision)
- have ways to remedy past mistakes — rehabilitate accounts (when warranted)

On Aug 6, 2021, at 7:20 AM, Yasmin Green <yasmingreen@google.com> wrote:

For whoever can make it, can we check in at 7.30 PT / 10.30 ET this morning -- in 10 mins -- just to nail this scheduling question?

On Fri, 6 Aug 2021 at 10:07, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

Thanks for being so accommodating!

I'm able to connect today from 7:30-8:30 (from a coffee shop near the hospital)... but without voice. The surgery should take about an hour, so 8:30 is likely worse (as I'll be picking her up around then). I'm available Monday next week, but not Thurs/Fri (traveling w/o wifi).

Kate

On Aug 6, 2021, at 6:57 AM, Murdoch, Kathryn <kam@qdv.m.org> wrote:

I can do Monday, Thursday or Friday of next week.

Kathryn

From: Safiya Umoja Noble <snoble@g.ucla.edu>
Sent: Friday, August 6, 2021 9:54:23 AM
To: Yasmin Green <yasmingreen@google.com>
Cc: Murdoch, Kathryn <kam@qdv.m.org>; Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Subject: Re: Aspen - Harms Mtg 3 Prep

Hi all,

Just checking to see if we can go ahead abs reschedule to make sure Kate is off the hook for this.

Could we also push back the time an hour to 8:30 rather than 7:30AM?

S.

Sent from my tiny mobile -- expect typos.

> On Aug 5, 2021, at 4:57 PM, Yasmin Green <yasmingreen@google.com> wrote:
 >

--

Yasmin Green | Director of Research and Development, [Jigsaw](#) | Twitter: [@yasmind](#) |

To: Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 7/30/2021 5:49:07 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Materials for August 5 Virtual meeting, and Updates about Aspen
Received: Fri 7/30/2021 5:49:07 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

As this is summer, I am also traveling intermittently (and turning off email to focus on writing from time to time), which means that there may be significant delay, even for messages that I do respond to.

If this is a media request, please contact Michael Grass (megrass@uw.edu), the Communications Manager at the Center for an Informed Public, who may be able to coordinate a time for us to chat or find another researcher at the Center who can speak with you.

Warm regards,
Kate

To: Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org[Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 7/19/2021 2:59:10 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Working Group: Harms - seeking research and guest speakers
Received: Mon 7/19/2021 2:59:10 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

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Warm regards,
Kate

To: Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 7/16/2021 9:31:50 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Commission Updates, and Briefing Book for July 22 Meeting
Received: Fri 7/16/2021 9:31:50 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

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Warm regards,
Kate

To: Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 8/13/2021 2:10:32 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Aspen Commission: Logistics for Next Week
Received: Fri 8/13/2021 2:10:32 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

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Warm regards,
Kate

To: Kathleen Carley[kathleen.carley@cs.cmu.edu]
Cc: Mark Scott Kamlet[kamlet@cmu.edu]; David Agranovich[dagranovich@fb.com]; Jennifer Britton[jbritto2@andrew.cmu.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 7/7/2021 6:18:22 PM
Subject: Re: IDEaS conference this coming week
Received: Wed 7/7/2021 6:18:23 PM

My presentation will be on the “participatory” nature of online disinformation — how it’s both top-down and bottom-up (with unwitting members of the crowd spreading and even producing false narratives that feed into disinformation campaigns). I’ll present some examples from the 2020 election. I’d be happy to talk about what this means for potential societal responses to disinformation.

I’m happy to engage with any of the questions Kathleen mentions.

On Jul 7, 2021, at 6:33 AM, Kathleen Carley <kathleen.carley@cs.cmu.edu> wrote:

Sure, I'd be happy to meet.

Here are some questions the audience might be interested in.

Can fact checkers stop disinformation?

Can the social media platforms stop the spread of disinformation? or What wa the impact of the Twitter/Facebook/ and YouTube censorship on the sprea of disinformation?

What makes communities and/or individuals resilient to disinformation?

What makes communities and/or individuals susceptible to disinformation?

Who is spreading disinformation and why?

I expect that I will have slides

On Tue, Jul 6, 2021 at 11:48 PM Mark Scott Kamlet <kamlet@cmu.edu> wrote:

Hi all,

You three are the presenters and I’m the moderator for a 2:45 Monday July 12 panel session during the upcoming IDEaS Conference. I’m most looking forward to it.

I’m a long-time faculty member at Carnegie Mellon, currently (among other things) Interim Director of the Institute for Politics and Strategy, with a Ph.D. in Economics. I co-taught a PhD course last year with Tom Mitchell and Ashique Khudabukhsh called “Using Machine Learning to Gauge Political Sentiments” and I’ve become fascinated by all the issues that IDEaS focuses upon.

In the time-line for the session, I believe each of you is to have 8-10 minutes. That is followed by me asking a few “intelligent” questions (and going then to questions and topics from the audience and any back and forth from the panelists).

I don’t imagine you will have papers of what you are presenting, or maybe even slides. But, I had a couple thoughts:

(a) If you are able, I'd love to get 10 minutes of each of your time this coming few days to learn a little on what you will be talking about. Let me know if there is a convenient time. I should be able to be pretty flexible on when I'm available. If you do have a paper, or a draft, or slides that would, of course, be outstanding.

(b) It would be great if you could think of some intelligent question for me to ask you, so if you could give some thought to that I'd be appreciative.

Thanks much and looking forward to the panel,

Mark

Mark S. Kamlet

University Professor of Economics and Public Policy, Provost Emeritus

Carnegie Mellon University

To: Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Sat 7/10/2021 2:54:30 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Interim Report comms plan
Received: Sat 7/10/2021 2:54:30 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

As this is summer, I am also traveling intermittently (and turning off email to focus on writing from time to time), which means that there may be significant delay, even for messages that I do respond to.

If this is a media request, please contact Michael Grass (megrass@uw.edu), the Communications Manager at the Center for an Informed Public, who may be able to coordinate a time for us to chat or find another researcher at the Center who can speak with you.

Warm regards,
Kate

To: Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org[Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 8/13/2021 8:24:06 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Aspen Commission: Recommendations for Tuesday's in-person meeting
Received: Fri 8/13/2021 8:24:06 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

As this is summer, I am also traveling intermittently (and turning off email to focus on writing from time to time), which means that there may be significant delay, even for messages that I do respond to.

If this is a media request, please contact Michael Grass (megrass@uw.edu), the Communications Manager at the Center for an Informed Public, who may be able to coordinate a time for us to chat or find another researcher at the Center who can speak with you.

Warm regards,
Kate

To: kstarbi@uw.edu[kstarbi@uw.edu]
From: Renee DiResta (Google Docs)
Sent: Tue 6/29/2021 1:11:34 AM
Subject: SharpieGate - will go pull their profile data later
Received: Tue 6/29/2021 1:11:52 AM

Renee DiResta added a comment to the following document

 SharpieGate

skeeterpi

 Renee DiResta

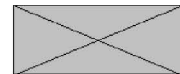
New

will go pull their profile data later

Open

Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA

You have received this email because you are subscribed to all discussions on SharpieGate. Change what Google Docs sends you. You can reply to this email to reply to the discussion.



To: Jevin West[jevinw@uw.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]
Cc: Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 6/21/2021 5:49:10 PM
Subject: Re: connecting you about connecting to Cindy Aden
Received: Mon 6/21/2021 5:49:11 PM

CCing Elena here on this as well.

> On Jun 21, 2021, at 10:48 AM, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

>

> Hi Jevin,

>

> The Virality folks (Renee) are still looking for a librarian for a panel with the Surgeon General this week. Any chance you can help connect Renee with Cindy? (She sounds like a perfect person.)

>

> Thank you!!

>

> Kate

To: Jevin West[jevinw@uw.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 6/21/2021 5:48:15 PM
Subject: connecting you about connecting to Cindy Aden
Received: Mon 6/21/2021 5:48:15 PM

Hi Jevin,

The Virality folks (Renee) are still looking for a librarian for a panel with the Surgeon General this week. Any chance you can help connect Renee with Cindy? (She sounds like a perfect person.)

Thank you!!

Kate

To: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 6/29/2021 5:53:54 PM
Subject: Re: Meeting this week?
Received: Tue 6/29/2021 5:53:56 PM

CRAZY heat. Even places "with AC" couldn't keep up with the heat. Our building's main AC broke, as did the AC in my parents' place (an elder living facility). They just aren't designed for this kind of extreme heat — in f'ing SEATTLE.

> On Jun 29, 2021, at 10:49 AM, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu> wrote:

>

> I saw your tweets...glad you found a solution. These heat waves are insane. One of our colleagues is out in AZ and his car wouldn't start. Meanwhile in SF we are back to 60 degrees and me sending the kids to camp with hoodies and long pants...

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>

> Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2021 10:43 AM

> To: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>

> Subject: Re: Meeting this week?

>

> Whew! I saw all your comments on the document and then thought it was today and I wasn't going to be able to make it. Thursday is good!

>

> (Family cooling station is now decommissioned, parents and sibling and nieces/nephews have all returned to their homes, and I can now get back to work!)

>

>> On Jun 29, 2021, at 10:14 AM, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu> wrote:

>>

>> Thursday! 2:30pm. I'm pretty much all clear after 11am Thurs.

>>

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>

>> Sent: Monday, June 28, 2021 6:28 PM

>> To: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>

>> Subject: Meeting this week?

>>

>> Hi Renee,

>> I don't think I managed to get our meeting this week into my calendar. What did we decide on? (I might have given that time away when I rescheduled all my meetings today for tomorrow — due to family/heat issues.) Kate

>>

>> Sent from my iPhone

>

To: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 6/29/2021 5:42:58 PM
Subject: Re: Meeting this week?
Received: Tue 6/29/2021 5:43:00 PM

Whew! I saw all your comments on the document and then thought it was today and I wasn't going to be able to make it. Thursday is good!

(Family cooling station is now decommissioned, parents and sibling and nieces/nephews have all returned to their homes, and I can now get back to work!)

> On Jun 29, 2021, at 10:14 AM, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu> wrote:

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> Sent: Monday, June 28, 2021 6:28 PM

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> Subject: Meeting this week?

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>

> Sent from my iPhone

To: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 6/29/2021 1:28:08 AM
Subject: Meeting this week?
Received: Tue 6/29/2021 1:28:09 AM

Hi Renee,

I don't think I managed to get our meeting this week into my calendar. What did we decide on? (I might have given that time away when I rescheduled all my meetings today for tomorrow — due to family/heat issues.)

Kate

Sent from my iPhone

To: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Sun 6/20/2021 5:52:56 PM
Subject: Re: canceling meeting today
Received: Sun 6/20/2021 5:53:00 PM

Confirmed! Your Zoom room or mine?

On Jun 20, 2021, at 10:31 AM, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu> wrote:

Wednesday works for us!

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Friday, June 18, 2021 12:42 PM
To: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: canceling meeting today

Let's book with just me and then I'll see if 51 can come. I've sent him off in a slightly different direction for now, but we may want to connect back up around some specific questions. (I think our larger goal of a participatory disinfo paper doesn't necessarily need him involved — might make it more complicated to carry out.)

Next week, I can do:

- Tues 10-11am or 2pm-3:30
- Wed 2:30-3:30
- Thurs 2-3:30 (though I might lose this slot)
- Fri 2-3pm (maybe)

On Jun 18, 2021, at 12:02 PM, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu> wrote:

We can sync at 2:30 quickly about the paper and also the grant and the Surgeon General roundtable — I was in DC and got behind on scheduling and email (wasn't sure when I was coming back until the day before).

For a group meeting for next week what days/times work for you and your RA?

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Friday, June 18, 2021 11:02 AM
To: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: canceling meeting today

Renee, do we have another meeting time on the books? I might be able to meet 2:30-3:30 today. Or we can plan something for next week.

Kate

On Jun 17, 2021, at 8:13 PM, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

I think it's all in on your end.
We have to get an IRB letter in on our end,
and then I think we'll find out in the next few
days whether or not it's funded.
(I've never gotten this far and not had it funded,

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Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 17, 2021, at 5:42 PM, Renee DiResta <rdirresta@stanford.edu> wrote:

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From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Friday, June 11, 2021 2:55 PM
To: Renee DiResta <rdirresta@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: canceling meeting today

Also, FYI that we received strange but somewhat positive feedback about our NSF SaTC grant. It will likely be recommended for funding, but our PO suggested she'd have some work to do to get it over that line. (And she made us do some additional work answering written questions to fill in details, mostly about the basic research questions about how disinfo works). In any case, we're expecting to know for sure by the end of the month, one way or another.

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I'm flexible Friday EXCEPT for 1-2:30. Everything else is open. And if we want to add time to make up for missed time today, I'm okay with that!

Kate

On Jun 11, 2021, at 1:26 PM, Renee DiResta <rdirresta@stanford.edu> wrote:

No problem, I understand. We made some graphs that we'll share and can chat about in the Slack. Could we meet on Thursday afternoon PT next week? (I'm on a plane on Tues/Wed - back to short hops to the east coast!) Let us know UW folks availability on

Thurs/Friday and we will coordinate against our calendars.

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Friday, June 11, 2021 12:08 PM
To: Renee DiResta <rdirresta@stanford.edu>;
Isabella Garcia-Camargo <bellagc@stanford.edu>
Cc: [REDACTED] 51 @uw.edu>
Subject: canceling meeting today

Hi folks,

I'm buried under a deadline (grading) and need to steal time back this afternoon to get that done. I'm so sorry, but I need to cancel our meeting (or just cancel my appearance at our meeting). I'm hoping to have some time to do some analysis once I put the academic quarter behind me — and [REDACTED] 51 will be leading a team of folks on our end to help.

Happy to schedule a time to meet next week (after Tuesday).

Sorry!!!

Kate

To: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 6/18/2021 7:41:59 PM
Subject: Re: canceling meeting today
Received: Fri 6/18/2021 7:42:00 PM

Let's book with just me and then I'll see if [REDACTED] 51 can come. I've sent him off in a slightly different direction for now, but we may want to connect back up around some specific questions. (I think our larger goal of a participatory disinfo paper doesn't necessarily need him involved — might make it more complicated to carry out.)

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To: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 6/18/2021 6:01:40 PM
Subject: Re: canceling meeting today
Received: Fri 6/18/2021 6:01:41 PM

Renee, do we have another meeting time on the books? I might be able to meet 2:30-3:30 today. Or we can plan something for next week.

Kate

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Sorry!!!

Kate

To: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 6/18/2021 3:13:27 AM
Subject: Re: canceling meeting today
Received: Fri 6/18/2021 3:13:28 AM

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To: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
Cc: Isabella Garcia-Camargo[bellagc@stanford.edu]; [REDACTED] 51 @uw.edu; Matt Marshall DeButts[mdebutts@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 6/11/2021 9:36:46 PM
Subject: Re: canceling meeting today
Received: Fri 6/11/2021 9:36:53 PM

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Sorry!!!

Kate

To: Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Sun 11/14/2021 1:29:49 PM
Subject: Delayed Response | Media Contact Re: UPDATES, plus Designed Report and Social Media Kit
Received: Sun 11/14/2021 1:29:49 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you in a timely manner.

If this is a media request, please contact Michael Grass (megrass@uw.edu), the Communications Manager at the Center for an Informed Public, who may be able to coordinate a time for us to chat or find another researcher at the Center who can speak with you.

Warm regards,
Kate

To: clintonwatts@icloud.com[clintonwatts@icloud.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 6/2/2021 1:14:16 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Seeking motivated & talented analysts, a copy editor, a digital media producer and a developer
Received: Wed 6/2/2021 1:14:16 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

If you are a student in my class, please disregard this message — I will get back to you shortly!

If this is a media request, please contact Michael Grass (megrass@uw.edu), the Communications Manager at the Center for an Informed Public, who may be able to coordinate a time for us to chat — or find another researcher at the Center who can speak with you.

Warm regards,
Kate

To: rdirستا@stanford.edu[rdirستا@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 6/2/2021 6:12:12 PM
Subject: Delayed Response RE: invite for [REDACTED] 51 to our Friday meeting
Received: Wed 6/2/2021 6:12:12 PM

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If you are a student in my class, please disregard this message — I will get back to you shortly!

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Warm regards,
Kate

To: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
Cc: [REDACTED] 51 [REDACTED]@uw.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 6/2/2021 7:13:35 PM
Subject: Re: invite for incoming PhD student to our Friday meeting
Received: Wed 6/2/2021 7:13:36 PM

I think we were thinking 1-2:30.

> On Jun 2, 2021, at 11:08 AM, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu> wrote:

>
> Sure! 1pm PT, right? I don't think we ever sent out an invite.

>
> -----Original Message-----

> From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
> Sent: Tuesday, June 1, 2021 4:10 PM
> To: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
> Cc: [REDACTED] 51 [REDACTED]@uw.edu>
> Subject: invite for incoming PhD student to our Friday meeting

>
> Hi Renee,

>
> Can you invite [REDACTED] 51 [REDACTED] to our Friday meeting? He's going to lead a team of students on our end to help with our qualitative analysis of some of the election data over the summer.

>
> Thanks!

>
> Kate

To: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
Cc: [REDACTED] 51 [REDACTED]@uw.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 6/1/2021 11:10:04 PM
Subject: invite for [REDACTED] 51 [REDACTED] to our Friday meeting
Received: Tue 6/1/2021 11:10:05 PM

Hi Renee,

Can you invite [REDACTED] 51 [REDACTED] to our Friday meeting? He's going to lead a team of students on our end to help with our qualitative analysis of some of the election data over the summer.

Thanks!

Kate

To: Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Sun 8/22/2021 2:11:04 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Thank you!
Received: Sun 8/22/2021 2:11:04 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

As this is summer, I am also traveling intermittently (and turning off email to focus on writing from time to time), which means that there may be significant delay, even for messages that I do respond to.

If this is a media request, please contact Michael Grass (megrass@uw.edu), the Communications Manager at the Center for an Informed Public, who may be able to coordinate a time for us to chat or find another researcher at the Center who can speak with you.

Warm regards,
Kate

To: Vivian Schiller[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
Cc: Ryan Merkley (Consultant)[Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org]; Sara Sendek[sara.sendek@aspeninstitute.org]; Diara-Jepris Townes[Diara-Jepris.Townes@aspeninstitute.org]; Garrett Graff[Garrett.Graff@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 5/27/2021 5:04:29 PM
Subject: Re: Aspen Briefing Book AND News about an In-Person Meeting
Received: Thur 5/27/2021 5:04:32 PM

Hi Vivian (et al),

I can attend the August meeting. I'm looking forward to it. I might not be able to get in until a little late on August 16 (coming over from another travel commitment).

Kate

On May 21, 2021, at 11:40 AM, Vivian Schiller <Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org> wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

Attached please find materials for next week's meeting on May 27th from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. As a reminder, our focus will be on the platforms and we'll be joined in the first hour by the three representatives from Facebook, Twitter, and Google who serve as commission technical advisors.

Also, we're excited to share that we've secured dates for a real-life IN-PERSON Commission meeting in Aspen, Colorado, from August 16th - 18th. It would just be too sad if we went through this whole process without sitting in a room together, breaking bread, and raising a glass. And while that's obviously been impossible so far, the public health moves in recent days have made us comfortable that we can gather safely in late summer.

We are really hoping you can make it and will cover your economy-fare travel, lodging at the [Aspen Meadows](#) for two nights, and meals while you are there. We'll plan to begin at 5 p.m. MT on Monday, August 16th, and wrap no later than lunch on Wednesday, August 18th, for those who will want to fly out that day. We'll ask for your full attendance and attention during that window.

I know we just sprung this on you, but please let us know next week if you can make it as the resort is asking us to confirm the number of rooms we need. Travel is roaring back so demand is high. All three of our co-chairs have confirmed they're available and we're hopeful that all or nearly all of you can attend.

As part of thinking through meeting logistics, I should mention that the Aspen Institute is launching a policy whereby all attendees to in-person events will either need to prove that they have been vaccinated (via a secure app or other confidential means), or provide information that shows they are exempt from vaccination under exceptions required by federal, state, or local law (mainly the ADA or Title VII). Anyone who falls in the latter category will need to take a rapid antigen test upon arrival, mask, and distance while on premises. If anyone has any concerns here, please feel free to contact me directly.

Finally, I want to issue my standard reminder that our meetings are off-the-record—and that goes especially so for the idea that we're going to be gathering for an in-person meeting. Please keep the information of our summer gathering very tightly held to only those who need to know, and do not share that it is happening in any public forum. I have a lot of paparazzi pestering me anywhere I go, as you might imagine, and I don't want them tipped off. ;-)

Cheers,

Vivian

--

Vivian Schiller

Executive Director, Aspen Digital

The Aspen Institute

+1-240-463-0496

@vivian

<image001[85].png>

<Aspen Briefing Book - May 27, 2021 Meeting.pdf>

To: Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]
From: Ryan Merkley (Consultant)
Sent: Wed 5/12/2021 7:30:05 PM
Subject: Re: Aspen Commission Briefing book for May 13
Received: Wed 5/12/2021 7:30:47 PM

You're the best.

"I disagree with your point, so I made a brilliant graphic."

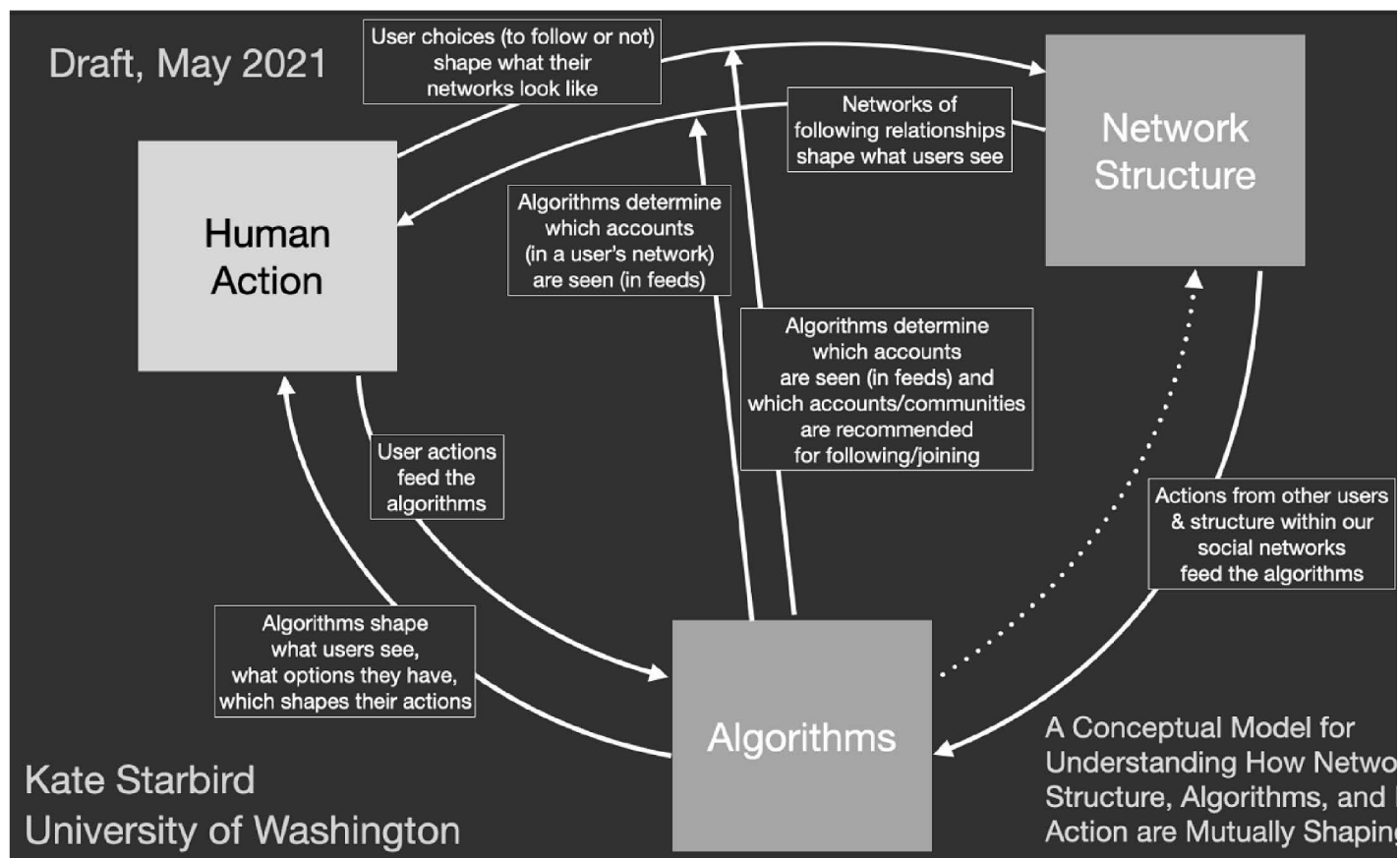
The meeting after this one (May 27) is focused on platforms and big tech. I think this would be relevant there -- we could even distribute it as part of the reading if you'd like (with or without a cover note or any relevant article you'd want to point to).

r.

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 2:27 PM
To: Ryan Merkley (Consultant) <Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org>
Subject: Re: Aspen Commission Briefing book for May 13

No worries. I was just going to try to counter Alex's claim that the problem is mostly about the organic networks (Alex's response to Harry's question about algorithms) with a response that the networks themselves have been shaped by the algorithms, so that it's not just algorithms or just networks, but both.

I made a graphic that I'm happy to share if that part of the conversation comes back up:



On May 12, 2021, at 11:06 AM, Ryan Merkley (Consultant) <Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org> wrote:

... and now I'm realizing that you did pitch in the meeting, but you didn't get to comment on a separate item as we ran out of time. Sorry for misremembering.

Apologies. See you soon.

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Sorry to hear that kate, but we're looking forward to seeing you in the backhalf.

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Date: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 6:36 PM
To: Vivian Schiller <Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org>
Cc: Ryan Merkley (Consultant) <Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org>, Sara Sendek <sara.sendek@aspeninstitute.org>, Diara-Jepris Townes <Diara-Jepris.Townes@aspeninstitute.org>, Garrett Graff <Garrett.Graff@aspeninstitute.org>
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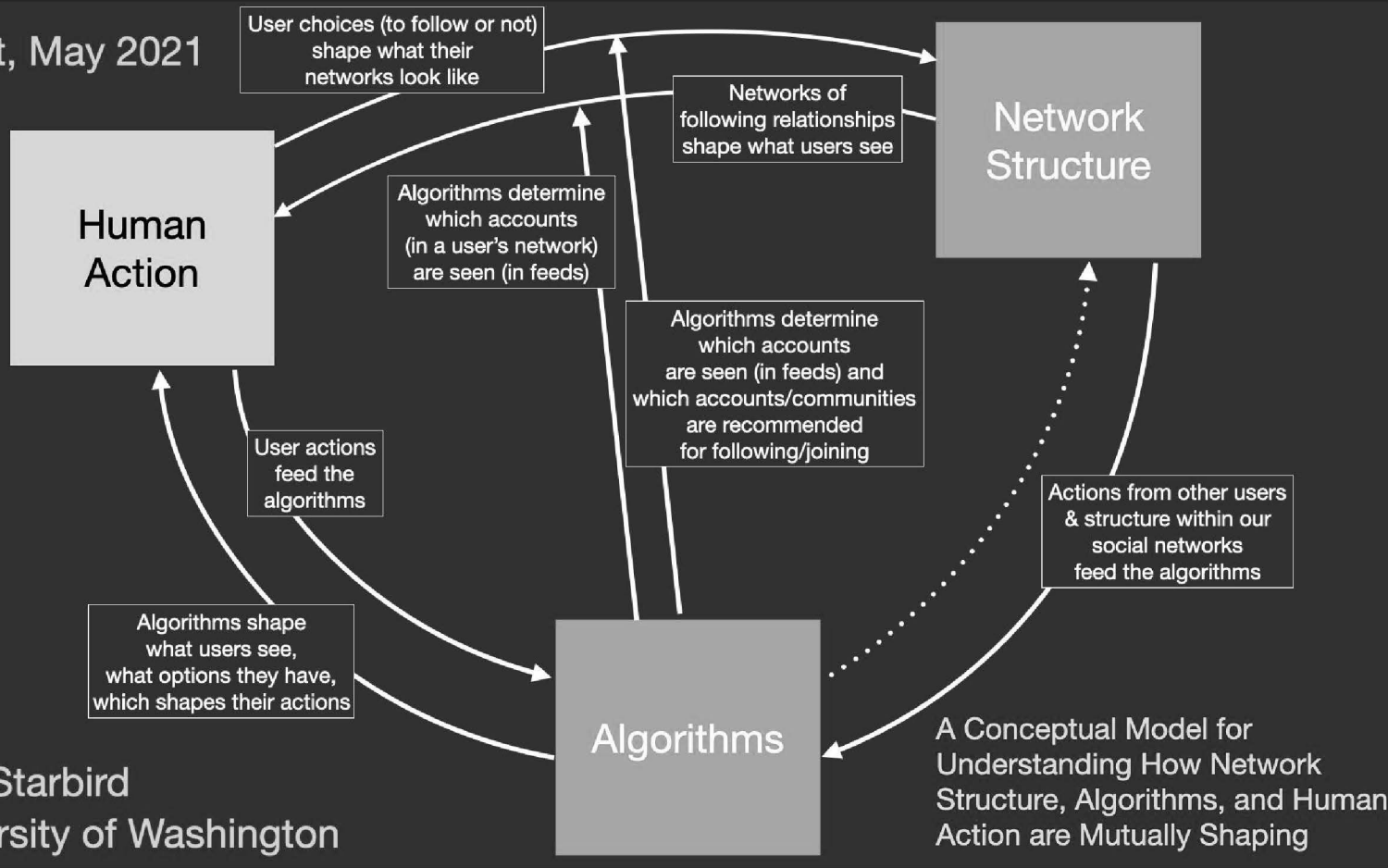
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<image001[60].png>

<Aspen-Commission_Briefing-Book_5.13.21.pdf>

Draft, May 2021



Kate Starbird
University of Washington

A Conceptual Model for Understanding How Network Structure, Algorithms, and Human Action are Mutually Shaping

To: Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]
From: Ryan Merkley (Consultant)
Sent: Thur 5/13/2021 7:04:13 PM
Subject: Re: Aspen Commission Briefing book for May 13
Received: Thur 5/13/2021 7:08:12 PM

There was a lot more discussion on algos in the first half today. I really want to make sure we make a space to have that discussion between you two - he's very much focused at the "post" level, while your "network" level approach makes a pretty unassailable point IMHO.

r.

From: Ryan Merkley (Consultant) <Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 3:30 PM
To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Subject: Re: Aspen Commission Briefing book for May 13

You're the best.

"I disagree with your point, so I made a brilliant graphic."

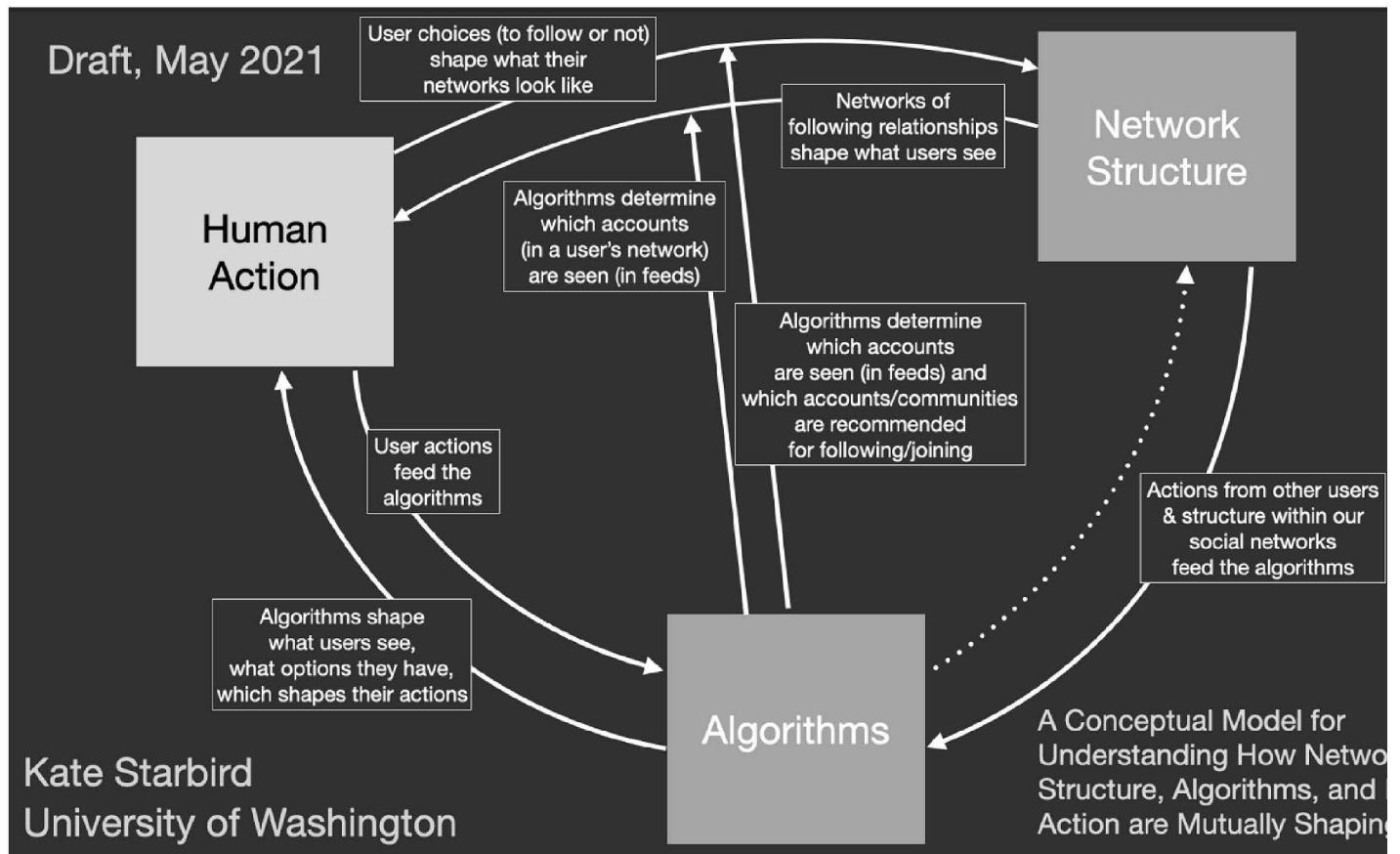
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To: Vivian Schiller <Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org>

Cc: Ryan Merkley (Consultant) <Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org>, Sara Sendek <sara.sendek@aspeninstitute.org>, Diara-Jepris Townes <Diara-Jepris.Townes@aspeninstitute.org>, Garrett Graff <Garrett.Graff@aspeninstitute.org>

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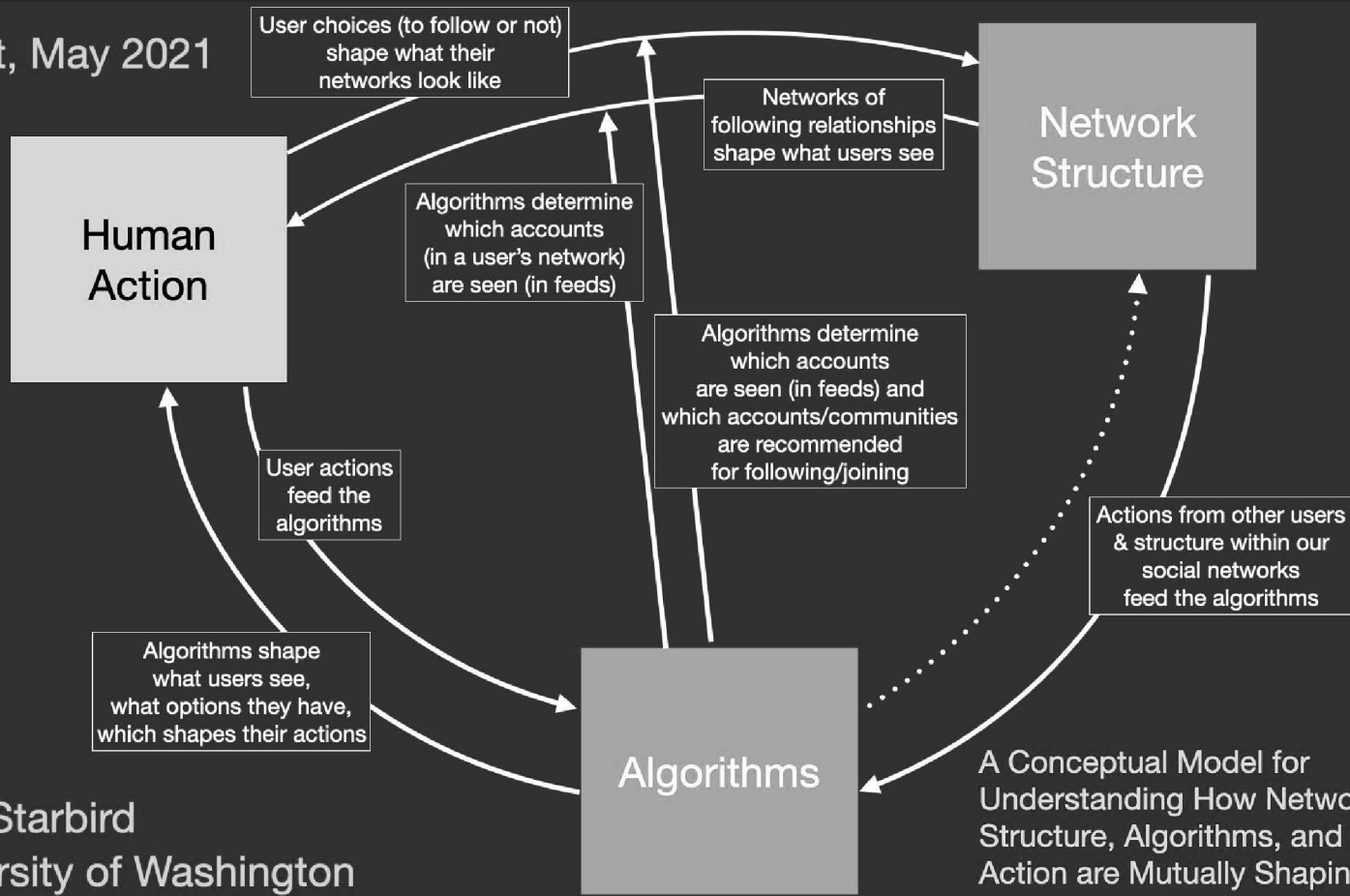
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Draft, May 2021



Kate Starbird
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Action are Mutually Shaping

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From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 5/12/2021 6:06:06 PM
Subject: Re: Aspen Commission Briefing book for May 13
Received: Wed 5/12/2021 6:06:07 PM

Pretty sure the one I submitted was the same as I presented in the meeting last week (just updated the language a bit to make it more coherent), so I'm not sure I need the floor for that one again.

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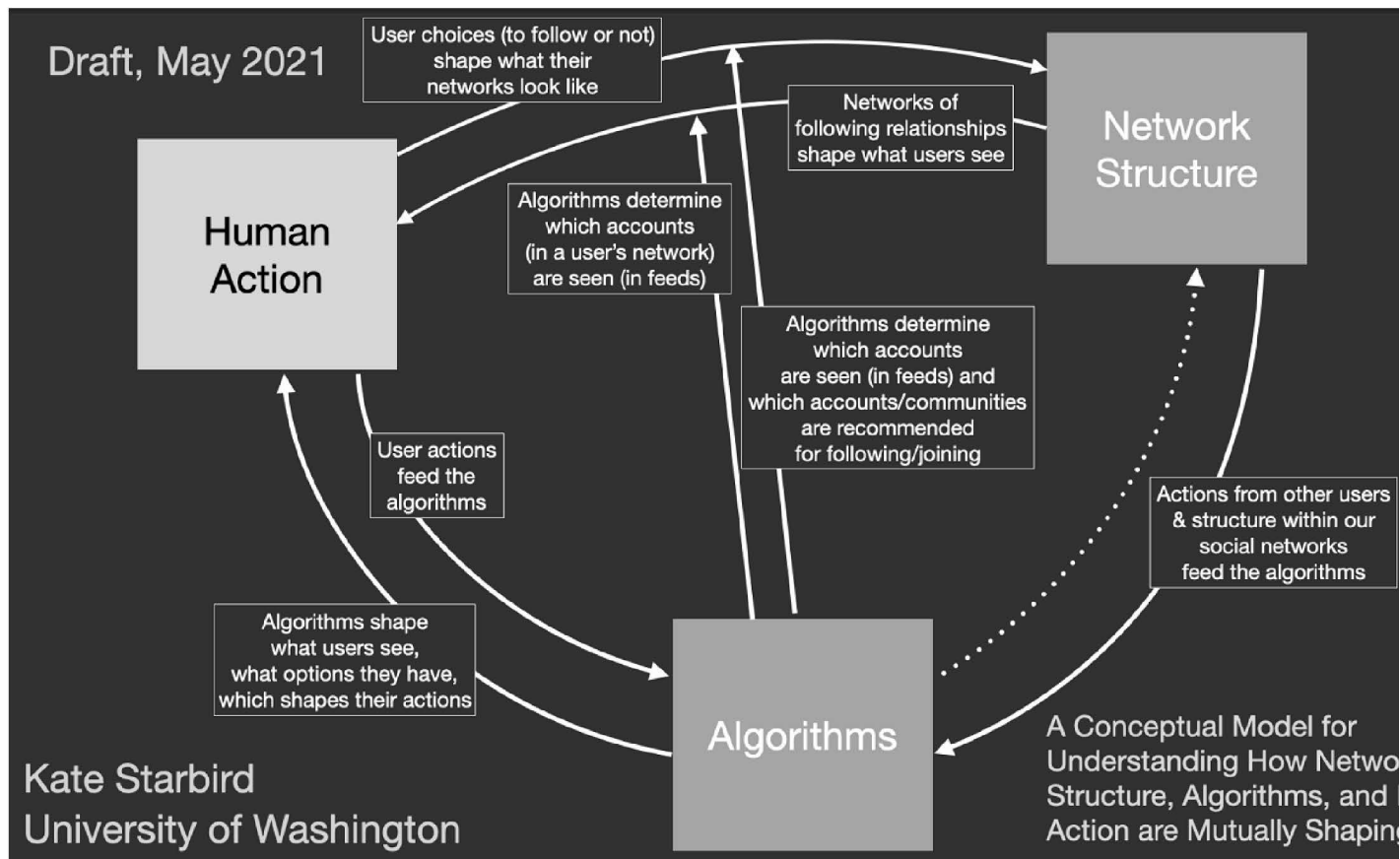
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To: Ryan Merkley (Consultant)[Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 5/12/2021 6:27:59 PM
Subject: Re: Aspen Commission Briefing book for May 13
Received: Wed 5/12/2021 6:28:01 PM

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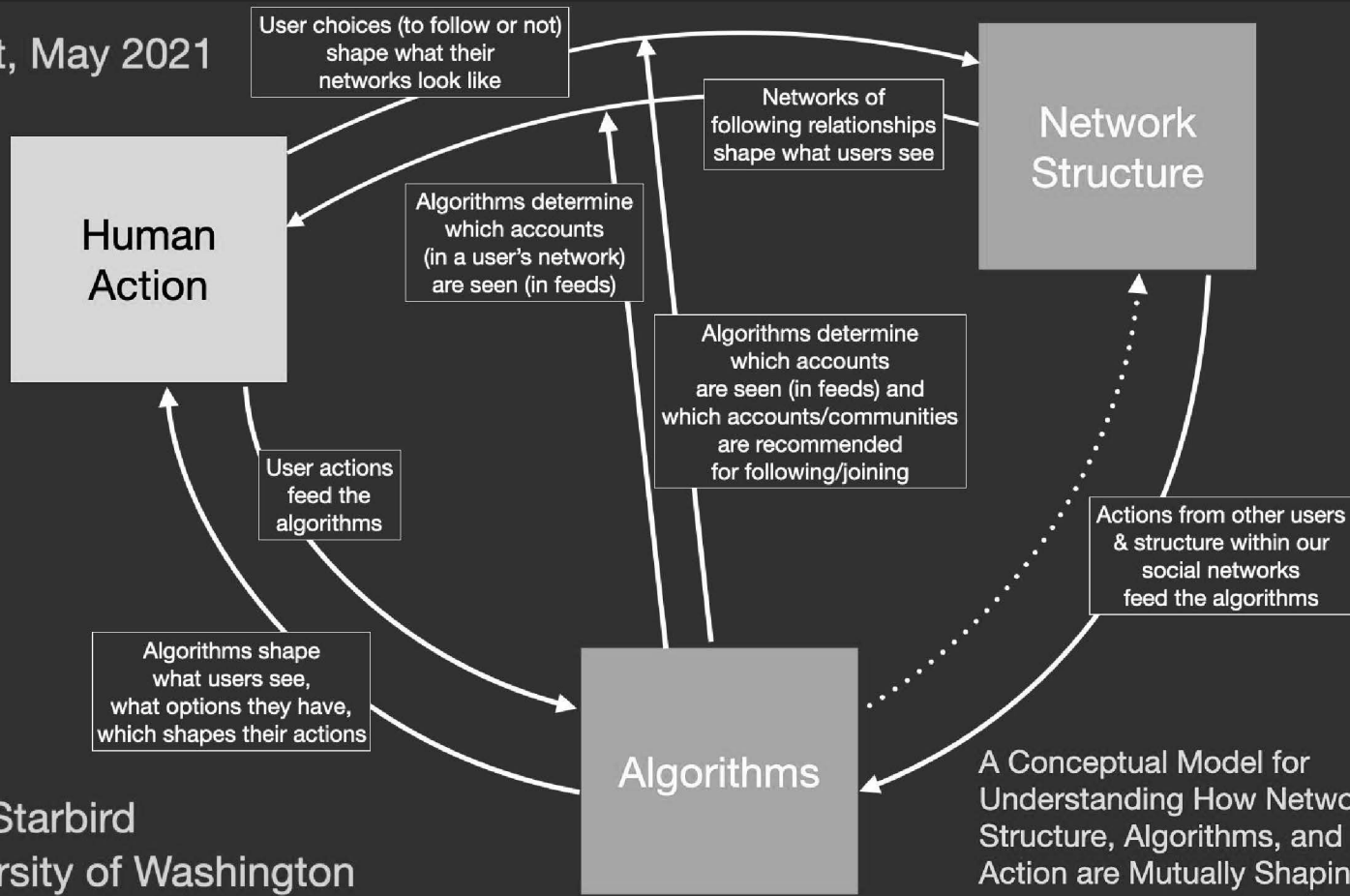
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From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 5/11/2021 10:33:51 PM
Subject: Re: Aspen Commission Briefing book for May 13
Received: Tue 5/11/2021 10:33:54 PM

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On May 7, 2021, at 9:53 AM, Vivian Schiller <Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org> wrote:

Hello Commissioners!

Attached is your briefing book for next Thursday's meeting (from 1p – 3pET as usual). Our theme will be 'government actions and responsibilities'. We're looking forward to seeing you and continuing the prioritization process.

Thanks also for those who have joined the slack. Come one, come all!

Have a nice Mother's day weekend.

Vivian

--

Vivian Schiller

Executive Director, Aspen Digital

The Aspen Institute

+1-240-463-0496

@vivian

<image001[60].png>

<Aspen-Commission_Briefing-Book_5.13.21.pdf>

To: Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org[Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 5/10/2021 5:21:30 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Aspen Commissioner Pitches
Received: Mon 5/10/2021 5:21:30 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

If you are a student in my class, please disregard this message — I will get back to you shortly!

If this is a media request, please contact Michael Grass (megrass@uw.edu), the Communications Manager at the Center for an Informed Public, who may be able to coordinate a time for us to chat — or find another researcher at the Center who can speak with you.

Warm regards,
Kate

To: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 6/23/2021 8:01:21 PM
Subject: Fwd: KUOW
Received: Wed 6/23/2021 8:01:22 PM

Did you by any chance archive these? Or do you know someone who did?

Begin forwarded message:

From: David Hyde <dhyde@kuow.org>
Subject: KUOW
Date: June 23, 2021 at 12:57:39 PM PDT
To: "'kstarbi@uw.edu'" <kstarbi@uw.edu>, "'lepisto@uw.edu'" <lepisto@uw.edu>

Hi Leah Pistorius and Professor Starbird,

I'm a reporter at KUOW trying to track down one or two now-deleted QAnon videos (which I've pasted below) and which were at one time on YouTube. (now removed)

These were items that I'm sure you remember the Mayor of Sequim had posted last year. I'm wondering if you have any suggestions for me?

Btw: thanks for all of the great stuff you've been doing with our station.

Best,



David Hyde
Reporter
DIR: (206) 359 5195
EM: dhyde@kuow.org





William Armacost

December 5, 2019 · 🌐



WWG1WGA 🇺🇸🇺🇸🇺🇸

Must watch 🙏🙏🙏



YOUTUBE.COM

The Luciferian Reign is Over - The Healing of Nations has begun

Humanity has been under the luciferian reign for thousands of years and now its...



William Armacost



December 5, 2019 · 🌐

WWG1WGA 🇺🇸🇺🇸🇺🇸

Must watch 🙏🙏🙏



YOUTUBE.COM

A Traitors Justice Episode 10 Conclusion (HD)

The first treasonous act in 1963 has brought forth this harvest of Evil. They killed...

To: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 6/23/2021 8:55:11 PM
Subject: Re: KUOW
Received: Wed 6/23/2021 8:55:12 PM

Thanks!
I don't think they're election related (pre-2020).

On Jun 23, 2021, at 1:51 PM, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu> wrote:

#2 is up on Rumble. [A Traitors Justice Episode 10 conclusion \(rumble.com\)](https://rumble.com/A-Traitors-Justice-Episode-10-conclusion)

My guess would be he could find #1 similarly. Were these in the Jira? Got an original URL?

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, June 23, 2021 1:01 PM
To: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Subject: Fwd: KUOW

Did you by any chance archive these? Or do you know someone who did?

Begin forwarded message:

From: David Hyde <dhyde@kuow.org>
Subject: KUOW
Date: June 23, 2021 at 12:57:39 PM PDT
To: "'kstarbi@uw.edu'" <kstarbi@uw.edu>; "'lepisto@uw.edu'" <lepisto@uw.edu>

Hi Leah Pistorius and Professor Starbird,

I'm a reporter at KUOW trying to track down one or two now-deleted QAnon videos (which I've pasted below) and which were at one time on YouTube. (now removed)

These were items that I'm sure you remember the Mayor of Sequim had posted last year. I'm wondering if you have any suggestions for me?

Btw: thanks for all of the great stuff you've been doing with our station.

Best,

<image001.png>

David Hyde
Reporter
DIR: (206) 359 5195
EM: dhyde@kuow.org

<image002.png> <image003.png> <image004.png>

<image005.png>

<image006.png>

To: Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 5/26/2021 6:44:07 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Briefing Book Addendums
Received: Wed 5/26/2021 6:44:07 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

If you are a student in my class, please disregard this message — I will get back to you shortly!

If this is a media request, please contact Michael Grass (megrass@uw.edu), the Communications Manager at the Center for an Informed Public, who may be able to coordinate a time for us to chat — or find another researcher at the Center who can speak with you.

Warm regards,
Kate

To: rdirستا@stanford.edu[rdirستا@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 9/13/2021 7:55:46 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: DARPA ISAT workshop pre-invite
Received: Mon 9/13/2021 7:55:46 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

As this is summer, I am also traveling intermittently (and turning off email to focus on writing from time to time), which means that there may be significant delay, even for messages that I do respond to.

If this is a media request, please contact Michael Grass (megrass@uw.edu), the Communications Manager at the Center for an Informed Public, who may be able to coordinate a time for us to chat or find another researcher at the Center who can speak with you.

Warm regards,
Kate

To: Vivian Schiller[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
Cc: Ryan Merkley (Consultant)[Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org]; Sara Sendek[sara.sendek@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 5/5/2021 10:28:43 PM
Subject: Re: Aspen Commission Slack
Received: Wed 5/5/2021 10:28:44 PM

Happy to have my contact info shared with the group: kstarbi@uw.edu; 206 313 2766

On May 5, 2021, at 3:04 PM, Vivian Schiller <Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org> wrote:

Dear Commissioners –

As we mentioned in our meeting last week, Aspen Digital has created a private Slack channel for Commissioners to communicate with each other. It's a forum for you to discuss ideas and share feedback between each meeting in a more informal way . (As with all of our meetings, these conversations should remain off-the-record and are open to Commissioners only)

You will each be receiving an email inviting you to join. Once you receive your invite, please take a moment to set up your account. If you do not already have Slack, you may need to download the application prior to setting up an account. If you run into any issues, please reach out to [Ryan](#) and [Sarah](#), our resident Slack experts on the Aspen Digital team.

We have also had several requests to share everyone's contact information with the full Commission. In effort to be respectful of your privacy and inbox, we will only share your information with explicit permission. If you would like to share your contact information with your fellow Commissioners, please reply to this email with your preferred contact information, and we will compile a list and include it in Friday's briefing material.

As always, hit us up with the any and all questions!

Regards,

Vivian

--

Vivian Schiller
Executive Director, Aspen Digital
The Aspen Institute
+1-240-463-0496
[@vivian](#)

<image001[93].png>

To: Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 4/23/2021 6:48:35 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Aspen Commission: Briefing Book for 4-29-21 Meeting
Received: Fri 4/23/2021 6:48:35 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

If you are a student in my class, please disregard this message — I will get back to you shortly!

If this is a media request, please contact Michael Grass (megrass@uw.edu), the Communications Manager at the Center for an Informed Public, who may be able to coordinate a time for us to chat — or find another researcher at the Center who can speak with you.

Warm regards,
Kate

To: clintonwatts@icloud.com[clintonwatts@icloud.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Sun 4/25/2021 1:08:44 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Russia's Disinformation & Propaganda Ecosystem - New resources for those interested
Received: Sun 4/25/2021 1:08:44 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

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Warm regards,
Kate

To: rdirستا@stanford.edu[rdirستا@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 4/21/2021 6:59:09 PM
Subject: Delayed Response RE: Journalist at Columbia University in New York City wondering about your availability for an interview on disinformation among Gen Z
Received: Wed 4/21/2021 6:59:09 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

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If this is a media request, please contact Michael Grass (megrass@uw.edu), the Communications Manager at the Center for an Informed Public, who may be able to coordinate a time for us to chat — or find another researcher at the Center who can speak with you.

Warm regards,
Kate

To: Clinton Watts[clintonwatts@icloud.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 4/15/2021 9:45:07 PM
Subject: Re: data collection assistance
Received: Thur 4/15/2021 9:45:14 PM

Hi Clint,

No worries. We figured it out... put together a data collection (on Twitter primarily) related to the growing tensions in Ukraine. Right now we're just sucking down data. Probably won't ever use it — but we never know!

Kate

On Apr 15, 2021, at 10:14 AM, Clinton Watts <clintonwatts@icloud.com> wrote:

Kate

Sorry to be slow, had my first travel since the pandemic so had to drive the car.

Could we discuss on the phone maybe? Really just depends on where the data and analysis will end up ultimately, might be able to help.

Clint

On Apr 9, 2021, at 6:43 PM, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

Hi Clint,

We're ramping up some data collections around the escalation in Ukraine. Any chance you have an internal list that you'd be willing to share of Facebook pages, Twitter accounts, and YouTube channels that you all follow in regards to Russian propaganda (and Ukrainian as well, if you have any)? We wouldn't be publishing it... just using it to suck down data that we could analyze post-hoc if needed. (Totally understand if you can't share, though, just thought I'd ask.)

Kate

Clint Watts

Author of [Messing With The Enemy: Surviving in a Social Media World of Hackers, Terrorists, Russians and Fake News](#)
Distinguished Research Fellow, [Foreign Policy Research Institute](#)
Non-Resident Fellow, [Alliance For Securing Democracy](#), [German Marshall Fund](#)
[Conversations with a terrorist](#), [a TED Talk](#)

To: Clinton Watts[clintonwatts@icloud.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 4/9/2021 10:43:59 PM
Subject: data collection assistance
Received: Fri 4/9/2021 10:44:02 PM

Hi Clint,

We're ramping up some data collections around the escalation in Ukraine. Any chance you have an internal list that you'd be willing to share of Facebook pages, Twitter accounts, and YouTube channels that you all follow in regards to Russian propaganda (and Ukrainian as well, if you have any)? We wouldn't be publishing it... just using it to suck down data that we could analyze post-hoc if needed. (Totally understand if you can't share, though, just thought I'd ask.)

Kate

To: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 4/21/2021 6:41:07 PM
Subject: Fwd: Journalist at Columbia University in New York City wondering about your availability for an interview on disinformation among Gen Z
Received: Wed 4/21/2021 6:41:11 PM

Do you know of any work at this intersection (TikTok and Syria)?

Begin forwarded message:

From: Michal J Kranz <mjk2187@columbia.edu>
Subject: Re: Journalist at Columbia University in New York City wondering about your availability for an interview on disinformation among Gen Z
Date: April 21, 2021 at 11:12:33 AM PDT
To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>

Hi Professor,

Thanks for the response back - I've read through some of [REDACTED] 51 TikTok is tough because it is a very new platform and few researchers have much experience with it yet. While disinformation on other platforms like Twitter has been focused on the White Helmets and anti-Assad forces, I've found that the majority of disinformation content on TikTok is much more US-centric, alleging that the US is responsible for the destruction of the country.

If you have anyone in mind who may be able to help with my project or has done work on TikTok, certainly let me know. I've reached out to [REDACTED] 51 to ask the same. Thanks again!

All the best,
Michal

On Tue, Apr 20, 2021 at 11:19 AM Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

Hi Michal,

Thanks for reaching out. Our work on the disinformation ecosystem around Syria focused on 2017-2018 and TikTok wasn't a significant part of the discourse at that time. And I personally don't have a lot of expertise with the general mechanics of TikTok at this point either. So, I don't have much insight there at all.

If you're interested more generally in an earlier "era" of disinformation around the civil war in Syria, my

[REDACTED] 51

Kate

On Apr 20, 2021, at 6:01 AM, Michal J Kranz <mjk2187@columbia.edu> wrote:

Hi Professor Starbird,

I hope you're doing well. My name is Michal Kranz, and I am a freelance journalist in New York City currently studying at Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism. Previously, I was based in Beirut, Lebanon for two years, where I wrote and produced pieces for a variety of outlets including Al Jazeera, Foreign Policy, Middle East Eye, Vox, and Business Insider, and I am a regular contributor to Al-Monitor's Lebanon section.

I'm doing a project as part of my program about disinformation on TikTok and other

Gen Z-focused platforms, specifically looking at false narratives about the Syrian Civil War. I'm wondering if you might be able to shed some light on what role the platform plays in spreading false or misleading narratives about this conflict among younger users. Although the role of malign actors is certainly of interest to me, I'm curious how generally apolitical users may be targeted by disinformation and subsequently help to spread it, and why an ostensibly family-friendly platform like TikTok might be particularly susceptible to this kind of spread. If possible, I'm also wondering if you might have any insight into the moderation mechanics of the platform and how they might compare to other social media websites. Although I am working on this project as part of my studies, I will be pitching it to outlets for publication upon completion.

I'd appreciate any help you might be able to give me. Let me know if you'd be available sometime in the next few days.

Thanks so much,
Michal

To: Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 6/4/2021 7:57:23 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Aspen Commission Briefing book for June 10
Received: Fri 6/4/2021 7:57:23 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

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Warm regards,
Kate

To: clintonwatts@icloud.com[clintonwatts@icloud.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 4/6/2021 4:56:04 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Select Invitation - Societal Resilience Roundtable - April 12, 2pm - 315pm ET
Received: Tue 4/6/2021 4:56:04 PM

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Warm regards,
Kate

To: Justin Hendrix[jah311@nyu.edu]
Cc: Mor Naaman[mor.naaman@cornell.edu]; Renee DiResta[renee.diresta@gmail.com]; CarrollD@newschool.edu[CarrollD@newschool.edu]; Yiqing Hua[yh663@cornell.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 4/7/2021 8:31:44 PM
Subject: Re: Tech Media Democracy class Monday April 5th: Details and Run of Show
Received: Wed 4/7/2021 8:31:48 PM

Okay by me.

On Apr 7, 2021, at 1:27 PM, Justin Hendrix <jah311@nyu.edu> wrote:

Dear Kate and Renee

Thank you again for joining our class on Monday night. The students gave great feedback- and I think you brought home for them the complexities of dealing with these issues in a live environment. I think there is quite a lot more discussion to be had about how these ad hoc partnerships work and what we need to do to shore up the gaps before the next big national cycle (now only 18 months away)!

I would love to use an edited version of the discussion for the podcast, if you are amenable- but totally okay if for some reason you would prefer not to. I don't think we strayed into difficult territory- but you may have a different view. I have attached the .vtt ZOOM provides us with in case you want to take a look. If either of you would prefer not to see it out there, that's fine too, just let me know.

Best regards

Justin

On Fri, Mar 26, 2021 at 5:15 PM Mor Naaman <mor.naaman@cornell.edu> wrote:

Dear Renee, Kate,

Thanks again for agreeing to participate in our April 5th city-wide meeting of the Tech, Media and Democracy course! See below for (a) technical details (time/zoom); (b) run of show; (c) what we hope for students to take away; (d) expanded prompts/plan for discussion; and (e) more details about the course. Let us know if you have any questions. Looking forward to it!

Details:

Tech, Media & Elections, the Heart of Democracy [TMD Session 9]

Monday, April 5th, 7pm-8:30pm (please plan to join a few minutes early)

Zoom link (please do not share):

<https://cornell.zoom.us/j/91750480833?pwd=S0l0N0dIRHZuUDk0WkkxTFllZmdqdz09>

Guests: Kate Starbird, Renee DiResta

Audience: graduate students [not open to public] from programs in tech, journalism, design, business and engineering at Cornell Tech, NYU, The New School, CUNY-Newmark and Columbia.

Run of show:

Start 7pm ET (please join a few minutes early if you can to test microphones, go over details etc.; we will be letting students in at 7pm)

7:02pm: Intros and motivation: [one of David/Mor/Justin]

7:05pm: Discussion led by Justin

7:50pm: Q&A

8:05pm: Student discussion/breakouts (you are welcome to stay/participate)

8:30pm: end

Desired student outcomes for this unit:

(some of which will be covered in our “closed” session that week)

- Where the rubber meets the road in democracies: understanding why elections a special category
- How the platforms have evolved to behave differently during election periods
- The unique situation in the United States in 2020 and what we learned
- “Fake news” and misinformation exposure and impact, and the relationship between “traditional media” and “social media”
- Partisan polarization and filter bubbles
- The role of advertising: the challenges in election and political ads and their regulation [how to define “political ad”; micro-targeting and its challenges (and abuse)]

Specific Prompts for Discussion:

[Kate] Looking back, were there specific studies or data that accurately predicted effects on the 2020 election? Jan 6? Along those lines, were there specific methodologies that proved especially effective in hindsight? What new trends seem to be animating the data these days?

[Both] The voter fraud claims that were made during the 2020 cycle were seeded long ago- the narratives are decades old, and specific elements rose to prominence last spring. How would you describe the trajectory of this disinformation campaign?

[Both] Platforms have contributed new data sources to research capabilities. What are some areas where this sharing has brought us important new insights? What about some of the limitations that have been revealed by engaging with the data sets?

[Renee] You were a prominent analyst on the Russian interference effort in 2016. Do you think as a system we learned some things between then and now?

[Both] The other issue you both work on is COVID19 and vaccine disinformation. Are there similarities to elections issues? (Stop the steal morphs to anti-covid vaccination)

[Kate] You get tantalizingly close to describing the relationship between the traditional media and social media platforms and the affordances on them that drive disinformation. What do you think researchers should be looking at on this subject going forward?

[Both] The recent hearing before the House Energy & Commerce committee demonstrated that lawmakers are better understanding the role of algorithms and the incentive structures of tech platforms. How have researchers helped guide this new perspective and critique?

[Both] If you could wave a magic wand and get any data you might want from the platforms related to January 6th- say if you had subpoena power- what would you ask for?

[Both] The Election Integrity Partnership was one of several unique efforts to combine the research community with civil society groups to contend with disinformation in the 2020 cycle. Do you think these efforts were properly resourced? Was it enough? Can it be sustained?

For more context about where we are in the course: In Week 8 (the week before your visit) we will talk about misinformation and fact-checking. Week 7 was dedicated to conspiracy theories. In Week 6 we talked about radicalization and media manipulation -- how our media ecosystem is used and abused by different actors to impact the broader population. The following week to your appearance, Week 10, we will be discussing ideas for a “better public sphere” (Here’s a [mega-Twitter thread](#) about the class so far).

For even more context, here are the readings some of the students were asked to do before your appearance in Week 7:

- Hendrix, J and Carroll, D. (2017). *Confronting a Nightmare for Democracy*.
- Roose, K. (2020). *On Election Day, Facebook and Twitter Did Better by Making Their Products Worse*.
- Eisenstat, Y. (2019). *I worked on political ads at Facebook. They profit by manipulating us*.

And they will watch presentations about:

- Berlinski, N., Doyle, M., Guess, A. M., Levy, G., Lyons, B., Montgomery, J. M., ... & Reifler, J. (2020). *The Effects of Unsubstantiated Claims of Voter Fraud on Confidence in Elections*.
- Trielli, D., & Diakopoulos, N. (2020). Partisan search behavior and Google results in the 2018 US midterm elections. *Information, Communication & Society*, 1-17.
- Benkler, Y., Faris, R., & Roberts, H. (2018). *Network propaganda: Manipulation, disinformation, and radicalization in American politics*. Oxford University Press. Chapter 9.
- Guess, A., Nagler, J., & Tucker, J. (2019). Less than you think: Prevalence and predictors of fake news dissemination on Facebook. *Science Advances*, 5(1).

Once again, we are very much looking forward to having you in our class!

Mor

--

Mor Naaman

Professor, Information Science

Founder, Connective Media Hub

Jacobs Institute, Cornell Tech

<http://mornaaman.com>

[@informor](#)

--

Justin Hendrix

[Twitter](#) · [LinkedIn](#) · 646 251 4929

Associate Research Scientist

Adjunct Professor, Integrated Digital Media

NYU Tandon School of Engineering

<GMT20210405-230547_Recording.transcript.vtt>

To: Isabella Garcia-Camargo[bellagc@stanford.edu]; [REDACTED] 51 [REDACTED]@uw.edu]
Cc: Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 4/5/2021 4:29:18 PM
Subject: prospective student for the Vaccine project
Received: Mon 4/5/2021 4:29:20 PM
[REDACTED] 51 [REDACTED] CV-2021.pdf

Hi Bella,

I'm writing to introduce you to another UW Master's student who is interested in participating in the Virality project. [REDACTED] 51 [REDACTED] is cced above. I've included her resume here. Happy to help coordinate if you need me. I'm also planning to have short weekly meetings with our UW students on the SIO side ([REDACTED] 51 [REDACTED]) to make sure they're well-supported on both sides of the collaboration. Please let me know if there's anything I can help with on the UW side.

Kate

To: clintonwatts@icloud.com[clintonwatts@icloud.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Sun 4/11/2021 11:50:10 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Notes for tomorrow's Societal Resilience Roundtable - Monday, April 12, 2-3pm ET
Received: Sun 4/11/2021 11:50:10 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

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Warm regards,
Kate

To: Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]
From: Clinton Watts
Sent: Fri 4/9/2021 3:37:48 PM
Subject: Re: Select Invitation - Societal Resilience Roundtable - April 12,2pm - 315pm ET
Received: Fri 4/9/2021 3:38:13 PM

by Sunday mid day will work, just don't tell the others

On Apr 9, 2021, at 11:36 AM, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

Sounds good... though I may not having talking points by end of day today...

On Apr 9, 2021, at 8:16 AM, Clinton Watts <clintonwatts@icloud.com> wrote:

Kate,
This is great, I really would like for you to be there.

I will plan to put you in the middle of the sequence if that's ok with you. This will give you time on either end if you need to come in late or leave early.

Does that sound good?

You'll see a separate note here in just a second where I prep for a final coordinating email on Sunday night.

Thanks for doing this.

Clint

On Apr 6, 2021, at 1:42 PM, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

Hi Clint,
Thanks for the invite! I might be able to attend some of this... it's sandwiched between a meeting I'm running and a class I'm teaching... so I might need to step away to do things like eat, breath, etc. But I can try to make a significant part of it if that's okay.

Kate

On Apr 6, 2021, at 9:55 AM, Clinton Watts <clintonwatts@icloud.com> wrote:

Kate,

I've been asked to assemble a special group of experts to provide insights to the new administration for improving societal resilience to disinformation and misinformation.

Next week, on Monday, April 12, from 2-3:15 pm ET, I'll be moderating a panel of this select group to provide input in an off-the-record conversation on what programs have been proven to effectively counter disinformation and improve information resiliency.

I know it's only a few days away, but the process is moving aggressively at the moment and we're trying to make sure we gather as many recommendations and insights as possible to inform upcoming policy.

I believe your work and knowledge in this space is particularly relevant and insightful to this discussion.

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To: Clinton Watts[clintonwatts@icloud.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 4/9/2021 3:40:12 PM
Subject: Re: Select Invitation - Societal Resilience Roundtable - April 12,2pm - 315pm ET
Received: Fri 4/9/2021 3:40:14 PM

Got it. :)

On Apr 9, 2021, at 8:37 AM, Clinton Watts <clintonwatts@icloud.com> wrote:

by Sunday mid day will work, just don't tell the others

On Apr 9, 2021, at 11:36 AM, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

Sounds good... though I may not having talking points by end of day today...

On Apr 9, 2021, at 8:16 AM, Clinton Watts <clintonwatts@icloud.com> wrote:

Kate,
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On Apr 6, 2021, at 1:42 PM, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

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To: Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]
From: Clinton Watts
Sent: Fri 4/9/2021 3:16:41 PM
Subject: Re: Select Invitation - Societal Resilience Roundtable - April 12,2pm - 315pm ET
Received: Fri 4/9/2021 3:18:04 PM

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To: Clinton Watts[clintonwatts@icloud.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 4/6/2021 5:42:56 PM
Subject: Re: Select Invitation - Societal Resilience Roundtable - April 12,2pm - 315pm ET
Received: Tue 4/6/2021 5:42:59 PM

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To: Clinton Watts[clintonwatts@icloud.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Sun 4/11/2021 7:32:04 PM
Subject: Re: Societal Resilience Roundtable - Monday, April 12, 2-3pm
Received: Sun 4/11/2021 7:32:05 PM

Here are some rough talking points for me. I'll likely adjust and refine them a bit as others speak:

What should we do?

(What data driven interventions/programs have been effective to counter disinformation or improve information resiliency and in what context?)

- Collaborative (and even redundant) work to rapidly identify, track, and reveal the trajectories of disinformation
- Working with journalists to help them report on mis/disinformation to reach broader audiences
 - ideally branching out beyond big outlets to local journalists
- Work with community partners in targeted communities to help build resilience (e.g. veterans, labor movements, Black community, Latinx communities)

What should we not try to do?

(Are their interventions/programs that have been tried but have not shown to be as effective?)

What lessons can we learn from those programs that didn't work?)

- Anything that makes the work of disinformation appear to be partisan (i.e. a "disinformation czar" in the Biden administration)

What do we still not know?

(What gaps remain in our understanding of disinformation that limit our ability to measure effectiveness of counter disinformation/media literacy programs to date?)

- We have very little evidence about what works to help everyday people be better at identifying and being resistant to disinformation, including
 - platform labels (they seem to work in very narrow cases, and could be harmful elsewhere, research just beginning)
 - pre-bunking / inoculation (even when we know something is coming, it's not clear we know how to help people be resistant to it, research hard to do)
 - media literacy training (traditional approaches to teaching "critical thinking" may fail, need more research on the evaluation side)
- Persistent problem is that we don't have great ways to measure exposure and behavior change for everyday people
 - current work is narrowly focused on specific platforms (mostly Twitter)
 - need to think about research approaches that would allow us to do this across platforms
 - persistent challenge will be researching the people/groups who are most vulnerable
- De-radicalization (bringing people back from epistemic radicalization) — we don't know what works, but have a pretty good sense that the digital pathways that lead down the rabbit hole aren't so easily leveraged to bring people back again.

On Apr 9, 2021, at 8:29 AM, Clinton Watts <clintonwatts@icloud.com> wrote:

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Topic: Societal Resilience Roundtable

Time: Apr 12, 2021 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join ZoomGov Meeting

<https://pitc.zoomgov.com/j/1612161211?pwd=blg2ckNVTm9VTjFVQU5vZ2cwLzIqZz09>

Meeting ID: 161 216 1211

Passcode: 31

One tap mobile

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+1 551 285 1373 US

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Join by SIP

1612161211@sip.zoomgov.com

Join by H.323

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Meeting ID: 161 216 1211

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Societal Resilience Roundtable

Scheduled: Apr 12, 2021 at 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM

Location: <https://pitc.zoomgov.com/j/1612161211?pwd=blg2ckNVTm9VTjFVQU5vZ2cwLzIqZz09>

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<iCal-20210406-175455.ics>

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To: Katya Vogt[kvogt@irex.org]; Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]; Danny Rogers[drogers@disinformationindex.org]; Craig Newmark[craig.newmark@gmail.com]; holan@politifact.com[holan@politifact.com]; An Xiao Mina[anxiaomina-berkman@protonmail.com]; Lisa Guernsey[guernsey@newamerica.org]
Cc: rchernaskey@miburosolutions.com[rchernaskey@miburosolutions.com]; agshellenberger@miburosolutions.com[agshellenberger@miburosolutions.com]; Polley, Mary Elizabeth R. EOP/NSC[MaryElizabeth.R.Polley@nsc.eop.gov]; Wood, Ashley V. EOP/NSC[Ashley.V.Wood@nsc.eop.gov]; Scully, Brian J. EOP/NSC[Brian.J.Scully@nsc.eop.gov]
From: Clinton Watts
Sent: Fri 4/9/2021 3:29:06 PM
Subject: Re: Societal Resilience Roundtable - Monday, April 12, 2-3pm
Received: Fri 4/9/2021 3:29:57 PM

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Cc: Rachel Chernaskey[rchernaskey@miburosolutions.com]; Graham Shellenberger[agshellenberger@miburosolutions.com]; Polley, Mary Elizabeth R. EOP/NSC[MaryElizabeth.R.Polley@nsc.eop.gov]; Wood, Ashley V. EOP/NSC[Ashley.V.Wood@nsc.eop.gov]; Scully, Brian J. EOP/NSC[Brian.J.Scully@nsc.eop.gov]
From: Clinton Watts
Sent: Tue 4/6/2021 10:11:35 PM
Subject: Societal Resilience Roundtable - Monday, April 12, 2-3pm
Received: Tue 4/6/2021 10:12:01 PM
[iCal-20210406-175455.ics](#)

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Clint Watts

Topic: Societal Resilience Roundtable

Time: Apr 12, 2021 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join ZoomGov Meeting

<https://pitc.zoomgov.com/j/1612161211?pwd=blg2ckNVTm9VTjFVQU5vZ2cwLzlgZz09>

Meeting ID: 161 216 1211

Passcode: 31

One tap mobile

+16692545252,,1612161211#,,,0#, 31 # US (San Jose)

+16692161590,,1612161211#,,,0#, 31 # US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

+1 669 254 5252 US (San Jose)

+1 669 216 1590 US (San Jose)

+1 551 285 1373 US

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Meeting ID: 161 216 1211

Passcode: 31

Find your local number: <https://pitc.zoomgov.com/u/acTSzkoojQ>

Join by SIP

1612161211@sip.zoomgov.com

Join by H.323

161.199.138.10 (US West)

161.199.136.10 (US East)

Meeting ID: 161 216 1211

Passcode: 31

Societal Resilience Roundtable

Scheduled: Apr 12, 2021 at 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM

Location: <https://pitc.zoomgov.com/j/1612161211?pwd=blg2ckNVTm9VTjFVQU5vZ2cwLzlgZz09>

Meeting ID: 161 216 1211

Passcode: 965645

Clint Watts

Author of [Messing With The Enemy: Surviving in a Social Media World of Hackers, Terrorists, Russians and Fake News](#)

Distinguished Research Fellow, [Foreign Policy Research Institute](#)

Non-Resident Fellow, [Alliance For Securing Democracy](#), [German Marshall Fund](#)

[Conversations with a terrorist](#), a TED Talk

20070311T020000

CALSCALE

GREGORIAN

Version

2.0

X-WR-CALNAME

Societal Resilience Roundtable

METHOD

PUBLISH

PRODID

-//Apple Inc.//Mac OS X 10.15.7//EN

TZID

America/New_York

TZOFFSETFROM

-0500

Recurrence Rule

FREQ=YEARLY;BYMONTH=3;BYDAY=2SU

Start Date/Time

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TZOFFSETFROM

-0400

Recurrence Rule

FREQ=YEARLY;BYMONTH=11;BYDAY=1SU

Start Date/Time

20071104T020000

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-0500

Societal Resilience Roundtable

<https://pitc.zoomgov.com/j/1612161211?pwd=blg2ckNVTm9VTjFVQU5vZ2cwLzlkZz09>

Meeting ID: 161 216 1211

Passcode: 31

20210412T140000

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74FB8955-567C-4704-8024-96DC9D799230

Time Transparency

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CREATED

20210406T215403Z

End Date/Time

20210412T151500

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Summary

Societal Resilience Roundtable

Last Modified

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Start Date/Time

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Location

<https://pitc.zoomgov.com/j/1612161211?pwd=blg2ckNVTm9VTjFVQU5vZ2cwLzlkZz09>

Meeting ID: 161 216 1211

Passcode: 31

Sequence Number

1

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ACTION

AUDIO

TRIGGER

-PT5M

Attachment

Chord

X-WR-ALARMUID

75D5A3E1-4752-4EB6-B874-D35AB39A2197

To: Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 4/9/2021 5:41:19 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Aspen Commission Pre-Reads
Received: Fri 4/9/2021 5:41:19 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

If you are a student in my class, please disregard this message — I will get back to you shortly!

If this is a media request, please contact Michael Grass (megrass@uw.edu), the Communications Manager at the Center for an Informed Public, who may be able to coordinate a time for us to chat — or find another researcher at the Center who can speak with you.

Warm regards,
Kate

To: David Toomey[toomey@civilrights.org]; Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 3/22/2021 11:05:20 PM
Subject: e-introduction
Received: Mon 3/22/2021 11:05:21 PM

Hi Renee and David,

I'm writing to e-introduce the two of you.

Renee, David is at the Leadership Conference as a Voting Rights and Technology Fellow. He's looking to commission a report that can review how the platforms responded to mis/disinformation around the 2020 election — especially in BIPOC and other targeted communities.

David, Renee was on the Stanford-side of the EIP project and was the lead author of our final report. I'm hoping she has more insight (than I) into some of the dynamics of election disinformation spread through BIPOC communities.

I'll let you two take it from here!

Best,
Kate

To: clintonwatts@icloud.com[clintonwatts@icloud.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 3/24/2021 4:38:50 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Clubhouse Event - A discussion with Dr. Samuel Woolley - Tonight, Wednesday, 8pm ET - 24 Mar
Received: Wed 3/24/2021 4:38:50 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

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Warm regards,
Kate

To: Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 5/5/2021 10:05:35 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Aspen Commission Slack
Received: Wed 5/5/2021 10:05:35 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

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Warm regards,
Kate

To: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
Cc: Koko Koltai[koltai@uw.edu]; Emma Spiro[espiro@uw.edu]; Jevin West[jevinw@uw.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 3/22/2021 8:50:54 PM
Subject: message from the CIP team re: Virality project participation
Received: Mon 3/22/2021 8:50:56 PM

Hi Renee,

Our team (including Jevin, Emma, me, Koko, and Rachel) met for a hard talk last week to discuss our capacity going forward. We're hitting the quarter turn-over this week (Spring quarter starts the last week of March). Unfortunately, we weren't able to secure additional funding for our Virality project work for Spring, which means we're not able to expand our team (hire students) to meet our hoped-for commitment.

Considering our limited capacity, we think we need to redefine our participation in the project going forward. We're hoping to continue on, but with a more focused role that shifts our contribution somewhat.

Unfortunately, with our current staffing, we just can't do weekly deliverables or Jira-based data entry and analysis. These just don't line up well with the work capacity and work schedule of our team. I'm really sorry if that has a negative impact on the project at large. We've been trying to find a way to make this work, but without addition funding/people, we just don't see a viable way forward on that front.

Here's what we think we can offer:

- The creation and implementation of a narrative-based approach to analysis (outside of the Jira system)
- Medium-term analysis using our data for blog posts on specific narratives/incidents (e.g., the vaccine passports blog)
- Opportunistic addition of tickets/incidents or just heads up on emergent narratives when we encounter them (perhaps dedicating a few hours a week to monitoring across the whole team)
- High-level resource to provide expertise on project direction, emergent narratives, etc. (Koko)
- (Potentially) helping to design trainings for identifying incidents/narratives
- 51 will still be available for T1 work on Spanish language content. We may be able to bring on one additional analyst at this level, but that person will likely need training.
- Assistance on the communications side (from Michael, when needed)

We hope that this adjustment does not cause too much friction in the weekly deliverables — and that we can still contribute, although in perhaps a smaller and more focused way, to the success of the Virality Project.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Kate, Koko, Rachel, Emma, Jevin

To: Isabella Garcia-Camargo[bellagc@stanford.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
Cc: [REDACTED] 51 [REDACTED]@uw.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 3/24/2021 3:17:20 PM
Subject: introduction to another student researcher
Received: Wed 3/24/2021 3:17:21 PM

Hi Bella and Renee,

I'm writing to introduce you to [REDACTED] 51 [REDACTED] 51 [REDACTED] I think she'd be a great fit for the Virality monitoring work.

We're working on setting up what that will look like from our end, but I'm introducing you all in case you want to touch base while I'm "off the grid" for the next few days.

My sense is that [REDACTED] 51 would be a bit like [REDACTED] 51, working directly with you all. I also plan to set up a second UW team where I'm meeting directly with [REDACTED] 51 every couple of weeks to see how things are going on their end. But they would be working directly with the larger Stanford team.

[REDACTED] 51 is cced here. I have not given her a full run-down of the project, so perhaps you can point her to some of the materials and trainings? She's also out this week, but planning on tuning in next week, I believe.

Happy to chat further about logistics.

Kate

To: Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 3/8/2021 9:35:26 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Aspen Commission on Information Disorder
Received: Mon 3/8/2021 9:35:26 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

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Warm regards,
Kate

To: Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 3/23/2021 3:07:04 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Announcement Tomorrow: Aspen Commission on Information Disorder
Received: Tue 3/23/2021 3:07:04 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

If this is a media request, please contact Michael Grass (megrass@uw.edu), the Communications Manager at the Center for an Informed Public, who may be able to coordinate a time for us to chat — or find another researcher at the Center who can speak to you.

Warm regards,
Kate

To: Sara Sendek[sara.sendek@aspeninstitute.org]
Cc: Vivian Schiller[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 3/10/2021 9:02:18 PM
Subject: Re: Aspen Commission on Information Disorder
Received: Wed 3/10/2021 9:02:19 PM

That works for me!

Sent from my iPad

On Mar 10, 2021, at 12:37 PM, Sara Sendek <sara.sendek@aspeninstitute.org> wrote:

Thanks Kate! It's not going to let you complete the form without adding those, so I think let's just wait for now. For the 1:1 meeting, can I lock you in for 1:30 -2:00 PM on the 18th? I can send a calendar invite with the zoom details too.

From: [Kate Starbird](#)
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 3:08 PM
To: [Vivian Schiller](#)
Cc: [Sara Sendek](#)
Subject: Re: Aspen Commission on Information Disorder

1) My headshots and bios are all on my laptop, which is in the shop... should I complete the form later, or just leave those out and send them along via email when my machine returns to me?

Sent from my iPad

On Mar 10, 2021, at 12:01 PM, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

Dear Vivian (and Sara),

- 2) Next week , I'm available M (Mar 15) 12:30-3pm (Eastern); Th (Mar 18) 1:30-4:30 (Eastern).
- 3) April 7 is difficult for me. My one open slot is 1-2pm (Eastern). April 8, I'm available <3pm (Eastern).

Warmly,
Kate

Sent from my iPad (while my laptop is in the shop)

On Mar 8, 2021, at 1:35 PM, Vivian Schiller <Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org> wrote:

Dear Kate,

Thank you again for agreeing to be part of the Aspen Commission on Information Disorder. Since announcing the launch, the Aspen Institute team and Commission co-chair Chris Krebs have been hard at work developing an incredibly talented and diverse group of Commissioners and co-chairs. We are thrilled that you will be lending your expertise and experience to these important issues.

A few updates and requests for you:

1. We plan to announce the full list of co-chairs and commissioners in the next couple of weeks. To that end, we need to collect a little information and ask that you please fill out [this form](#) and submit your responses by this Friday, March 12.
2. We would like to arrange an individual call with you in the next two weeks to hear your views before we get started, and to answer any questions. Can you reply to this email with a few options for 30-minute blocks of time and we will send a calendar invite?
3. We are looking to schedule our first Commission meeting on either April 7 in early afternoon ET or April 8th in mid/late afternoon ET. Might we ask that you hold those slots open for a few days and/or let us know if either is an issue for you?

I've copied my colleague, Sara Sendek who will be managing the Commission and whom you will get to know over the process.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or comments to either Sara or myself at any time. My phone number is below. Sara can be reached at sara.sendek@aspeninstitute.org or 248-890-3391.

We look forward to working with you!

--

Vivian Schiller
Executive Director, Aspen Digital
The Aspen Institute
+1-240-463-0496
@vivian

<image001[88].png>

To: Vivian Schiller[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
Cc: sara.sendek@aspeninstitute.org[sara.sendek@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 3/10/2021 8:04:22 PM
Subject: Re: Aspen Commission on Information Disorder
Received: Wed 3/10/2021 8:04:23 PM

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Vivian Schiller

Executive Director, Aspen Digital

The Aspen Institute

+1-240-463-0496

@vivian

<image001[88].png>

To: Vivian Schiller[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
Cc: sara.sendek@aspeninstitute.org[sara.sendek@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 3/10/2021 8:01:29 PM
Subject: Re: Aspen Commission on Information Disorder
Received: Wed 3/10/2021 8:01:30 PM

Dear Vivian (and Sara),

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We look forward to working with you!

--

Vivian Schiller
Executive Director, Aspen Digital
The Aspen Institute
+1-240-463-0496
@vivian

<image001[88].png>

To: clintonwatts@icloud.com[clintonwatts@icloud.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 3/11/2021 12:14:01 AM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Clubhouse Event tonight - Interview with Bret Schafer
Received: Thur 3/11/2021 12:14:01 AM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

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Warm regards,
Kate

To: Reiss, Dorit R.[reissd@uchastings.edu]
Cc: Irma Hernandez[hernandezirma@uchastings.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]; Brandie Nonnecke PhD[nonnecke@berkeley.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 3/15/2021 4:59:59 PM
Subject: Re: Disinformation Panel - Run of Show
Received: Mon 3/15/2021 5:00:01 PM
Starbird-PRESENTER RELEASE WAIVER FORM (1).doc

> On Mar 15, 2021, at 9:51 AM, Reiss, Dorit R. <reissd@uchastings.edu> wrote:
>
> <PRESENTER RELEASE WAIVER FORM (1).doc>



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
HASTINGS COLLEGE OF THE LAW

PRESENTER RELEASE FORM

Name: Kate Starbird (Presenter)

Event Name and Date:

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Presenter acknowledges and consents to the above, and releases UC Hastings, its officers and employees, and each and all persons involved from any liability connected with the making and use of Recordings.

Presenter waives all rights Presenter may have to any claims for payment or royalties in connection with, and hereby grants UC Hastings the non-exclusive perpetual worldwide rights to, any use of any Recording of the Event, including any exhibition, streaming, web casting, televising, printing or other publication, regardless of the purpose or sponsoring of such use and irrespective of whether a fee for admission or sponsorship is charged, as well as the non-exclusive perpetual worldwide rights to promote and publicize any such use and to use Presenter's name, likeness and biography in connection with such use. Presenter also waives any right to inspect or approve any Recording or any use of any Recording made by UC Hastings or the person or entity designated to do so by UC Hastings.

Presenter represents that any speech or material presented or submitted by Presenter in connection with the Event is not subject to any third-party copyright or that Presenter has obtained any necessary permission from the copyright proprietor consistent with this release for use of such material.

Presenter also acknowledges that the Event will be open to the media, which may include print, radio, television, internet or other journalists who may make Recordings during the event and use such Recordings for various purposes.

The undersigned is the person named above as Presenter and has the legal authority to execute the above release.

Signature:

Date: March 15, 2021

I Choose to Decline:

Signature: _____

To: Reiss, Dorit R.[reissd@uchastings.edu]
Cc: Irma Hernandez[hernandezirma@uchastings.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]; Brandie Nonnecke PhD[nonnecke@berkeley.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 3/15/2021 4:50:11 PM
Subject: Re: Disinformation Panel - Run of Show
Received: Mon 3/15/2021 4:50:12 PM

Hi Dorit,
I'm happy to sign, but can't seem to find the form. Can you send another copy over?

Kate

On Mar 15, 2021, at 9:29 AM, Reiss, Dorit R. <reissd@uchastings.edu> wrote:

Dear All,

I wanted to remind you that if you're willing to make the recording public, we need your release forms, if you haven't sent them yet - I think this panel could be useful to many besides the attendees, and hope you, too, are comfortable sharing it. Once we have the release forms, we can send you a link to it for your personal use.

Thank you for a fascinating discussion.

best,
Dorit.

Dorit Rubinstein Reiss
Professor of Law
UC Hastings College of the Law
415-5654844
reissd@uchastings.edu

Member of the Vaccine Working Group on Ethics and Policy
<http://vaccineworkinggroupethics.org/>

Please note: Messages to this account may be subject to Public Records Act requests.

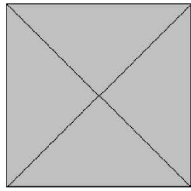
From: Irma Hernandez <hernandezirma@uchastings.edu>
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 2:13 PM
To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Brandie Nonnecke PhD <nonnecke@berkeley.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdirresta@stanford.edu>
Cc: Reiss, Dorit R. <reissd@uchastings.edu>
Subject: RE: Disinformation Panel - Run of Show

Hello everyone,

Thank you for today's event! We would love to share the event recording publicly, if everyone is comfortable.

If so, can you please sign and return the attached release?

Thank you,
Irma



Irma Hernandez | Academic Projects & Events Manager
Academic Dean's Office

UC Hastings Law
hernandezirma@uchastings.edu | (415) 581-8935 | www.uchastings.edu



From: Reiss, Dorit R. <reissd@uchastings.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 7:10 PM
To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Brandie Nonnecke PhD <nonnecke@berkeley.edu>
Cc: Irma Hernandez <hernandezirma@uchastings.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: Disinformation Panel - Run of Show

These are great questions, Brandie, and thank you for going through and writing them. I like the idea of sharing the report - what fortunate timing. I will go over that link tonight, and I think sharing it tomorrow is a great idea.

And no, this doesn't need to be vaccines focused, even if I'm organizing it. I really want to present our community - faculty and students, mostly, but I also shared it in some groups - information about disinformation and what, if anything, can be done. I'm really looking forward to hearing from you three tomorrow. See you at 11:45am!

Best,
Dorit.

Dorit Rubinstein Reiss
Professor of Law
UC Hastings College of the Law
415-5654844
reissd@uchastings.edu

Member of the Vaccine Working Group on Ethics and Policy
<http://vaccineworkinggroupethics.org/>

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From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 7:00 PM
To: Brandie Nonnecke PhD <nonnecke@berkeley.edu>
Cc: Reiss, Dorit R. <reissd@uchastings.edu>; Irma Hernandez <hernandezirma@uchastings.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: Disinformation Panel - Run of Show

Oh great!

I'd be happy to focus on the Election 2020 stuff. But I know Renee also has a ton of stuff to talk about there (we can probably complete each other's sentences on that topic these days) — as well as her new project on vaccine misinformation. And I think setting some time aside to talk about the evolution of platform policies would be great!

Kate

On Mar 3, 2021, at 6:13 PM, Brandie Nonnecke PhD <nonnecke@berkeley.edu> wrote:

I think we're open to speak about mis/disinfo more broadly. I just brought up Twitter's recent COVID-19 policy as a timely example of a platform strategy being implemented...

On Wed, Mar 3, 2021 at 6:11 PM Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

Sounds good.

Are we focusing on vaccine-related mis/disinformation or speaking more generally?

On Mar 3, 2021, at 1:12 PM, Reiss, Dorit R. <reissd@uchastings.edu> wrote:

So in an ideal world, I'd like to cover the following four topics/questions. I don't think we have time to cover all, so I'd like your views on where to emphasize.

- A. What is misinformation/disinformation? What harm has it caused?
- B. Where does misinformation/disinformation come from?
- C. How does misinformation/disinformation spread?
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Dorit Rubinstein Reiss
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UC Hastings College of the Law
415-5654844
reissd@uchastings.edu

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<http://vaccineworkinggroupethics.org/>

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From: Brandie Nonnecke PhD <nonnecke@berkeley.edu>
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 9:58 PM
To: Irma Hernandez <hernandezirma@uchastings.edu>
Cc: Renee DiResta <rdirresta@stanford.edu>; Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Reiss, Dorit R. <reissd@uchastings.edu>
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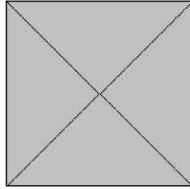
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Cc: Reiss, Dorit R.[reissd@uchastings.edu]; Irma Hernandez[hernandezirma@uchastings.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 3/4/2021 3:00:40 AM
Subject: Re: Disinformation Panel - Run of Show
Received: Thur 3/4/2021 3:00:42 AM

Oh great!

I'd be happy to focus on the Election 2020 stuff. But I know Renee also has a ton of stuff to talk about there (we can probably complete each other's sentences on that topic these days) — as well as her new project on vaccine misinformation. And I think setting some time aside to talk about the evolution of platform policies would be great!

Kate

On Mar 3, 2021, at 6:13 PM, Brandie Nonnecke PhD <nonnecke@berkeley.edu> wrote:

I think we're open to speak about mis/disinfo more broadly. I just brought up Twitter's recent COVID-19 policy as a timely example of a platform strategy being implemented...

On Wed, Mar 3, 2021 at 6:11 PM Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

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Are we focusing on vaccine-related mis/disinformation or speaking more generally?

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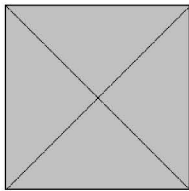
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From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 3/4/2021 2:11:17 AM
Subject: Re: Disinformation Panel - Run of Show
Received: Thur 3/4/2021 2:11:18 AM

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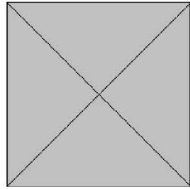
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Sent: Wed 2/24/2021 7:59:57 PM
Subject: Re: Disinformation Panel - Run of Show
Received: Wed 2/24/2021 7:59:58 PM

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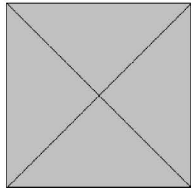
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Subject: Disinformation Panel - Run of Show

Hello everyone,

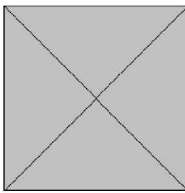
Please see attached Run of Show for the panel event on March 4th. Everyone should have received a Zoom notification with your unique panelist link for Zoom. If not, Zoom links are also provided in the document. Please make sure to use the link specific to you and provide the general link to anyone interested in attending the event.

This is setup on Zoom Webinar, which is not too different from a meeting. I've attached another document with additional Zoom event info.

Lastly, is there a specific biography you would like Professor Reiss to use? Or should we use the [links](#) on our website?

Thank you and please reach out if you have any questions.

Irma



Irma Hernandez | Academic Projects & Events Manager
Academic Dean's Office

UC Hastings Law

hernandezirma@uchastings.edu | (415) 581-8935 | www.uchastings.edu

--

Brandie M. Nonnecke, PhD
Director, [CITRIS Policy Lab](#), CITRIS and the Banatao Institute, UC Berkeley
Fellow, [Harvard Carr Center for Human Rights Policy](#)
nonnecke@berkeley.edu
citris-uc.org | [@BNonnecke](#) | nonnecke.com

To: Brandie Nonnecke PhD[nonnecke@berkeley.edu]
Cc: Reiss, Dorit R.[reissd@uchastings.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 3/4/2021 9:46:50 PM
Subject: Re: Panel
Received: Thur 3/4/2021 9:46:52 PM

Thanks for organizing, Dorit! I really enjoyed the conversation.
It was great to see you again, Brandie!

And, as always, I really enjoyed bouncing ideas around with you Renee!

On Mar 4, 2021, at 1:37 PM, Brandie Nonnecke PhD <nonnecke@berkeley.edu> wrote:

No worries, Dorit! Thanks for organizing the panel.

As always, it was great to learn from you, Kate and Renee.

All best,
Brandie

On Thu, Mar 4, 2021 at 1:03 PM Reiss, Dorit R. <reissd@uchastings.edu> wrote:

Sorry - I hoped we would just go non-public and have a few minutes. Thank you all, this was so informative, and I learned a lot and our audience was clearly extremely engaged. I really appreciate you doing this, and all your insights.

Best,
Dorit

Dorit Rubinstein Reiss
Professor of Law
UC Hastings College of the Law
415-5654844
reissd@uchastings.edu

Member of the Vaccine Working Group on Ethics and Policy
<http://vaccineworkinggroupethics.org/>


Please note: Messages to this account may be subject to Public Records Act requests.

--

Brandie M. Nonnecke, PhD
Director, [CITRIS Policy Lab](#), CITRIS and the Banatao Institute, UC Berkeley
Fellow, [Harvard Carr Center for Human Rights Policy](#)
nonnecke@berkeley.edu
citrisc-uc.org | [@BNonnecke](#) | nonnecke.com

To: kstarbi@uw.edu[kstarbi@uw.edu]
From: Renee DiResta (Google Docs)
Sent: Sat 2/27/2021 5:24:39 AM
Subject: Chapter 3 comprehensive draft
Received: Sat 2/27/2021 5:25:15 AM

Renee DiResta resolved comments in the following document

 Chapter 3 comprehensive draft

Resolved

2 comments

Resolved

Comments

elite-driven disinformation



Renee DiResta

same question on the blue check dynamic - @kstarbi@uw.edu mis- or dis?



Renee DiResta

this one seems more reasonable to me to add "mis" so i just did



Renee DiResta

New

Marked as resolved

ReplyOpen

elite-driven disinformation



Renee DiResta

@kstarbi@uw.edu how do you feel about this one? mis-and-dis? this is for top-down specifically. lawyers like including a "mis"



Renee DiResta

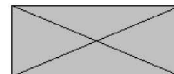
New

Marked as resolved

ReplyOpen

Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA

You have received this email because you are a participant in the updated discussion threads. Change what Google Docs sends you. You can not reply to this email.



To: Vivian Schiller[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 2/26/2021 6:52:39 PM
Subject: Re: Aspen Commission on Information Disorder
Received: Fri 2/26/2021 6:52:41 PM

Hi Vivian,

Sorry for the slow response and thank you for the invitation. Yes. I'd love to be involved and I'll find a way to make it work. Please let me know what the next steps are.

Regards,
Kate

On Feb 26, 2021, at 8:46 AM, Vivian Schiller <Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org> wrote:

Hi Kate,

I am writing, on behalf of the Aspen Institute, to invite you to become a member of the Aspen Commission on Information Disorder. Co-chairing the Commission is Christopher Krebs, the founding Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). Krebs will be joined by other co-chairs, to be announced in the coming days.

The insurrection at the U.S. Capitol last month provides a stark example of the real-life dangers that disinformation campaigns pose when they penetrate public discourse. These falsities have fragmented shared realities, with serious negative effects on issues from politics to business to health and safety. Over the next six months, the Commission on Information Disorder will develop both short- and long-term recommendations for how government, the private sector, and civil society should respond to and position themselves amid this modern-day crisis of faith in key institutions.

The Commission is nonpartisan and will comprise of researchers, tech leaders, media specialists, private sector practitioners, and policy makers. Commissioners will convene for two hours twice monthly for six months. They may also be expected to join additional, smaller breakout groups that delve deeper into specific areas of focus that generate recommendations and other appropriate outputs. We estimate the total time commitment at four to six hours per month. All meetings will be virtual.

Attached to this letter, I have included the Aspen Commission on Information Disorder Charter for further details on the Commission and our strategic goals over the next six

To: Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 5/11/2021 11:01:51 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Aspen Commission Briefing book for May 13
Received: Tue 5/11/2021 11:01:51 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

If you are a student in my class, please disregard this message — I will get back to you shortly!

If this is a media request, please contact Michael Grass (megrass@uw.edu), the Communications Manager at the Center for an Informed Public, who may be able to coordinate a time for us to chat — or find another researcher at the Center who can speak with you.

Warm regards,
Kate

To: Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 2/24/2021 3:25:25 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Aspen Commission on Information Disorder
Received: Wed 2/24/2021 3:25:25 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

If this is a media request, please contact Michael Grass (megrass@uw.edu), the Communications Manager at the Center for an Informed Public, who may be able to coordinate a time for us to chat — or find another researcher at the Center who can speak to you.

Warm regards,
Kate

To: Michael Grass[megrass@uw.edu]
Cc: Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]; Isabella Garcia-Camargo[bellagc@stanford.edu]; Julia Carter Scanlan[jccarter@uw.edu]; Jevin West[jevinw@uw.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 2/18/2021 12:25:09 AM
Subject: Re: connecting re: media strategy and our final report
Received: Thur 2/18/2021 12:25:10 AM

I'm free on Friday, 10:30 to 1pm.

On Feb 17, 2021, at 3:02 PM, Michael Grass <megrass@uw.edu> wrote:

My schedule is mostly free on Friday (except 12:30-2 p.m.). Any preferences for potential times on Friday morning or later in the afternoon? Most of my Monday is meeting free, too, if early next week works better.

-- Michael

From: Renee DiResta <rdirresta@stanford.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 2:54 PM
To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Michael Grass <megrass@uw.edu>; Isabella Garcia-Camargo <bellagc@stanford.edu>
Cc: Julia Carter Scanlan <jccarter@uw.edu>; Jevin West <jevinw@uw.edu>
Subject: Re: connecting re: media strategy and our final report

Looping in Bella from our end.

I believe DFR had been coordinating for a March 3 webinar (though that is actually not presently on my calendar...). Let's sort out exactly when that date is. Happy to sync on Friday. We are also getting some inbound from media who know this is coming.

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 1:25 PM
To: Michael Grass <megrass@uw.edu>
Cc: Renee DiResta <rdirresta@stanford.edu>; Julia Carter Scanlan <jccarter@uw.edu>; Jevin West <jevinw@uw.edu>
Subject: connecting re: media strategy and our final report

Hi Michael (ccing Julia and Jevin for visibility),

I'm reaching out to get a conversation started about media strategy and our final report from the EIP. I think we're hoping that you can help us come up with a plan for distributing the report (perhaps early to a small group of journalists) and then promoting it afterwards.

Our current "release" date is, I believe, Wed March 3.

Would you be willing/able to connect with Renee, me, and maybe some others from the group to talk strategy sometime soon?

Kate

To: Michael Grass[megrass@uw.edu]
Cc: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]; Julia Carter Scanlan[jccarter@uw.edu]; Jevin West[jevinw@uw.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 2/17/2021 10:41:37 PM
Subject: Re: connecting re: media strategy and our final report
Received: Wed 2/17/2021 10:41:40 PM

We updated the chapter list (breaking ch 4 into two), so I guess I'd suggest chapters 3, 4, 5 and then the "recommendations" chapter at the end.

> On Feb 17, 2021, at 2:15 PM, Michael Grass <megrass@uw.edu> wrote:

>
> Kate,
>
> I'm happy to get the ball rolling and set up a time for us to connect (perhaps on Friday?) and I can update everyone on some of the prep work underway on my end. I'm building out a Google Doc where I've been capturing ideas for the roll out of the final report and I should be able to share that later today.

>
> Some quickish updates in the meantime ...

>
> There's been a group of journalists who we engaged with regularly in the fall who have checked in with me periodically about the EIP's final report. I've been keeping the release timeline mostly vague since it's been in flux, but there's certainly a group already interested in the report's release.

>
> Although I haven't read the entirety of the report, I've been paying closer attention to Chapters 3 and 4 and have been picking out key findings / ideas / takeaways from the report that can be used to either pitch to certain journalists or be used for overall messaging about the final report. I'm keeping an eye out for research findings that could be pitched specifically to local journalists in places that popped up regularly (e.g., Michigan and Pennsylvania).

>
> I've been outlining a press release (that will borrow language from the executive summary) that we can use to accompany the report's official release.

>
> -- Michael

>
> -----Original Message-----

> From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
> Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 1:25 PM
> To: Michael Grass <megrass@uw.edu>
> Cc: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>; Julia Carter Scanlan <jccarter@uw.edu>; Jevin West <jevinw@uw.edu>
> Subject: connecting re: media strategy and our final report

>
> Hi Michael (ccing Julia and Jevin for visibility),

>
> I'm reaching out to get a conversation started about media strategy and our final report from the EIP. I think we're hoping that you can help us come up with a plan for distributing the report (perhaps early to a small group of journalists) and then promoting it afterwards.

>
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>
> Would you be willing/able to connect with Renee, me, and maybe some others from the group to talk strategy sometime soon?

>
> Kate

To: Michael Grass[megrass@uw.edu]
Cc: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]; Julia Carter Scanlan[jccarter@uw.edu]; Jevin West[jevinw@uw.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 2/17/2021 9:25:19 PM
Subject: connecting re: media strategy and our final report
Received: Wed 2/17/2021 9:25:20 PM

Hi Michael (ccing Julia and Jevin for visibility),

I'm reaching out to get a conversation started about media strategy and our final report from the EIP. I think we're hoping that you can help us come up with a plan for distributing the report (perhaps early to a small group of journalists) and then promoting it afterwards.

Our current "release" date is, I believe, Wed March 3.

Would you be willing/able to connect with Renee, me, and maybe some others from the group to talk strategy sometime soon?

Kate

To: rdirستا@stanford.edu[rdirستا@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 2/24/2021 12:13:15 AM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: SAAG work for the iSchool's Center for an Informed Public
Received: Wed 2/24/2021 12:13:15 AM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

If this is a media request, please contact Michael Grass (megrass@uw.edu), the Communications Manager at the Center for an Informed Public, who may be able to coordinate a time for us to chat — or find another researcher at the Center who can speak to you.

Warm regards,
Kate

To: clintonwatts@icloud.com[clintonwatts@icloud.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 2/23/2021 11:28:43 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Clubhouse Event - Truth, Lies, Propaganda and Disinformation - TLPD - Tomorrow, Wednesday, 5pm ET - 24 Feb
Received: Tue 2/23/2021 11:28:43 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

If this is a media request, please contact Michael Grass (megrass@uw.edu), the Communications Manager at the Center for an Informed Public, who may be able to coordinate a time for us to chat — or find another researcher at the Center who can speak to you.

Warm regards,
Kate

To: rdirستا@stanford.edu[rdirستا@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 2/17/2021 10:55:24 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: connecting re: media strategy and our final report
Received: Wed 2/17/2021 10:55:24 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

If this is a media request, please contact Michael Grass (megrass@uw.edu), the Communications Manager at the Center for an Informed Public, who may be able to coordinate a time for us to chat — or find another researcher at the Center who can speak to you.

Warm regards,
Kate

To: Eden Beck[beckedenm@gmail.com]
Cc: Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 2/5/2021 10:55:58 PM
Subject: Re: Re-org of Chapter 5 done
Received: Fri 2/5/2021 10:55:59 PM

Sure.

On Feb 5, 2021, at 10:04 AM, Eden Beck <beckedenm@gmail.com> wrote:

Great. Ok if I move those new sections back into the original document, so that your team has one place to look?

On Fri, Feb 5, 2021 at 9:40 AM Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

I took a look last night... and thought it was a great direction. I can take a deeper look tomorrow morning.

On Feb 4, 2021, at 8:42 PM, Eden Beck <beckedenm@gmail.com> wrote:

I'm done with the Big Move, as I'm calling it--see it [here](#). If you like it, I'll move forward.

Thanks!

-Eden

To: Eden Beck[beckedenm@gmail.com]
Cc: Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 2/5/2021 5:39:55 PM
Subject: Re: Re-org of Chapter 5 done
Received: Fri 2/5/2021 5:39:56 PM

I took a look last night... and thought it was a great direction. I can take a deeper look tomorrow morning.

On Feb 4, 2021, at 8:42 PM, Eden Beck <beckedenm@gmail.com> wrote:

I'm done with the Big Move, as I'm calling it--see it [here](#). If you like it, I'll move forward.

Thanks!

-Eden

To: Sunny Xun Liu[sunnyxliu@stanford.edu]
Cc: Jeffrey T. Hancock[hancockj@stanford.edu]; Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]; Crystal Welliver[welliver@uw.edu]; Susan K. Carpenter-Brandt[sbrandt2@uw.edu]; Emma Spiro[espiro@uw.edu]; Jevin West[jevinw@uw.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 1/8/2021 11:28:38 PM
Subject: Re: NSF project proposal
Received: Fri 1/8/2021 11:28:40 PM

Hi folks,

I also want to connect you all on the UW side to our co-PIs (me, Emma Spiro, Jevin West), the Director for Research services at the iSchool (Crystal Welliver) and the grants specialist in my home department (Susan Carpenter-Brandt). Susan and Crystal can help fill in details from our side.

Kate

Kate Starbird

Associate Professor | Human Centered Design & Engineering (HCDE) | University of Washington
Co-Founder | Center for an Informed Public (CIP) | University of Washington
kstarbi@uw.edu

On Jan 8, 2021, at 12:56 PM, Sunny Xun Liu <sunnyxliu@stanford.edu> wrote:

Thanks for the introduction, Jeff.

Elena, nice to meet you virtually and I look forward to working with you on the proposal.

I am very flexible on Monday afternoon as well. Please let me know what time would work for you and I will send a zoom invitation.

Sunny

Sunny Xun Liu, Ph.D.
Associate Director
Social Media Lab
Department of Communication
Stanford
liuxun@stanford.edu
650-723-4439

On Jan 8, 2021, at 12:49 PM, Jeff Hancock <hancockj@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi Sunny and Elena,

I wanted to introduce you as we're going to join forces with SIO (Renee) and UW (Kate's group) to propose an NSF project to SaTC (large). When we talk later today Sunny I can describe the big ideas behind the grant. In the meantime, we can get started on the logistics and getting items ready.

Elena, Sunny is our lab's Associate Dean and has become super adept at putting these proposals together within the Stanford system. We are just finishing an NSF project now and so we have all the non-content items ready to go (biosketch, infrastructure, etc).

Sunny, Elena is Assistant Director at SIO and has begun organizing all the documents they need. It would be great if you, me and Elena could find some time to talk early next week. Overall, it looks like Stanford's portion of the grant is \$750K which Elena estimates at around \$475K direct costs. I think working out the big budget lines is a good first priority.

Mon afternoon is pretty open for me except 2.30-3.30.

Best,
Jeff

*Jeff Hancock
Harry and Norman Chandler Professor of Communication
Stanford University*

To: Fenn, Larry[LFenn@ap.org]
Cc: Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]; [REDACTED] 51 [REDACTED] @uw.edu]; [REDACTED] 51 [REDACTED] @uw.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 1/11/2021 11:47:44 PM
Subject: Re: Crisis Informatics to inform news coverage on extremism
Received: Mon 1/11/2021 11:47:45 PM

Hi Larry,
I'm going to introduce you to a few others who I think will be helpful here.

First, Renee DiResta, whom we collaborated with in our rapid analysis of election-related disinformation. Renee and her team covered the StopTheSteal narrative/movement in depth. There's a 25-page write-up somewhere on this (Renee is leading the effort to edit that content down to fit into a final report documenting our election research). She'd be a great source here.

Also, two students on our team, [REDACTED] 51 [REDACTED] may be able to help pull data about StopTheSteal from our Twitter archive... and [REDACTED] 51 [REDACTED] is a researcher helping to coordinate our collaborations with journalists.

I'm happy to let all of these folks take in from here.

Good luck with the story!

Kate

On Jan 11, 2021, at 2:12 PM, Fenn, Larry <LFenn@ap.org> wrote:

Hello!

I'm a reporter at the Associated Press. I'm sure you've been very busy in the last week with the news so I'll try to be brief.

I'm on the data team at the AP and we'd like to do more work around rhetoric and the underlying dynamics of influence at play on social media. Editors are interested in an immediate story (about how "Stop the Steal" was created, boosted, and then morphed into a concrete call to action), but I think there's enough interest in the topic to merit more thought-out coverage on social media and by what mechanisms radicalization and extremism occur. However, we don't have much of a good idea on how to report on this topic, so I'd really appreciate your expertise. I've generally tried to avoid any approach that relies on parsing the meaning of a tweet or article because I don't consider it robust enough for news coverage, but the link & network focused approach from your work seems applicable.

So, concretely:

- How could we adapt your work to explain how a relatively "mainstream" topic (election irregularities and discussion of election irregularities are commonplace) becomes a radicalizing topic over time?
- Is there any interest in a more detailed story on information 'ecosystems' and the power they exert? I can't promise AP resources or any kind of formal partnership, but I have been told explicitly to shoot for more experimental coverage, and I think this would be a great candidate. The graph structure illustrated in the White Helmets paper is something I've asked from Google for a while now, but I see that there are other ways to attack the problem. For a while now I have been haunted by the narrative in Dylann Roof's manifesto, where self-motivated "research" on the internet replaced the traditional role of hate group recruiter. I'm curious to what extent this is true in general, and how best to explain that phenomenon to the AP audience.

Thanks in advance for anything you have to say on the matter.

Yours,
Larry

<image001.png>

Larry Fenn

lfenn@ap.org

<image002.png>

200 Liberty St.
New York, NY 10281
T 212.621.5436

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To: Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]; [REDACTED] 51 [REDACTED] @uw.edu]; [REDACTED] 51 [REDACTED] @uw.edu]
From: Renee DiResta
Sent: Mon 1/11/2021 10:44:15 PM
Subject: Re: Crisis Informatics to inform news coverage on extremism
Received: Mon 1/11/2021 10:45:26 PM

We have a case study on Stop The Steal in chapter 3 and it just so happens that I literally just exported everything CT had on it b/c I saw a headline go by suggesting FB was going to start taking down content with that theme. We also have rather extensive Parler crawls on that phrase (gathered by us, not from the data set now making the rounds). So we can possibly supplement your Twitter data.

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Monday, January 11, 2021 2:28 PM
To: [REDACTED] 51 [REDACTED] @uw.edu; [REDACTED] 51 [REDACTED] @uw.edu; Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Subject: Fwd: Crisis Informatics to inform news coverage on extremism

Anyone interested in responding to this?
Renee, maybe you want to speak to them directly?
Not sure if [REDACTED] 51 [REDACTED] have capacity to pull data and provide graphs/interpretations?

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Fenn, Larry" <LFenn@ap.org>
Subject: Crisis Informatics to inform news coverage on extremism
Date: January 11, 2021 at 2:12:27 PM PST
To: "kstarbi@uw.edu" <kstarbi@uw.edu>

Hello!

I'm a reporter at the Associated Press. I'm sure you've been very busy in the last week with the news so I'll try to be brief.

I'm on the data team at the AP and we'd like to do more work around rhetoric and the underlying dynamics of influence at play on social media. Editors are interested in an immediate story (about how "Stop the Steal" was created, boosted, and then morphed into a concrete call to action), but I think there's enough interest in the topic to merit more thought-out coverage on social media and by what mechanisms radicalization and extremism occur. However, we don't have much of a good idea on how to report on this topic, so I'd really appreciate your expertise. I've generally tried to avoid any approach that relies on parsing the meaning of a tweet or article because I don't consider it robust enough for news coverage, but the link & network focused approach from your work seems applicable.

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Thanks in advance for anything you have to say on the matter.
Yours,

Larry

AP

ASSOCIATED PRESS



Larry Fenn

lfenn@ap.org

200 Liberty St.
New York, NY 10281
T 212.621.5436

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To: [REDACTED] 51 [REDACTED]@uw.edu; [REDACTED] 51 [REDACTED]@uw.edu; Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 1/11/2021 10:28:16 PM
Subject: Fwd: Crisis Informatics to inform news coverage on extremism
Received: Mon 1/11/2021 10:28:18 PM

Anyone interested in responding to this?

Renee, maybe you want to speak to them directly?

Not sure if [REDACTED] 51 [REDACTED] have capacity to pull data and provide graphs/interpretations?

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Fenn, Larry" <LFenn@ap.org>
Subject: Crisis Informatics to inform news coverage on extremism
Date: January 11, 2021 at 2:12:27 PM PST
To: "kstarbi@uw.edu" <kstarbi@uw.edu>

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So, concretely:

- How could we adapt your work to explain how a relatively "mainstream" topic (election irregularities and discussion of election irregularities are commonplace) becomes a radicalizing topic over time?
- Is there any interest in a more detailed story on information 'ecosystems' and the power they exert? I can't promise AP resources or any kind of formal partnership, but I have been told explicitly to shoot for more experimental coverage, and I think this would be a great candidate. The graph structure illustrated in the White Helmets paper is something I've asked from Google for a while now, but I see that there are other ways to attack the problem. For a while now I have been haunted by the narrative in Dylann Roof's manifesto, where self-motivated "research" on the internet replaced the traditional role of hate group recruiter. I'm curious to what extent this is true in general, and how best to explain that phenomenon to the AP audience.

Thanks in advance for anything you have to say on the matter.

Yours,
Larry

AP

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Larry Fenn

lfenn@ap.org

200 Liberty St.
New York, NY 10281
T 212.621.5436

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To: kstarbi@uw.edu[kstarbi@uw.edu]
From: Renee DiResta (Google Docs)
Sent: Fri 1/1/2021 11:12:14 PM
Subject: Chapter 4 infogra... - Yochai's paper on this: <https://cybe...>
Received: Fri 1/1/2021 11:12:36 PM

Renee DiResta replied to a comment in the following document



Chapter 4 infographic notes

Top Down:



Renee DiResta

Yochai's paper on this: <https://cyber.harvard.edu/publication/2020/Mail-in-Voter-Fraud-Disinformation-2020>



Renee DiResta

Network Propaganda more broadly posits that Fox, conservative media did more to push out false beliefs than "FB clickbait artists"



Kate Starbird

Do we want to directly address this or just present our view as adding to that picture? (I'm back and forth on this a bit.)



Renee DiResta

For the infographic we could just do the cases and mention/link to the Harvard paper in citations. But per your comment, I also think there's an opportunity to do a full paper on just this shift. I believe bottom-up is increasingly where things are headed as the "never-had-a-TV" or "don't have cable" people - the on-demand generations who get the majority of their information from online communities - continue to drive online activism, get elected to congress (AOC), etc.



Renee DiResta

New

i was just reviewing some slides I'd made on top-down vs bottom-up for a talk to see if I had any relevant images to kickstart a convo with the designer, and came across notes from a google group convo w/Yochai from October. Rachel had actually pointed out some of the EIP findings/UW graph on inflection points in narrative spread from the bottom up and there was some mutual conviction that the commonality was the influencers. He sees the influencers as elite media. This question of what/who counts as "media" isn't super relevant for this graphic but I think is key to redefining propaganda in the age of mass participation.

Open

Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA

You have received this email because you are a participant in this thread. Change what Google Docs sends you. You can reply to this email to reply to the discussion.



To: Reiss, Dorit R.[reissd@uchastings.edu]
Cc: nonnecke@berkeley.edu[nonnecke@berkeley.edu]; rdiresta@stanford.edu[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 2/9/2021 9:59:55 PM
Subject: Re: Disinformation panel
Received: Tue 2/9/2021 9:59:56 PM

This all sounds great to me. I prefer the informal presentation (just talking about what we're working on), so I can see faces instead of stare at my slides. And with three of us, that will give us more time to chat about interesting things.
Kate

On Feb 9, 2021, at 1:49 PM, Reiss, Dorit R. <reissd@uchastings.edu> wrote:

Dear Profs. Diresta, Nonnecke and Starbird,

Thank you for agreeing to participate on a panel to address disinformation at UC Hastings on March 4, 2021 at 12pm PT.

I wanted to touch base with you. My thinking was that it would be good to keep the format relatively informal, with each of you talking about 10 minutes about your work on disinformation and sharing a few insights, and then making it a question and answer session. I am planning to have questions prepared, but expect our community to have a lot.

Does that sound acceptable to you? If any of you would prefer to do a more formal presentation, that is fine too.

best,
Dorit.

Dorit Rubinstein Reiss
Professor of Law
UC Hastings College of the Law
415-5654844
reissd@uchastings.edu

Member of the Vaccine Working Group on Ethics and Policy
<http://vaccineworkinggroupethics.org/>

Please note: Messages to this account may be subject to Public Records Act requests.

To: Sara Sendek[sara.sendek@aspeninstitute.org]
Cc: Ryan Merkley (Consultant)[Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 5/7/2021 11:28:20 PM
Subject: Re: Aspen Commissioner Pitches
Received: Fri 5/7/2021 11:28:21 PM

Sorry for the delay here... (and clearly too late for the briefing)... but here are some clarifications:

PITCH ONE: *Targeting Communities Using Racialized Messaging*, Kate Starbird

PRIORITY OR AREA OF FOCUS:

Targeted Communities & Racialized Messaging

HOW DOES IT RELATE TO OR IMPACT INFORMATION DISORDER?

Targeting of disinformation can take several forms:

- Infiltrating communities and spreading messages that play off their identities and ideologies (to build audiences) and then shaping those communities towards a disinformation actor's goals
- Using racialized arguments against one community to build grievance-based othering within/by another group (for example, spreading strategic narratives among White communities that delegitimize and problematize protests by Black Americans and allied groups against police violence)

WHO IS IMPLICATED IN THIS SUBJECT AREA?

Platforms/Government/Media

WHY IS IT A PRIORITY TO MAKE A RECOMMENDATION ON THIS ITEM?

Racialized disinformation has been a significant feature of U.S. disinformation campaigns in 2016 (foreign) and 2020 (domestic). Disinformation that targets racial, ethnic, and religious divides is also a significant issue around the world.

On May 6, 2021, at 9:32 AM, Sara Sendek <sara.sendek@aspeninstitute.org> wrote:

PITCH ONE: *Targeting Communities Using Racialized Messaging*, Kate Starbird

PRIORITY OR AREA OF FOCUS:

Targeted Communities & Racialized Messaging

HOW DOES IT RELATE TO OR IMPACT INFORMATION DISORDER?

Racialized messaging impacts all communities, not just Black and brown lives. Communities can be infiltrated with racialized information to create grievances against other communities and populations, which can then be used to create conflict. This targeting has been used by foreign actors. Targeted disinfo at different levels with slightly different campaigns, tactics and tools but with similar goals.

WHO IS IMPLICATED IN THIS SUBJECT AREA?

Platforms/Government/Media

WHY IS IT A PRIORITY TO MAKE A RECOMMENDATION ON THIS ITEM?

Govt, media and platforms are implicated in some of the networked configurations in perpetuating how we are vulnerable.

To: David Forscey[David.Forscey@aspeninstitute.org]
Cc: Vivian Schiller[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 11/16/2020 5:44:22 PM
Subject: Re: Aspen Institute Meeting Invitation
Received: Mon 11/16/2020 5:44:23 PM

Thank you David. This calendar item is perfect. And I will await the more detailed agenda.
Warmly,
Kate

On Nov 16, 2020, at 7:24 AM, David Forscey <David.Forscey@aspeninstitute.org> wrote:

A pleasure to meet you Kate, and we are so delighted you can join us! For the time being, I am going to add you to the Outlook calendar invite—let me know if you prefer Google calendar. We will reach out soon with a more detailed agenda, and please do not hesitate to ask any questions!

Best,
David

From: Vivian Schiller <Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org>
Sent: Sunday, November 15, 2020 3:11 PM
To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Cc: David Forscey <David.Forscey@aspeninstitute.org>
Subject: Re: Aspen Institute Meeting Invitation

Fantastic! More soon

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Date: Sunday, November 15, 2020 at 3:08 PM
To: Vivian Schiller <Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org>
Cc: David Forscey <David.Forscey@aspeninstitute.org>
Subject: Re: Aspen Institute Meeting Invitation

Hi Vivian,

Thank you for the invitation!

Absolutely. I'd love to attend/participate.

Warmly,
Kate

On Nov 15, 2020, at 10:33 AM, Vivian Schiller <Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org> wrote:

Hi Kate,

Hope you are doing well. Thanks for you all your great work the elections. Related, I'm writing to see if you can join a private meeting that the Aspen Cybersecurity Group is convening on December 9 from 2p – 4pET about information operations.

The [Aspen Cybersecurity Group](#) is the nation's leading public-private, multidisciplinary forum on technology risk. Its members include CEOs, lawmakers, security executives, former NSA directors, and information experts including Monika Bickert, Alex Stamos,

and Yasmin Green. It meets three times per year with a high-level delegation of policymakers from the FBI, DOJ, DHS, ODNI, NSA, State Department, FCC, Commerce Department, and others. Its goal is to translate these conversations into operational changes in government agencies and private companies that actually improve the nation's cybersecurity posture.

While the Aspen Cybersecurity Group's focus is generally cybersecurity, we have been asking ourselves how it might contribute some unique value in your field. Obviously there are many organizations and experts doing a lot of excellent work on defining, detecting, and disrupting malicious information operations and malign influence campaigns, and the last thing the Group wants to do is duplicate work or step on any toes. But we do feel that the Group's excellent relationships with a future Biden Administration, as well as its deep networks across industry, create opportunities to help elevate or operationalize ongoing activities and recommendations.

We would be delighted if you could join us on December 9 and, following a handful of presentations on the current state of your field, where the cutting edge work is taking place, and where any gaps related to research or implementation remain, participate in an open discussion to help the Aspen Cybersecurity Group identify how it can support your work. The meeting is off the record.

Please let me know if you can make it, and David Forscey (copied) can send you the calendar invite.

Cheers,

Vivian

--

Vivian Schiller

Executive Director, Aspen Digital

The Aspen Institute

+1-240-463-0496

@vivian

<image001.png>

To: Vivian Schiller[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
Cc: David Forscey[David.Forscey@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Sun 11/15/2020 8:07:31 PM
Subject: Re: Aspen Institute Meeting Invitation
Received: Sun 11/15/2020 8:07:32 PM

Hi Vivian,
Thank you for the invitation!

Absolutely. I'd love to attend/participate.

Warmly,
Kate

On Nov 15, 2020, at 10:33 AM, Vivian Schiller <Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org> wrote:

Hi Kate,

Hope you are doing well. Thanks for you all your great work the elections. Related, I'm writing to see if you can join a private meeting that the Aspen Cybersecurity Group is convening on December 9 from 2p – 4pET about information operations.

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Cheers,

Vivian

--

Vivian Schiller
Executive Director, Aspen Digital
The Aspen Institute

+1-240-463-0496
@vivian

<image001.png>

To: Jeff Hancock[hancockj@stanford.edu]; Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]
Cc: Crystal Welliver[welliver@uw.edu]; Emma Spiro[espiro@uw.edu]; Jevin West[jevinw@uw.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 1/14/2021 6:19:35 PM
Subject: update from UW side for the NSF SaTC proposal
Received: Thur 1/14/2021 6:19:37 PM

Hi Jeff, Elena, and Renee (ccing the rest of the UW team for visibility),
We're still plugging away on this proposal — due Jan 29 to the NSF.

We have a title: Building Rapid-Response Frameworks to Support Multi-Stakeholder Collaborations for Mitigating Online Disinformation

And a solid draft of the summary:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1EZ6IHt0euz1mBx657c4jjigSNkp2mx5YC9sT93z7PZ4/edit?usp=sharing>

We're working on getting a draft of the project description done over the weekend and then have that to circulate to you all with highlighted areas where we hope to get your input over the course of the following week. I hope that leaves enough time for you all... and I'm hoping to structure that well to use your time efficiently.

Both First Draft and Graphika have said yes to collaborating and offering letters of support.

Jeff, per our conversation last week, we are planning on integrating a component that allows us to leverage the real-time analysis to test interventions (to see what communication strategies work for helping people be resistant to emergent disinformation campaigns).

Elena and Renee, as we've talked about, we're hoping to implement and evaluate 4-5 additional EIP-like collaborations around:

vaccinations (in progress), Election 2022, Election 2024, and other emergent crisis/breaking news events

We're setting aside Year 5 for evaluation and communication (no more live collaborations).

And then our final objective around the collaborations piece would be to produce tool-kits that might help others run these collaborations.

Please let me know if you have any questions, concerns, comments, needs for clarification, etc.

Kate

Here's a ROUGH timeline:

Activity	Year 1 2021-2022	Year 2 2022-2023	Year 3 2023-2024	Year 4 2024-2025	Year 5 2025-2026
#1 Understanding Disinformation					
Data Collection: Social Media Content during Crisis Events	X	X	X	X	
Empirical research to reveal the structure and dynamics of disinformation	X	X	X	X	
Constructing theories and models to better understand disinformation			X	X	X
Disseminating Results from Empirical and Theoretical Research		X	X	X	X
#2 Translating Methods for Rapid Analysis					
Studying/Supporting OSInt Teams & Journalists	X	X	X		
Training/Provisioning Distributed Data Science Teams	X	X	X	X	
Building/communicating frameworks for collaborative, rapid analysis			X	X	X
#3 Multi-Stakeholder Collaborations					
Implementing Collaborations	Covid Vaccine	Election2022	Emergent crisis event	Election2024	
Evaluating Efficacy of Communication Products (Analysis, Pre-bunking packets)	X	X	X	X	
Analyzing Collaborations		X	X	X	X
Disseminating Insights to Diverse Stakeholder Groups			X	X	X
Developing Collaboration Toolkits			X	X	X

To: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 10/26/2020 6:46:58 PM
Subject: Fwd: NBC News // Zoom Intv? // Why YouTube Isn't Adjusting
Received: Mon 10/26/2020 6:46:59 PM

Hi Renee,

I'm not convinced I'm the right person for this. Might you be? Or maybe we can direct to Camille or Alex?

Kate

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Ward, Jacob (NBCUniversal)" <Jacob.Ward@nbcuni.com>
Subject: NBC News // Zoom Intv? // Why YouTube Isn't Adjusting
Date: October 26, 2020 at 11:28:52 AM PDT
To: "kstarbi@uw.edu" <kstarbi@uw.edu>

Hi Professor Starbird!

I believe you know a bunch of my associates — Olivia Solon, Ben Collins, Brandy Zadrozny — here at NBC. I work on the TV side, and I'm putting a story together about why it is that YouTube has adjusted so little of how it handles misinformation as compared to Twitter and FB. Would you have a few minutes for a recorded interview on the subject via Zoom? I'm looking for some big-picture impressions from your long experience observing how YouTube handles itself. If you'd have any time for me today (Monday) or tomorrow, I'll send an invite along.

Thanks very much!

Jake

Jake Ward
Correspondent
TODAY, Nightly News, MSNBC
NBC News

jacob.ward@nbcuni.com
Cell/Signal +1 347 514 5169
Twitter/Insta @byjacobward

****PLEASE NOTE:** All emails for journalistic purposes are presumed to be on the record unless and until a mutually accepted negotiation of ground rules has successfully concluded. Any unilateral declaration that a conversation is on background or off the record will not be honored.**

Send me secure files via NBC's [SecureDrop](#).



To: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
Cc: Michael Grass[megrass@uw.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 11/11/2020 7:44:28 PM
Subject: Re: ABC News Inquiry -- post-election misinformation
Received: Wed 11/11/2020 7:44:29 PM

Thanks Renee!

On Nov 11, 2020, at 11:34 AM, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu> wrote:

Thanks –will reply to her to spare your inboxes.

From: Michael Grass <megrass@uw.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 10:49 AM
To: Laura.Romero@abc.com
Cc: kstarbi@uw.edu; Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Subject: FW: ABC News Inquiry -- post-election misinformation

Laura –

I'm the communications manager at the University of Washington's Center for an Informed Public and Kate Starbird forwarded me your inquiry. Kate wanted me to relay your request to some of our colleagues within the Election Integrity Partnership who may be better positioned to answer your question. Renee DiResta of the Stanford Internet Observatory, cc'd here, said that she could field your request.

Also, in case it's helpful, Election Integrity Partnership researchers will be available to answer questions during an on-the-record briefing for journalists on Thursday at 5 p.m. EST / 2 p.m. PST:

<https://stanford.zoom.us/j/93659812479?pwd=Sk5DSm1ueVBQYlN3bmNXMWZ5UmtRQT09>

-- Michael

--

Michael Grass (he/him)
Communications Manager
Center for an Informed Public
University of Washington
Email: megrass@uw.edu

News & Insights: [Sign up for the CIP's newsletter](#)
Website: cip.uw.edu
Follow the CIP on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 10:16 AM
To: Michael Grass <megrass@uw.edu>
Cc: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Subject: Fwd: ABC News Inquiry -- post-election misinformation

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Romero, Laura" <Laura.Romero@abc.com>
Subject: ABC News Inquiry -- post-election misinformation
Date: November 11, 2020 at 10:12:04 AM PST
To: "kstarbi@uw.edu" <kstarbi@uw.edu>

Hi Kate,

I hope you are doing well. I am looking into post-election misinformation and was wondering if you could provide me with a statement. I would usually like to hop on the phone to discuss this, but I have back-to-back meetings today.

As you probably have seen, a #StopTheSteal movement has spread online, mostly from right wing outlets and individuals who believe the election was stolen. They are claiming voter fraud despite no evidence from election officials. Facebook has gone as far as to remove any post with the hashtag but we have seen facebook groups then change their names multiple times to avoid being taken down (even though they are still posting content that the election was stolen). Twitter took down a video that Eric Trump retweeted of a man supposedly burning ballots, but it had been viewed 1.2 million times. Now, a new app called Parler has seen hundreds if not thousands of new users because it has less violation rules and they can most more freely. Is this a cat and mouse chase? Will we ever stop misinformation from spreading? Do you think people will move away from the main popular platforms to other apps like parler permanently? Or is this just an "in the moment" move? Do you know about Parlor? The app is allowing content to be posted that would be taken down on Twitter or Facebook. Why is the misinformation we are seeing dangerous? Are these social media companies taking action too late? Misinformation is not new.

Thank you,
Laura

To: Michael Grass[megrass@uw.edu]
Cc: kstarbi[kstarbi@uw.edu]
From: Renee DiResta
Sent: Wed 11/11/2020 7:34:26 PM
Subject: RE: ABC News Inquiry -- post-election misinformation
Received: Wed 11/11/2020 7:34:55 PM

Thanks --will reply to her to spare your inboxes.

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<https://stanford.zoom.us/j/93659812479?pwd=Sk5DSm1ueVBQYlN3bmNXMWZ5UmtRQT09>

-- Michael

--

Michael Grass (he/him)
Communications Manager
Center for an Informed Public
University of Washington
Email: megrass@uw.edu

News & Insights: [Sign up for the CIP's newsletter](#)
Website: cip.uw.edu
Follow the CIP on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
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To: Michael Grass <megrass@uw.edu>
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Begin forwarded message:

From: "Romero, Laura" <Laura.Romero@abc.com>
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Date: November 11, 2020 at 10:12:04 AM PST
To: "kstarbi@uw.edu" <kstarbi@uw.edu>

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Thank you,

Laura

To: Michael Grass[megrass@uw.edu]
Cc: Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 11/11/2020 6:15:52 PM
Subject: Fwd: ABC News Inquiry -- post-election misinformation
Received: Wed 11/11/2020 6:15:53 PM

Hi Michael,

Any chance we can push this request to the larger group... someone on the #StopTheSteal team? Or maybe Renee would be interested in taking this? (I think Renee is probably most qualified here, but I know she's busy.)

(And sorry for contacting you on a holiday!)

Kate

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Romero, Laura" <Laura.Romero@abc.com>
Subject: ABC News Inquiry -- post-election misinformation
Date: November 11, 2020 at 10:12:04 AM PST
To: "kstarbi@uw.edu" <kstarbi@uw.edu>

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Thank you,

Laura

To: Eric Smalley[eric.smalley@theconversation.com]
Cc: Caulfield, Michael[michael.caulfield@wsu.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]; Jevin West[jevinw@uw.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 11/5/2020 12:03:28 AM
Subject: Re: rapid reaction to election-related events
Received: Thur 11/5/2020 12:03:29 AM

Can you also please add Jevin West?

I took the piece in a slightly different direction, highlighting the more salient pieces from right now. I'm hoping Mike and Renee and Jevin can help get it over the finish line.

On Nov 4, 2020, at 3:40 PM, Eric Smalley <eric.smalley@theconversation.com> wrote:

Great, thanks. You and Renée should have access to the file shortly once I put you into the system.

On Wed, Nov 4, 2020 at 6:32 PM Caulfield, Michael <michael.caulfield@wsu.edu> wrote:

Yeah, that's fine.

From: Eric Smalley <eric.smalley@theconversation.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 3:28 PM
To: Caulfield, Michael <michael.caulfield@wsu.edu>
Cc: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: rapid reaction to election-related events

Hi Michael,

It looks like as Director of Blended and Networked Learning in Academic Affairs you're officially an administrator and don't have an academic or research appointment. Is that correct? In that case, I can list you at the bottom of the article as a contributor, but I can't list you as a co-author. Is that okay?

Best,
Eric

On Wed, Nov 4, 2020 at 6:15 PM Caulfield, Michael <michael.caulfield@wsu.edu> wrote:

Hey do I have an invite to this? and if not could you add michaelcaulfield.work@gmail.com

From: Eric Smalley <eric.smalley@theconversation.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 2:35 PM
To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Cc: Caulfield, Michael <michael.caulfield@wsu.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: rapid reaction to election-related events

Will do.

On Wed, Nov 4, 2020 at 5:28 PM Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

Hi Eric, I just received this. I'm going to take a look now. Can you please also add my collaborators, cced above?

On Nov 4, 2020, at 2:05 PM, Eric Smalley <eric.smalley@theconversation.com> wrote:

Hi Kate,

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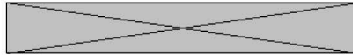
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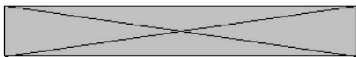
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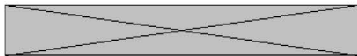
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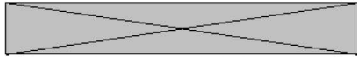
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To: Eric Smalley[eric.smalley@theconversation.com]
Cc: Caulfield, Michael[michael.caulfield@wsu.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 11/4/2020 10:27:22 PM
Subject: Re: rapid reaction to election-related events
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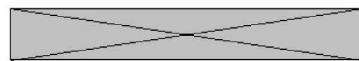
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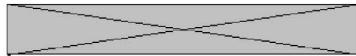
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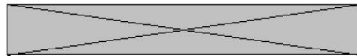
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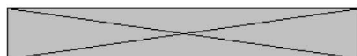
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From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 11/4/2020 7:32:39 PM
Subject: Fwd: rapid reaction to election-related events
Received: Wed 11/4/2020 7:32:41 PM

Do you two have the interest/cycles to work on a Conversation piece to go out today? It would build/summarize our What to Expect piece (but from this point going forward, I imagine).
Eric was going to get a draft started for us based on what we'd already written.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Eric Smalley <eric.smalley@theconversation.com>
Subject: Re: rapid reaction to election-related events
Date: November 4, 2020 at 9:10:35 AM PST
To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>

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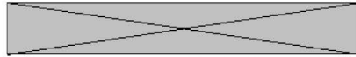
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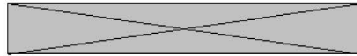


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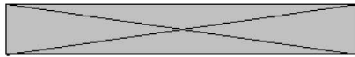


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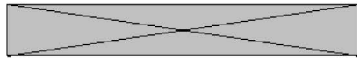


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Science and Technology Editor
eric.smalley@theconversation.com



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Facebook: www.facebook.com/theconversationUS
Newsletter: <https://theconversation.com/us/newsletter>
Twitter: [@ConversationUS](https://twitter.com/ConversationUS)

To: Eric Smalley[eric.smalley@theconversation.com]
Cc: Michael Grass[megrass@uw.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 11/4/2020 4:10:34 PM
Subject: Re: rapid reaction to election-related events
Received: Wed 11/4/2020 4:10:41 PM

The Latinx disinformation focus is going to be so important, but I don't think we are best positioned for that story. Do you know Saiph Savage? I think she's been working on that, but I'm not sure. Also Samuel Woolley's team at UT Austin is looking, I believe, at disinformation targeting Latinx communities. Both would be great for a piece like that. I don't know if we have a thread yet (to pull through for a short piece), but Renee and I would definitely reprise our "what to expect" paper for this moment (since this is exactly what experts were expecting... in terms of uncertainty and concerted efforts to sow doubt in the process during this time of uncertainty).

On Nov 3, 2020, at 7:39 PM, Eric Smalley <eric.smalley@theconversation.com> wrote:

Hi folks,
Just checking to see if anything is emerging that might be worth a writeup tomorrow or over the next few days. One thing I'm wondering about is whether anyone has numbers on the scope and effectiveness of the disinformation campaigns aimed at the Latinx community in Florida.

Hope everyone is holding up!

Best,
Eric

On Mon, Nov 2, 2020 at 8:05 PM Eric Smalley <eric.smalley@theconversation.com> wrote:

Hi Kate, Michael, Renée,
That all sounds good. I'll be in touch tomorrow, and feel free to reach out first if you have something that could work.

Rest up, everyone!

Best,
Eric

On Mon, Nov 2, 2020 at 6:19 PM Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

Hi Eric,
We're working doing live analysis over the next few days. If we see something that might fit, we're definitely willing to chat about quickly converting that into a Conversation piece.

I'm ccing Michael Grass, our communications director, and Renee DiResta, one of the leads over at the Stanford Internet Observatory (whom we're collaborating with). Maybe ping us end of day tomorrow or midday Wednesday and we can see if there's anything that would be a fit?

(We expect to have a lot of little things that might be of interest... from reports of voter intimidation and possible violent demonstrations to emergent stories of broken machines to efforts to claim massive voter fraud. But who knows... maybe everything goes smoothly and we're all tucked in and sleeping soundly with nothing to write about by midnight on Tuesday.)

Kate

On Nov 2, 2020, at 10:30 AM, Eric Smalley <eric.smalley@theconversation.com> wrote:

Hi Kate,

Looking ahead to tomorrow and the next week or so, we might need to react quickly to breaking news about disinformation and other technology-related attacks on the election. Are you and/or other CIP team members available for a quick turnaround of a brief story reacting to relevant breaking news (fingers crossed that there won't be any)? I'd be looking for your assessment and context for whatever news event occurs. These reaction articles can be as short as 400 words.

I imagine you're getting a lot of media requests – I heard you on NPR last night – but this might be a way for you to convey a little more information than a couple of quotes. Hope all is well.

Best,
Eric

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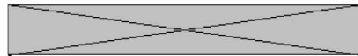
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Twitter: [@ConversationUS](https://twitter.com/ConversationUS)**

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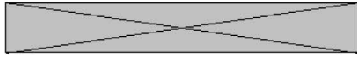
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Cc: Michael Grass[megrass@uw.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 11/2/2020 11:18:27 PM
Subject: Re: rapid reaction to election-related events
Received: Mon 11/2/2020 11:18:28 PM

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Twitter: [@ConversationUS](https://twitter.com/ConversationUS)

To: kstarbi@uw.edu[kstarbi@uw.edu]
From: Renee DiResta (Google Docs)
Sent: Mon 10/19/2020 5:48:16 AM
Subject: Expectations_Draft - i like this
Received: Mon 10/19/2020 5:48:37 AM

Renee DiResta added a comment to the following document



Expectations_Draft

Often in our work, we are looking backwards and playing catch up, trying to quickly debunk and then slow or stop the spread of the false narratives that are already taking root within the information space. In this article, we look forward, applying what we have learned from our previous analyses to anticipate what might come next.



Renee DiResta

New

i like this

Open

Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA

You have received this email because you are subscribed to all discussions on Expectations_Draft. Change what Google Docs sends you. You can reply to this email to reply to the discussion.



To: Chris Meserole[CMeserole@brookings.edu]
Cc: rdirecta@stanford.edu[rdirecta@stanford.edu]; Elaine Kamarck[EKamarck@brookings.edu]; Filippos Letsas[FLetsas@brookings.edu]; Sarah Reed[SReed@brookings.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 9/28/2020 7:34:27 PM
Subject: Re: Upcoming Disinformation Panel
Received: Mon 9/28/2020 7:34:47 PM
[Slides Brookings Starbird.pptx](#)

Hi Chris,

This sounds great. I'd like to show one graph in two parts (two slides). I hope that works!

Kate

On Sep 28, 2020, at 6:13 AM, Chris Meserole <CMeserole@brookings.edu> wrote:

Hi all,

I'm very much looking forward to joining you all on Friday during our virtual event on "Disinformed Democracy: the past, present, and future of information warfare."

By way of reminder, our session will be the second panel of the event and will focus on the "domestic drivers of disinformation." As Fiona mentioned during our pre-event call, we're hoping the panel will push beyond simplistic views about foreign influence operations -- especially the view that they are entirely to blame for the problem of disinformation -- and instead highlight how they interact with our domestic politics and information environment. In that spirit, I'll start the panel by prompting each of you to offer a few initial remarks (somewhere in the 3-7 minute range) on what you view as the key drivers of disinformation in 2016, and whether and how they have changed in 2020. After that we'll open into a moderated conversation before closing with a few audience questions.

We're aiming to keep the conversation informal, so there is no need to prepare a powerpoint. However, if you have a graphic or visualization you'd like to briefly present to the audience, we'd be glad to share it on screen -- just let myself and Filippos know in advance so we can work with our A/V team to enable screensharing.

Similarly, if there are any recent books, reports, or research you'd like me to flag, or if there are any points you'd like to cover in the moderated discussion, please don't hesitate to reach out. I'd be glad to work them in.

Finally, if you're able to tune in for the prior panels, please do so. We're hoping that our conversation will follow naturally from both the McMaster keynote and the preceding discussion on the history of Russian disinformation, and also set up a robust debate in the final panel over potential policy solutions.

We'll also be in touch shortly with a logistics memo and run-of-show. Look forward to speaking with you all soon!

Chris

—

Chris Meserole, Ph.D.

Fellow, Foreign Policy Program

Deputy Director, AI & Emerging Tech Initiative

The Brookings Institution

(202) 797-6180 | @chrismeserole

Retweet Network Graph
2016 Shooting + #BlackLivesMatter/#BlueLivesMatter tweets

Pro
#BlackLivesMatter
Politically "Left"

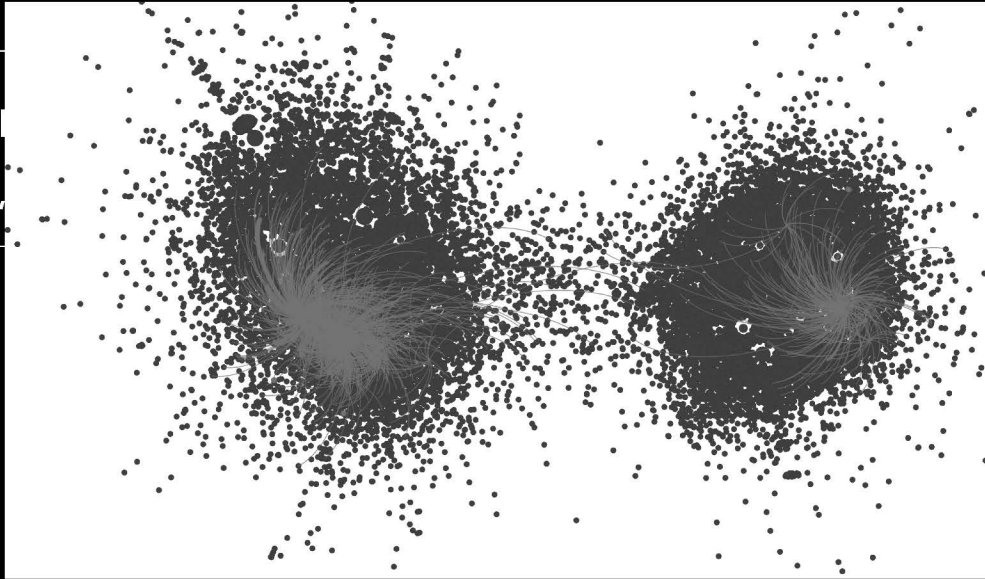
Anti
#BlackLivesMatter
Politically "Right"

Disinformation during the 2016 US Election
Russia's IRA Trolls and Online Activism

Retweet Network Graph

2016 Shooting + #BlackLivesMatter/#BlueLivesMatter tweets
RU-affiliated accounts in orange (w/ retweets)

Pro
#BlackLivesMatter
Politically "Left"



Anti
BlackLivesMatter
Politically "Right"

Disinformation during the 2016 US Election
Russia's IRA Trolls and Online Activism

To: clintonwatts@icloud.com[clintonwatts@icloud.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 3/4/2021 3:56:28 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Quick Update - New Post in a New Place - Selected Wisdom is back and this week discussing domestic terrorism
Received: Thur 3/4/2021 3:56:28 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

If this is a media request, please contact Michael Grass (megrass@uw.edu), the Communications Manager at the Center for an Informed Public, who may be able to coordinate a time for us to chat — or find another researcher at the Center who can speak to you.

Warm regards,
Kate

To: Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 8/18/2021 1:48:18 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: 9a start time
Received: Wed 8/18/2021 1:48:18 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

As this is summer, I am also traveling intermittently (and turning off email to focus on writing from time to time), which means that there may be significant delay, even for messages that I do respond to.

If this is a media request, please contact Michael Grass (megrass@uw.edu), the Communications Manager at the Center for an Informed Public, who may be able to coordinate a time for us to chat or find another researcher at the Center who can speak with you.

Warm regards,
Kate

To: Clint Watts[clint@miburosolutions.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 9/1/2020 2:34:53 AM
Subject: Re: second check just arrived... and unfortunately got deposited
Received: Tue 9/1/2020 2:35:15 AM

No worries. We'll send you a cheque to reimburse. Just let me know to whom and where to send it!

On Aug 31, 2020, at 5:47 PM, Clint Watts <clint@miburosolutions.com> wrote:

Kate

I totally suck and didn't follow up and get that check cancelled. Totally forgot.

Let me check the books tomorrow and I'll confirm if the payment hit twice. And thanks for telling me!

Clint Watts
President, Miburo Solutions
Author of
Messing With The Enemy: Surviving In A World Of Hackers, Terrorists, Russians and Fake News
Conversations with a Terrorist, a TED Talk

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Sent from ProtonMail Mobile

On Thu, Aug 27, 2020 at 10:48 AM, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

Hi Clint,

Sorry about this.

The check you sent that got lost in the mail on my end... just arrived at my bank (eight weeks later). It looks like you might not have cancelled it... and therefore it went into my bank account. So I think I owe you some money. Can you confirm that you've now paid me twice and then maybe let's come up with a plan for me to get that money back to you?

Kate

To: Clint Watts - Miburo[clint@miburosolutions.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 9/14/2020 7:37:58 PM
Subject: Re: second check just arrived... and unfortunately got deposited
Received: Mon 9/14/2020 7:37:59 PM

Totally understandable. We're not quite drowning, but suffocating out here in the West...

On Sep 14, 2020, at 12:27 PM, Clint Watts - Miburo <clint@miburosolutions.com> wrote:

Kate
I'm underwater

Sorry, if you can, could you please make the check out to

Miburo Solutions, Inc.
ATTN: Clint Watts
21 Quail Run
Cold Spring, NY 10516

Thanks and I hope you are well

Clint

On Aug 31, 2020, at 10:34 PM, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

No worries. We'll send you a cheque to reimburse. Just let me know to whom and where to send it!

On Aug 31, 2020, at 5:47 PM, Clint Watts <clint@miburosolutions.com> wrote:

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<smime.p7s>

To: Clint Watts - Miburo[clint@miburosolutions.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 8/27/2020 2:48:17 PM
Subject: second check just arrived... and unfortunately got deposited
Received: Thur 8/27/2020 2:48:34 PM

Hi Clint,

Sorry about this.

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Kate

To: Vivian Schiller[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
Cc: Beth Semel[Beth.Semel@aspeninstitute.org]; Garrett Graff[Garrett.Graff@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 9/4/2020 8:36:53 PM
Subject: Re: Speaking Invitation - Aspen Institute
Received: Fri 9/4/2020 8:36:54 PM

Hi Vivian,

Off the record is fine. (Am I able to say that I attended — on my CV and for my University reporting? Transparency is important for me.)

Name and title is fine by me.

I am planning my “talk” this weekend. I might have a couple of slides, but not a formal slide deck. I prefer to talk directly in these short virtual slots.

Don't mind if you say I'm a speaker!

Kate

On Aug 31, 2020, at 3:18 PM, Vivian Schiller <Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org> wrote:

Hi Kate,

Just checking in advance of next week's meeting.

The meeting is shaping up really well. We have most major news orgs represented and high level people from all of the platforms. The lineup of presenters is below. One note is that the meeting is now changed to OFF THE RECORD.

Question and instructions for you:

- Is the name of session and title ok?
- Do you want show slides or just talk? (You have about 7 minutes)
- Reminder this meeting is exclusively focused on what happens AFTER polls closed. So your view on the social science on social media dynamics we might see.
- When we sent out a reminder to all attendees, do you mind if I say you are a speaker? (with a reminder that this is OTR.)

Thanks – so happy you are doing this.

Vivian

CONFIRMED PRESENTERS

Disputed Elections and the Constitution

Nate Persily, James B. McClatchy Professor of Law, Stanford Law School

Ballot Count and Recount Process

Kim Wyman, Secretary of State, Washington

How Networks Call Elections

Sam Feist, Washington Bureau Chief and Senior Vice President, CNN

Street Protest, Armed Response, and the Law

Mary McCord, Legal Director, Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection, Georgetown Law

Risks and Challenges for Communities of Color

Sherrilyn Ifill, President and Director-Counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc

Where Social Science Meets Social Media

Kate Starbird, Associate Professor, Department of Human Centered Design & Engineering, University of Washington

From: Vivian Schiller <Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org>

Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 at 6:02 PM

To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>

Cc: Beth Semel <Beth.Semel@aspeninstitute.org>, Garrett Graff <Garrett.Graff@aspeninstitute.org>

Subject: Re: Speaking Invitation - Aspen Institute

Thanks so much Kate. Here's more info and context:

The meeting will be 2 ½ hours total. We're still sorting it out but broadly and subject to change:

- One hour of presentations (including yours)
- One hour of breakouts
- 30 mns of regroup
-

We'd love it if you would join for the whole thing but the first hour is the most critical for you.

Each of the presenters will speak for between 5 and 10 mns. Other presenters are focusing on (not in final order):

- Now news networks call elections (Sam Feist, CNN)
- The constitutional issues, eg electors, certification etc. (Nate Persily)
- Mail in voting (Washington state Secretary of State Kim Wyman)
- Legal issues around street protests, response etc. (Mary McCord)
- Risk to underrepresented communities (sherrilyn ifill)

We were hoping you would talk about the crisis informatics angle on all the crazy that might happen. So social science meets social media meets the for high drama/high risks event. Strike me that has your name all over it!

As for the attendees – it will be pretty high level people from social media plus editors, columnists etc from news.

That help?

-

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>

Date: Sunday, August 16, 2020 at 5:16 PM

To: Vivian Schiller <Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org>

Cc: Beth Semel <Beth.Semel@aspeninstitute.org>, Garrett Graff <Garrett.Graff@aspeninstitute.org>

Subject: Re: Speaking Invitation - Aspen Institute

Hi Vivian,

I understand the focus (on after the polls close). I'm imaging the election integrity issues will only get more acute at that point (though it depends upon the vote totals and how fast things come in). I'm not an expert in any of the legal stuff, but I can talk about things we might expect to see in the period directly after (along 2-3 different scenarios) and then what we should be expecting in the long-term, regardless of the election outcome. Does that work?

What's the total time commitment (for talks + breakouts + plenary)?

Kate

On Aug 14, 2020, at 3:29 PM, Vivian Schiller <Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org> wrote:

Yes yes, I'm well aware of your with them! It's fantastic. Just to be clear, this meeting is focused on what happen when polls close on November 3 and thereafter. But it's all of **a part**. **Let me know if you want to discuss. The format is a series of 10 minute presos (can tell you what the others are) followed by breakout groups and then plenary. Your preso would be on the societal impact – feel like you are uniquely qualified on that part. Let me know when you can talk and thanks for holding the slot. cc my colleagues. Thank you!**

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>

Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 at 6:24 PM

To: Vivian Schiller <Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org>

Subject: Re: Speaking Invitation - Aspen Institute

Hi Vivian,

Yes. :)

We're working on all cylinders here at UW and in partnership with folks through the Election Integrity Project (organized by Stanford's Internet Observatory) — and we're focusing specifically on the issue of election interference and disinformation about the elections, both of which undermine trust in our democratic processes. I won't have all the answers, but I'd be happy to chat about what we're seeing now and expecting for post-election. I can also give you recommendations for others who might make a good panel if you'd like to open this up.

For now, I'll reserve that time slot. And maybe you can let me know what the format might look like?

Kate

On Aug 14, 2020, at 2:48 PM, Vivian Schiller <Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org> wrote:

Hi Kate,

I'm writing to see if you would speak at an invite-only off-the-record meeting we are holding on September 10 at 12pET to brief social media platforms and key news leaders, editors and reporters on what we might encounter from when the polls close on November 3 through the inauguration on

January 20th. Specifically I'm looking for someone to address the social science aspect of what might happen we our feeds and airwaves are flooded with uncertainty. How do inform without causing such alarm that the public loosest trust in any process/outcome.

The meeting will be attended by high level news executive and reporters AND the security policy people from the major platform.

What do you think? Feel like you would be perfect for this. Please say yes!

Vivian

--

Vivian Schiller

Executive Director, Aspen Digital

The Aspen Institute

+1-240-463-0496

@vivian

<image001.png>

To: Vivian Schiller[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
Cc: Beth Semel[Beth.Semel@aspeninstitute.org]; Garrett Graff[Garrett.Graff@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 8/17/2020 10:07:37 PM
Subject: Re: Speaking Invitation - Aspen Institute
Received: Mon 8/17/2020 10:07:50 PM

That's super helpful. And that's an amazing lineup!

On Aug 16, 2020, at 3:02 PM, Vivian Schiller <Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org> wrote:

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On Aug 14, 2020, at 2:48 PM, Vivian Schiller <Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org> wrote:

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I'm writing to see if you would speak at an invite-only off-the-record meeting we are holding on September 10 at 12pET to brief social media platforms and key news leaders, editors and reporters on what we might encounter from when the polls close on November 3 through the inauguration on January 20th. Specifically I'm looking for someone to address the social science aspect of what might happen we our feeds and airwaves are flooded with uncertainty. How do inform without causing such alarm that the public loosest trust in any process/outcome.

The meeting will be attended by high level news executive and reporters AND the security policy people from the major platform.

What do you think? Feel like you would be perfect for this. Please say yes!

Vivian

--

Vivian Schiller

Executive Director, Aspen Digital

The Aspen Institute

+1-240-463-0496

@vivian

<image001.png>

To: Vivian Schiller[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
Cc: Beth Semel[Beth.Semel@aspeninstitute.org]; Garrett Graff[Garrett.Graff@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Sun 8/16/2020 9:14:20 PM
Subject: Re: Speaking Invitation - Aspen Institute
Received: Sun 8/16/2020 9:14:31 PM

Hi Vivian,

I understand the focus (on after the polls close). I'm imaging the election integrity issues will only get more acute at that point (though it depends upon the vote totals and how fast things come in). I'm not an expert in any of the legal stuff, but I can talk about things we might expect to see in the period directly after (along 2-3 different scenarios) and then what we should be expecting in the long-term, regardless of the election outcome. Does that work?

What's the total time commitment (for talks + breakouts + plenary)?

Kate

On Aug 14, 2020, at 3:29 PM, Vivian Schiller <Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org> wrote:

Yes yes, I'm well aware of your with them! It's fantastic. Just to be clear, this meeting is focused on what happen when polls close on November 3 and thereafter. But it's all of a part. Let me know if you want to discuss. The format is a series of 10 minute presos (can tell you what the others are) followed by breakout groups and then plenary. Your preso would be on the societal impact – feel like you are uniquely qualified on that part. Let me know when you can talk and thanks for holding the slot. cc my colleagues. Thank you!

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>

Date: Friday, August 14, 2020 at 6:24 PM

To: Vivian Schiller <Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org>

Subject: Re: Speaking Invitation - Aspen Institute

Hi Vivian,

Yes. :)

We're working on all cylinders here at UW and in partnership with folks through the Election Integrity Project (organized by Stanford's Internet Observatory) — and we're focusing specifically on the issue of election interference and disinformation about the elections, both of which undermine trust in our democratic processes. I won't have all the answers, but I'd be happy to chat about what we're seeing now and expecting for post-election. I can also give you recommendations for others who might make a good panel if you'd like to open this up.

For now, I'll reserve that time slot. And maybe you can let me know what the format might look like?

Kate

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Vivian Schiller

Executive Director, Aspen Digital

The Aspen Institute

+1-240-463-0496

@vivian

<image001.png>

To: Vivian Schiller[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 8/14/2020 10:22:33 PM
Subject: Re: Speaking Invitation - Aspen Institute
Received: Fri 8/14/2020 10:22:44 PM

Hi Vivian,
Yes. :)

We're working on all cylinders here at UW and in partnership with folks through the Election Integrity Project (organized by Stanford's Internet Observatory) — and we're focusing specifically on the issue of election interference and disinformation about the elections, both of which undermine trust in our democratic processes. I won't have all the answers, but I'd be happy to chat about what we're seeing now and expecting for post-election. I can also give you recommendations for others who might make a good panel if you'd like to open this up.

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Vivian Schiller
Executive Director, Aspen Digital
The Aspen Institute
+1-240-463-0496
@vivian

<image001.png>

To: Vivian Schiller[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
Cc: Garrett Graff[Garrett.Graff@aspeninstitute.org]; Beth Semel[Beth.Semel@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 9/14/2020 5:52:24 PM
Subject: Re: Thank You & Invitation - The Day After, Part 2
Received: Mon 9/14/2020 5:52:25 PM

Dear Vivian,
I'd be thrilled to participate in a follow-up call.

Kate

On Sep 11, 2020, at 9:46 AM, Vivian Schiller <Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org> wrote:

Dear Participants,

Thank you for joining our meeting yesterday on the risks of a contested election. We hope you found the presentations and conversation as rich and informative as we did. A huge thank you to Nate Persily, Sam Feist, Sherrilyn Ifill, Kate Starbird, Mary McCord, and Secretary Kim Wyman for their remarks, and to all of you for your insightful observations and comments.

We did not get a chance to really discuss what we might do to prepare. What kind of "staircase" might we build with our audiences so voters/readers/viewers/users can see the progress and it makes sense to them? What are the stair-steps we could be building into Election Day, election night, and what comes after? **On Tuesday, September 22, from 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. ET we'll reconvene for a group discussion to establish next steps. Please reply to this email if you would like to be part of that conversation and we'll send you a calendar invite.** This meeting will be off the record.

In the next few weeks we'll also be staging a public program on some of these issues, and publishing some thoughts about how news organizations, tech platforms, and American citizens in general can responsibly approach election coverage and the expectations of Election Day itself. If you have thoughts you think we should include, please let us know.

While the information discussed in the meeting is confidential, we have compiled [a list of online resources](#) that were shared in the chat. We're also happy to connect you to any of the presenters should you be interested in more conversations or follow-up questions.

All best,
Vivian

Vivian Schiller
Executive Director
Aspen Digital

<The Day After_Shared Resources.pdf>

To: Vivian Schiller[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
Cc: kim.wyman@sos.wa.gov[kim.wyman@sos.wa.gov]; Feist, Sam[Sam.Feist@cnn.com]; Nate Persily[npersily@law.stanford.edu]; mbm7@georgetown.edu[mbm7@georgetown.edu]; Sherrilyn Ifill[sifill@naacpldf.org]; Beth Semel[Beth.Semel@aspeninstitute.org]; Garrett Graff[Garrett.Graff@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 9/11/2020 12:55:56 AM
Subject: Re: THANK YOU!
Received: Fri 9/11/2020 12:55:58 AM

Thank you all. I learned so much from each of you.
Warmly,
Kate

On Sep 10, 2020, at 1:08 PM, Sherrilyn Ifill <sifill@naacpldf.org> wrote:

Thanks so much, Vivian, for putting this great panel together. So important! Thank you for including me. It was great to hear from all of you.

All the best, Sherrilyn

From: Vivian Schiller <Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2020 3:47 PM
To: kim.wyman@sos.wa.gov; Sherrilyn Ifill <sifill@naacpldf.org>; Feist, Sam <Sam.Feist@cnn.com>; Nate Persily <npersily@law.stanford.edu>; Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; mbm7@georgetown.edu
Cc: Beth Semel <Beth.Semel@aspeninstitute.org>; Garrett Graff <Garrett.Graff@aspeninstitute.org>
Subject: THANK YOU!

[Caution: EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Mary, Sherrilyn, Sam, Nate, Kim and Kate,

You all were perfection – a word I don't throw around lightly. Seriously so good. Don't take my word for it – we've gotten texts, slacks, and email to the same affect.

Hope you don't mind if we hit you up for more, on this critical topic.

Vivian

--

Vivian Schiller
Executive Director, Aspen Digital
The Aspen Institute
+1-240-463-0496
@vivian

<image002.png>

To: Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]
Cc: Jeffrey T. Hancock[hancockj@stanford.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 1/7/2021 11:51:44 PM
Subject: Re: Reaching out about a collaboration opportunity
Received: Thur 1/7/2021 11:51:45 PM

I can, yes.

On Jan 7, 2021, at 2:55 PM, Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi all –

We had a scheduling mistake on our end and turns out Renee is double booked tomorrow at 11. @Jeffrey can you do 12pm instead?

—

Elena Cryst
Assistant Director
Stanford Internet Observatory

<https://io.stanford.edu>

[Book an appointment](#)

From: Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>
Date: Thursday, January 7, 2021 at 11:41 AM
To: "Jeffrey T. Hancock" <hancockj@stanford.edu>, Renee DiResta <rdirresta@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: Reaching out about a collaboration opportunity

I'm also going to loop in Kate as I think it will be helpful to have her as well!

—

Elena Cryst
Assistant Director
Stanford Internet Observatory

<https://io.stanford.edu>

[Book an appointment](#)

From: Jeff Hancock <hancockj@stanford.edu>
Date: Thursday, January 7, 2021 at 11:07 AM
To: Renee DiResta <rdirresta@stanford.edu>
Cc: Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: Reaching out about a collaboration opportunity

Great - 11am tomorrow works for me! Zoom?

--Jeff

*Jeff Hancock
Harry and Norman Chandler Professor of Communication
Stanford University*

On Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 10:47 AM Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu> wrote:

Great! Let's chat Friday, then. Does 11am PT work?

From: Jeff Hancock <hancockj@stanford.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 5:41 PM
To: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: Reaching out about a collaboration opportunity

Hi Renee,

Happy New Year!!

I was just reading your quote in the times about the (non)distinction between online and offline worlds. Great point!

Thanks for thinking of me. I'm a big fan of Kate and Emma's. Yes, would be happy to talk about potential collaboration on this (and I've been meaning to find ways for us to work together more generally).

Thurs/tomorrow I can talk at 2 or at 3.30.

Friday is better: I'm free other than 9-10am and 12:30-1:00.

Looking forward to it

Jeff

*Jeff Hancock
Harry and Norman Chandler Professor of Communication
Stanford University*

On Tue, Jan 5, 2021 at 4:32 PM Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi Jeff!

Happy new year! Hot out of the gates, this morning the SIO team had a great call with professors Kate Starbird and Emma Spiro at the University of Washington Center for an Informed Public about a new collaborative grant under the NSF Secure and Trustworthy Cyberspace program.

UW will be taking the lead on this project, but we are interested in partnering on a component of the proposal that will look at multi-stakeholder collaborations to address disinformation – essentially looking back at the work we did on election integrity, and forward to future multi-institution interdisciplinary disinfo research efforts and their successes and challenges.

Given your interest in mis- and disinformation and your related work on the topic, we'd love to discuss the project and a potential collaboration with you. Do you have some time on Thurs/Fri?

Best,
Renee

To: Clint Watts - Miburo[clint@miburolutions.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 7/28/2020 2:56:57 PM
Subject: Re: following up on the check you sent
Received: Tue 7/28/2020 2:56:58 PM

Got it. Thanks!

On Jul 28, 2020, at 7:54 AM, Clint Watts - Miburo <clint@miburolutions.com> wrote:

No I meant i'll wire the money directly from my bank to yours
I'm inputting the wire today, and you should see the money in your account by tomorrow. If you don't please let me know.

On Jul 27, 2020, at 6:03 PM, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

Is "a wire" just a text message? Or do I need to do something fancier w/ the app?

On Jul 27, 2020, at 1:13 PM, Clint Watts - Miburo <clint@miburolutions.com> wrote:

yes on signal
I'm 845-863-7923

I'll just load it into a wire and hit send

On Jul 27, 2020, at 4:08 PM, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

Sure. That would work. I have signal, but haven't used it much. Can I just text you through there? What #?

On Jul 27, 2020, at 1:03 PM, Clint Watts - Miburo <clint@miburolutions.com> wrote:

Kate
So sorry to hear this.

Two options,

I can either write another check now, or

to avoid all the hassle, I don't mind doing a wire payment if you could send me your bank info (address, routing, account #) on Signal, I could then get it set up.

Clint

On Jul 26, 2020, at 11:16 PM, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

Hi Clint,

I hope you're doing well.

It looks like the USPS lost the payment you sent (for the class I gave back in June). We attempted to mail it into our bank for it to be deposited, but they never received it. Can you check to make sure it wasn't deposited? And, if it hasn't been, can you cancel it and perhaps cut a new check?

Thanks!

Kate

Clint Watts
President, Miburo Solutions
Author of *Messing With The Enemy: Surviving In A World Of Hackers, Terrorists, Russians and Fake News*
Conversations with a Terrorist, a TED Talk

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To: Clint Watts - Miburo[clint@miburolutions.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 7/27/2020 10:03:00 PM
Subject: Re: following up on the check you sent
Received: Mon 7/27/2020 10:03:03 PM

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To: Clint Watts - Miburo[clint@miburolutions.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 7/27/2020 8:08:56 PM
Subject: Re: following up on the check you sent
Received: Mon 7/27/2020 8:08:59 PM

Sure. That would work. I have signal, but haven't used it much. Can I just text you through there? What #?

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To: Clint Watts - Miburo[clint@miburosolutions.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 7/27/2020 3:16:08 AM
Subject: following up on the check you sent
Received: Mon 7/27/2020 3:16:11 AM

Hi Clint,

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Thanks!

Kate

To: Clint Watts - Miburo[clint@miburolutions.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 6/26/2020 6:27:33 PM
Subject: Re: Thanks for doing a great job!
Received: Fri 6/26/2020 6:27:34 PM
[invoice_Miburo.doc](#)
[Clint-W.pdf](#)

Hi Clint,

Here are the documents (attached). Let me know if you need something else from me to process this.

Thanks!

Kate

On Jun 12, 2020, at 11:48 AM, Clint Watts - Miburo <clint@miburolutions.com> wrote:

Kate,

Thanks for doing a great job and I do want to get you back in for an encore session. I'm working through the dates for July August and as soon as I have some more slots I'll reconnect. In the meantime, i want to make sure I get a check out to you.

When you have a moment, can you:

1- Fill out and send a W 9 form <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf>

2- Send an invoice for the session (\$1250.00)

I'll get a check out to you this week.

Have a good weekend,

Clint

Clint Watts

President, Miburo Solutions

Author of *Messing With The Enemy: Surviving In A World Of Hackers, Terrorists, Russians and Fake News*
Conversations with a Terrorist, a TED Talk

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Catharine Starbird

Date: June 26, 2020

18

Bill to:
Attn: Clint Watts
Miburo Solutions

INVOICE

Services Description: Presentation for course on Case Studies in Digital Influence Operations –
State & Non-State Actors

Date: June 4, 2020

Total Cost: \$1250.00

**Request for Taxpayer
 Identification Number and Certification**

Give Form to the
 requester. Do not
 send to the IRS.

Go to www.irs.gov/FormW9 for instructions and the latest information.

Print or type.
 See Specific Instructions on page 3.

1 Name (as shown on your income tax return). Name is required on this line; do not leave this line blank.
CATHARINE E STARBIRD

2 Business name/disregarded entity name, if different from above

3 Check appropriate box for federal tax classification of the person whose name is entered on line 1. Check only one of the following seven boxes.

Individual/sole proprietor or single-member LLC C Corporation S Corporation Partnership Trust/estate

Limited liability company. Enter the tax classification (C=C corporation, S=S corporation, P=Partnership) ▶ _____

Notes: Check the appropriate box in the line above for the tax classification of the single-member owner. Do not check LLC if the LLC is classified as a single-member LLC that is disregarded from the owner unless the owner of the LLC is another LLC that is not disregarded from the owner for U.S. federal tax purposes. Otherwise, a single-member LLC that is disregarded from the owner should check the appropriate box for the tax classification of its owner.

Other (see instructions) ▶ _____

4 Exemptions (codes apply only to certain entities, not individuals; see instructions on page 3):

Exempt payee code (if any) _____

Exemption from FATCA reporting code (if any) _____

(Applies to accounts maintained outside the U.S.)

5 Address (number, street, and apt. or suite no.) See instructions. _____ 18 _____

6 City, state, and ZIP code _____ 18 WA _____

7 List account number(s) here (optional)

Part I Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)

Enter your TIN in the appropriate box. The TIN provided must match the name given on line 1 to avoid backup withholding. For individuals, this is generally your social security number (SSN). However, for a resident alien, sole proprietor, or disregarded entity, see the instructions for Part I, later. For other entities, it is your employer identification number (EIN). If you do not have a number, see *How to get a TIN*, later.

Social security number
 _____ 12,18 _____

OR

Employer identification number
 _____ - _____

Note: If the account is in more than one name, see the instructions for line 1. Also see *What Name and Number To Give the Requester* for guidelines on whose number to enter.

Part II Certification

Under penalties of perjury, I certify that:

- The number shown on this form is my correct taxpayer identification number (or I am waiting for a number to be issued to me); and
- I am not subject to backup withholding because: (a) I am exempt from backup withholding, or (b) I have not been notified by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that I am subject to backup withholding as a result of a failure to report all interest or dividends, or (c) the IRS has notified me that I am no longer subject to backup withholding; and
- I am a U.S. citizen or other U.S. person (defined below); and
- The FATCA code(s) entered on this form (if any) indicating that I am exempt from FATCA reporting is correct.

Certification instructions. You must cross out item 2 above if you have been notified by the IRS that you are currently subject to backup withholding because you have failed to report all interest and dividends on your tax return. For real estate transactions, item 2 does not apply. For mortgage interest paid, acquisition or abandonment of secured property, cancellation of debt, contributions to an individual retirement arrangement (IRA), and generally, payments other than interest and dividends, you are not required to sign the certification, but you must provide your correct TIN. See the instructions for Part II, later.

Sign Here Signature of U.S. person ▶ *Catharine E Starbird* Date ▶ 6/16/20

General Instructions

Section references are to the Internal Revenue Code unless otherwise noted.

Future developments. For the latest information about developments related to Form W-9 and its instructions, such as legislation enacted after they were published, go to www.irs.gov/FormW9.

Purpose of Form

An individual or entity (Form W-9 requester) who is required to file an information return with the IRS must obtain your correct taxpayer identification number (TIN) which may be your social security number (SSN), individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN), adoption taxpayer identification number (ATIN), or employer identification number (EIN), to report on an information return the amount paid to you, or other amount reportable on an information return. Examples of information returns include, but are not limited to, the following.

- * Form 1099-INT (interest earned or paid)

- * Form 1099-DIV (dividends, including those from stocks or mutual funds)
 - * Form 1099-MISC (various types of income, prizes, awards, or gross proceeds)
 - * Form 1099-B (stock or mutual fund sales and certain other transactions by brokers)
 - * Form 1099-S (proceeds from real estate transactions)
 - * Form 1099-K (merchant card and third party network transactions)
 - * Form 1098 (home mortgage interest), 1098-E (student loan interest), 1098-T (tuition)
 - * Form 1099-C (canceled debt)
 - * Form 1099-A (acquisition or abandonment of secured property)
- Use Form W-9 only if you are a U.S. person (including a resident alien), to provide your correct TIN.
- If you do not return Form W-9 to the requester with a TIN, you might be subject to backup withholding. See *What is backup withholding*, later.

To: Clint Watts - Miburo[clint@miburosolutions.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 7/6/2020 5:51:27 PM
Subject: Re: Thanks for doing a great job!
Received: Mon 7/6/2020 5:51:28 PM

Hi Clint,

My other case studies are either very old or very new (and not fully baked). I have the conspiracy theories about crisis events — which show how conspiracy theories and disinformation campaigns intersect. And I have the newer stuff (on the “Plandemic”) showing more domestic campaigns in the context of Covid19 and Election2020. My biggest issue is that I don’t really have time to produce a high quality presentation on this stuff right now. I don’t think I have the capacity to create anything close to what I did last time.

I would be willing to do a Q&A or something with low-prep. But I can’t do another course right now. (Too busy doing the actual research... or, more accurately, managing students who are doing the actual research).

Kate

On Jul 3, 2020, at 1:52 PM, Clint Watts - Miburo <clint@miburosolutions.com> wrote:

Kate,

Really appreciate the great job you did and the resulting reviews from June. We’ve paused the sessions for a couple of weeks due to the holiday. But I’d love to have you back in July or August if you’d be interested.

Were there case studies you didn’t get to that we could do in a follow up session or other topics that are in your wheelhouse you might be interested in presenting?

Happy 4th,

Clint

On Jun 30, 2020, at 2:15 PM, Clint Watts - Miburo <clint@miburosolutions.com> wrote:

Kate,

I think the message might have gone out yesterday but I had a bunch get hung up. Thanks for a great presentation and these documents. Check is on the way.

On Jun 26, 2020, at 2:27 PM, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

Hi Clint,

Here are the documents (attached). Let me know if you need something else from me to process this.

Thanks!

Kate

On Jun 12, 2020, at 11:48 AM, Clint Watts - Miburo
<clint@miburosolutions.com> wrote:

Kate,

Thanks for doing a great job and I do want to get you back in for an encore session. I'm working through the dates for July August and as soon as I have some more slots I'll reconnect. In the meantime, i want to make sure I get a check out to you.

When you have a moment, can you:

1- Fill out and send a W 9 form <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf>

2- Send an invoice for the session (\$1250.00)

I'll get a check out to you this week.

Have a good weekend,

Clint

Clint Watts

President, Miburo Solutions

Author of *Messing With The Enemy: Surviving In A World Of Hackers, Terrorists, Russians and Fake News*

Conversations with a Terrorist, a TED Talk

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Your cooperation is appreciated.

<Clint-W.pdf><invoice_Miburo.doc>

Clint Watts

President, Miburo Solutions

Author of *Messing With The Enemy: Surviving In A World Of Hackers, Terrorists, Russians and Fake News*

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To: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]; Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]; Jeffrey T. Hancock[hancockj@stanford.edu]
Cc: Emma Spiro[espiro@uw.edu]; Jevin West[jevinw@uw.edu]; Crystal Welliver[welliver@uw.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 1/19/2021 4:49:53 AM
Subject: SaTC: collaborations to address disinformation -- draft of the project description
Received: Tue 1/19/2021 4:49:54 AM

Hi all,

We now have a working draft for the SaTC proposal:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/12TuhEqmQ4Apsi9fz76shqGYfbfs6L5csbaUtTdhybss/edit?usp=sharing>

Most of the sections are in place, though there are a few that still need writing (though most have notes there) and editing needed throughout. We're happy to have your input throughout, but there are a few specific things that I think we need Renee and Jeff to attend to.

Jeff, there's a section in Objective 2 around using the products of real-time research to inform communication (based on our conversation). We definitely need your input there, both in how we articulate the Objective itself (in the front part of the proposal) and in the Workplace where we're hoping you can scope out what those activities would look like. I'm hoping that won't be a heavy lift.

Renee, I'd love your feedback throughout, but definitely on Objective 3 (both in the first introduction to it and in the workplan). One thing we'll need to do is align our narrative with your internal work plan and timeline for what gets funded on this grant. So any insight there would be helpful. I'm happy to chat through what a budget might look like and map that to our narrative... but if you already have a rough budget, we can start there.

Please take a read when you have time. We'd love your feedback on any element!

Our due data to UW is Monday. But I understand you all may have earlier deadlines, so please let us know on those. The most complex thing might be aligning budget justifications with the project description. I'm happy to get on the phone and talk through any of that if needed. We have our budget at exactly 2.25M leaving 750K for your side.

Please let me know if you have any comments, concerns, questions!

Kate

To: Snider, Lydia F CIV USARMY ARCYBER (USA)[lydia.f.snider.civ@mail.mil]
Cc: Clinton Watts[clint@miburosolutions.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 6/4/2020 7:40:17 PM
Subject: Re: Thank you
Received: Thur 6/4/2020 7:40:18 PM

Thanks Lydia! I really enjoyed the questions. Thanks for inviting me. Happy to come back again sometime!

Kate

> On Jun 4, 2020, at 12:06 PM, Snider, Lydia F CIV USARMY ARCYBER (USA) <lydia.f.snider.civ@mail.mil> wrote:
>
> Kate,
> Great presentation. I know yours is a tricky topic and I really appreciate you talking with us.
>
> I already have requests to have you back!
>
> Lydia Snider
> Special Advisor to the Commanding Generally
> Social Media & Information Warfare
> US Army Cyber Command
> New telework number: 706-832-9888
>

To: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]; Caulfield, Michael[michael.caulfield@wsu.edu]; [REDACTED] 51 [REDACTED]@uw.edu];
Rachel Moran[remoran@uw.edu]; [REDACTED] 51 [REDACTED]@uw.edu]; Emma Spiro[espiro@uw.edu]; Jevin West[jevinw@uw.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 10/16/2020 3:27:22 PM
Subject: meeting today (2pm Pacific) re: writing the "what to expect onelection day" piece
Received: Fri 10/16/2020 3:27:24 PM

Here's my Zoom room: <https://washington.zoom.us/j/95947757497>

To: Clint Watts - Miburo[clint@miburosolutions.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 6/5/2020 3:36:37 PM
Subject: Re: AMAZING JOB
Received: Fri 6/5/2020 3:36:39 PM

Thanks Clint!

I enjoyed the conversations a lot. I'd be happy to think about doing an encore on July 2. My only issue is that I don't really have a lot of other content - at least not polished content based on peer review studies like the stuff I gave yesterday.

In regards to some of your open themes... I'm really careful not to give prescriptions for how other state actors can counter disinformation with information campaigns of their own. I try to stay on the side of understanding propaganda — not designing it. Once upon a time, my work intersected with messaging around emergency response that touched on what kinds of messages were most effective (in for example, getting people to evacuate) and more specifically what kinds of strategies they might use to counter misinformation (e.g. address it quickly with accurate information). And I have done some thinking about countering the anti-Vaccine conspiracy theories in the Covid context. I might be able to talk about some of that, but certainly don't want to take that lens into the “White Helmets” work, because it can undermine the work we're trying to do there.

Kate

On Jun 4, 2020, at 1:16 PM, Clint Watts - Miburo <clint@miburosolutions.com> wrote:

Kate

Thanks so much for doing such an excellent job today. They were calling for an encore. Just got off the phone.

Really appreciate you doing it.

I'll send another message about invoicing and payment etc.

But, would you be interested in doing another one?

If you remember back last year when I first called you about this, I wanted to do a couple sessions with you and utilize all your expertise.

And since you have leftover content, would you be will to do another session on July 2 from 1-3PM ET?
Same time frame.

I was thinking I'd give you a little more time to wrap up anything you didn't get to today, and any other case studies you'd like to try out.

And then in the second half of the session, I had these lesson objectives I wanted to hit this summer, and I know you used to do this in some of your research.

o's the messenger? Driving narratives in the physical and virtual world

- Compare and contrast organizational versus personal messaging techniques
- Evaluate the application of promotions and provocations in influence operations
- Interpret how messengers converge and diverge in virtual messaging versus
- Organize general principles of behavior for good messengers

Pay and prep process would be the same (and we won't have the Zoom problems next time!)

Thanks Kate

Clint

Clint Watts

President, Mibuuro Solutions

Author of *Messing With The Enemy: Surviving In A World Of Hackers, Terrorists, Russians and Fake News*
Conversations with a Terrorist, a TED Talk

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To: Clinton Watts[clintonwatts@icloud.com]; Clint Watts - Miburo[clint@miburosolutions.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 6/3/2020 5:37:00 PM
Subject: course notes and slides
Received: Wed 6/3/2020 5:37:04 PM
Miburo Notes - Starbird Course-ks.docx

Hi Clint,

I'm sending over the course notes. I'm thinking that I may spend more time on the first two cases and shorten/skip the Pandemic piece — because things have changed since last we spoke. I think the first two examples are way more important for what's happening on the streets all over the country right now.

The slides are uploaded (in Keynote) here:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1oI0H0M5fukJEJmkMmi58cpYzj6xo4tw_

And here's a PDF version:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1N8Ceh3bOY5OXZE7psGCG-Ur4prC9pcIH/view?usp=sharing>

I may need another email address from you to provide access. (I've added the ones above).

Also, is it okay for me to make small changes between now and tomorrow as I rehearse? Nothing massive, but it may mean a missing slide here and there — or some text moved around — for those who can't see the presentation. ?

Kate

Course Notes:

Date: 4 June 2020

Case Studies In Digital Influence Operations – State & Non-State Actors

Instructor: Dr. Kate Starbird, Professor of Strategic Studies at Johns Hopkins University

Lesson Objectives:

- Evaluate the techniques by which both foreign state operatives exploit social media to generate foreign policy outcomes
- Understand how non-state collectives form, coordinate, and collaborate to either push disinformation or counter disinformation
- Highlight how foreign disinformation campaigns target, cultivate, and exploit online communities of political activists.

(With this being a government audience, there is a lot of sensitivity around certain topics so we would need to avoid influence and targeting of Americans as much as possible, and election 2016 is well worn and sensitive for the crowd)

Notes:

Part I: Terms

Misinformation is information that is false, but not necessarily intentionally false.

Disinformation is information that is *intentionally* false or misleading for a specific objective — e.g. political, financial, ideological, reputational, etc.

Conspiracy Theories:

- support a corrupted way of thinking about the world
- foster distrust in government, media, science
- often seeded or amplified by disinformation campaigns
 - (but certainly not all created by foreign agents)
- often map to historical campaigns and meta-narratives (JFK assassination, U.S. using bioweapons against Africans and African Americans)

The purpose of disinformation is not necessarily to convince, but to confuse, to create muddled thinking across society (Pomerantsev & Weiss, 2014).

“Fake News”: Initially used to describe low-quality “click bait” and hyper-partisan media that did not follow journalistic standards, the term has become a political weapon that serves the aims of disinformation by undermining trust in information systems.

Disinformation is an attack on democratic institutions — it undermines our trust in democratic institutions (government, media, elections themselves), it disrupts our sense of a shared reality, and it pulls apart the common ground we need to stand upon to govern ourselves.

Part 2: Active Measures in the 21st Century: Infiltrating Online Political Activism

Online trolls from Russia's Internet Research agency impersonated U.S. citizens as part of a years-long "active measures" campaign (starting ~2011).

They tried several tactics, but their activities began to gain traction when they started enacting the personas of politically-active American citizens.

In particular, they targeted:

- **African Americans and #BlackLivesMatter activists**
- **White conservative Americans** — pro-gun, Christian, conservative

Their goals were both to **sow/amplify racial divisions AND to achieve specific political objectives**.

Accounts on both sides **derided the U.S. "mainstream" news media** and encouraged others to seek out alternative and hyper-partisan media.

Their white conservative accounts exhibited consistently pro-Trump sentiments.

Their African American accounts encouraged people not to vote for Hillary Clinton.

Russia's IRA trolls successfully infiltrated "both sides" of a politically divisive discourse in 2016.

Some of their accounts became "influencers" in both communities.

They (and others) are likely active right now — at a time when **Americans are particularly vulnerable**, again.

Part 3: The Campaign against the White Helmets: Demotivating Hearts and Disorienting Minds

The White Helmets (a humanitarian response organization in Syria) were the targets of a multi-year disinformation campaign that sought to undermine and scapegoat them in ways that advanced the political objectives of Syria and their Russian allies. This **campaign worked to confuse** western audiences **and demotivate** their (and consequently their country's) responses to war crimes by the Syrian and Russian governments against the Syrian people.

Disinformation campaigns cultivate online activism, shaping it towards their objectives.

It is not just "bots" and "trolls". These campaigns integrate into organic online activist communities and cultivate sincere online activists as unwitting agents.

These activists (including witting and unwitting agents) use social media platforms to organize, to spread their narratives, and to **cultivate influencers in media, politics, and entertainment**.

Government-controlled media from Russian are integrated into an "alternative media echo-system" that repeatedly echoes narratives that support their objectives. They **repeat and remix content** across multiple sites and different kinds of sites, to micro-target specific audiences.

Online disinformation is participatory. Disinformation campaigns take shape as collaborations between agents and online crowds.

Part 4: Domestic Information Operations in the Time of Covid-19 (Time permitting)

The Covid-19 pandemic has created conditions that are ripe for exploitation — including via online disinformation. During crisis events, **uncertainty and anxiety make us more vulnerable** to spreading mis- and disinformation.

Foreign states are actively spreading disinformation in this context.

Domestic actors are also using online disinformation campaigns to advance their agendas.

Disinformation moves quickly across communities and across platforms — e.g. from private anti-vaccine groups on Facebook through conspiracy theory communities on Reddit and out to the broader public through Facebook and Twitter.

Similar to foreign disinformation campaigns, domestic disinformation campaigns leverage online political communities and activist communities to spread their narratives.

Domestic operations are integrated into some of the same communities that foreign operations have targeted. In some cases, **foreign and domestic information operations are entangled.**

Instructor Bio:

Kate Starbird is an Associate Professor at the Department of Human Centered Design & Engineering (HCDE) at the University of Washington (UW). Starbird's research is situated within human-computer interaction and the emerging field of crisis informatics—the study of the how information-communication technologies are used during crisis events. Currently, her work focuses on the production and spread of online disinformation in the context of crisis and conflict. Starbird is a co-founder and executive council member of the UW Center for an Informed Public.

To: Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]
Cc: Lydia Lydia F CIV USARMY Snider[lydia.f.snider.civ@mail.mil]
From: Clinton Watts
Sent: Tue 6/2/2020 10:38:59 PM
Subject: Re: Test Zoom GOV link - Noon ET Thursday, 9 am PT
Received: Tue 6/2/2020 10:39:55 PM

Yes that's fine
And even later at say 6pm ET / 3pm PT is fine

Thanks for doing this.

On Jun 2, 2020, at 6:36 PM, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

Hi Clint,

Thanks for all of this! I'm still working on the slides and document — will have those to you by tomorrow 9am (Pacific). I hope that's enough time.

I'm all good for a test on Thursday morning at 9am Pacific as well.

Kate

On Jun 2, 2020, at 1:58 PM, Clinton Watts <clintonwatts@icloud.com> wrote:

Kate

Everyone is excited you are joining on Thursday.

Here's the invite for a quick Zoom test with the government system to make sure everything works right.

We'll also discuss moderating the Q&A with Lydia who has set all this up from the government side.

Speak soon,

Clint

Test Zoom GOV link

Scheduled: Jun 4, 2020 at 12:00 PM to 12:15 PM

Location: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1608880580>

Invitees: Lydia Lydia F CIV USARMY Snider, Kate Starbird, Clinton Watts

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: Jun 4, 2020 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Mr. White - Presenter Test

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1608880580>

Or iPhone one-tap :

US: +16692545252,,1608880580# or +16468287666,,1608880580#

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 669 254 5252 or +1 646 828 7666

Webinar ID: 160 888 0580

International numbers available: <https://www.zoomgov.com/u/abmchCJ3yX>

Or an H.323/SIP room system:

H.323:
161.199.138.10 (US West)
161.199.136.10 (US East)
52
61
100.140
Meeting ID: 160 888 0580
SIP: 1608880580@sip.zoomgov.com

<Test Zoom GOV link - Noon ET Thursday, 9 am PT.ics>

Clint Watts

Author of [Messing With The Enemy: Surviving in a Social Media World of Hackers, Terrorists, Russians and Fake News](#)

Distinguished Research Fellow, [Foreign Policy Research Institute](#)

Non-Resident Fellow, [Alliance For Securing Democracy](#), German Marshall Fund

[Conversations with a terrorist, a TED Talk](#)

To: Clinton Watts[clintonwatts@icloud.com]
Cc: Lydia Lydia F CIV USARMY Snider[lydia.f.snider.civ@mail.mil]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 6/2/2020 10:35:15 PM
Subject: Re: Test Zoom GOV link - Noon ET Thursday, 9 am PT
Received: Tue 6/2/2020 10:35:16 PM

Hi Clint,

Thanks for all of this! I'm still working on the slides and document — will have those to you by tomorrow 9am (Pacific). I hope that's enough time.

I'm all good for a test on Thursday morning at 9am Pacific as well.

Kate

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[Conversations with a terrorist](#), a TED Talk

To: Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]; Lydia Lydia F CIV USARMY Snider[lydia.f.snider.civ@mail.mil]
From: Clinton Watts
Sent: Tue 6/2/2020 8:58:44 PM
Subject: Test Zoom GOV link - Noon ET Thursday, 9 am PT
Received: Tue 6/2/2020 8:59:30 PM
[iCal-20200602-165536.ics](#)

Kate

Everyone is excited you are joining on Thursday.

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Clint

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Recurrence Rule

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<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1608880580>
20200604T120000

Time Transparency

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End Date/Time

20200604T121500

Attendee <mailto:clintonwatts@mac.com>

Role CHAIR

Attendee <mailto:kstarbi@uw.edu>

RSVP TRUE

Attendee <mailto:lydia.f.snider.civ@army.ic.gov>

RSVP TRUE

ORGANIZER (CN="Clinton Watts")

<mailto:clintonwatts@mac.com>

UID

450A813C-FDBA-4E03-A0A1-0491C6F98D0E

DTSTAMP

20200602T205531Z

Location

<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1608880580>

Description

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When: Jun 4, 2020 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Mr. White - Presenter Test

nPlease click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1608880580>

Or iPhone one-tap :

US: +16692545252,,1608880580# or +16468287666,,1608880580#

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Webinar ID: 160 888 0580

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Meeting ID: 160 888 0580

SIP: 1608880580@sip.zoomgov.com

Sequence Number

1

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Summary

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Start Date/Time

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ACTION

AUDIO

TRIGGER

PT0S

Attachment

Chord

X-WR-ALARMUID

7387023E-FD97-4EDE-A7AC-EBB439B9F5DE

To: Snider, Lydia F CIV USARMY ARCYBER (USA)[lydia.f.snider.civ@mail.mil]
Cc: Clinton Watts[clint@miburosolutions.com]; Clinton Watts[clintonwatts@icloud.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 6/4/2020 5:34:02 PM
Subject: Re: Panelist for Case Studies in Digital Influence Operations - State& Non-State Actors with Kate Starbird
Received: Thur 6/4/2020 5:34:06 PM

I can't hear anything...

On Jun 4, 2020, at 10:12 AM, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

I just went on this and didn't get an audio hookup... not sure what's going on there... will try again

On Jun 4, 2020, at 9:26 AM, Snider, Lydia F CIV USARMY ARCYBER (USA)
<lydia.f.snider.civ@mail.mil> wrote:

[Caution-https://mandrillapp.com/track/click/31090945/Caution-www.zoomgov.com?](https://mandrillapp.com/track/click/31090945/Caution-www.zoomgov.com?)

To: Snider, Lydia F CIV USARMY ARCYBER (USA)[lydia.f.snider.civ@mail.mil]
Cc: Clinton Watts[clint@miburosolutions.com]; Clinton Watts[clintonwatts@icloud.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 6/4/2020 5:12:00 PM
Subject: Re: Panelist for Case Studies in Digital Influence Operations - State& Non-State Actors with Kate Starbird
Received: Thur 6/4/2020 5:12:01 PM

I just went on this and didn't get an audio hookup... not sure what's going on there... will try again

On Jun 4, 2020, at 9:26 AM, Snider, Lydia F CIV USARMY ARCYBER (USA)
<lydia.f.snider.civ@mail.mil> wrote:

[Caution-https://mandrillapp.com/track/click/31090945/Caution-www.zoomgov.com?](https://mandrillapp.com/track/click/31090945/Caution-www.zoomgov.com?)

To: Sherrilyn Ifill[sifill@naacpldf.org]; Nate Persily[npersily@law.stanford.edu]; Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]; Feist, Sam[Sam.Feist@cnn.com]; kate.jacob@sos.wa.gov[kate.jacob@sos.wa.gov]; kylee.zabel@sos.wa.gov[kylee.zabel@sos.wa.gov]; mbm7@georgetown.edu[mbm7@georgetown.edu]
Cc: Prescott, Willa[Willa.Prescott@cnn.com]; aedelen@naacpldf.org[aedelen@naacpldf.org]; Garrett Graff[Garrett.Graff@aspeninstitute.org]; Beth Semel[Beth.Semel@aspeninstitute.org]; Claire Wardle[claire@firstdraftnews.com]
From: Vivian Schiller
Sent: Wed 9/9/2020 6:54:45 PM
Subject: Speaker Logistics – The Day After: Preparing for a Contested Election
Received: Wed 9/9/2020 6:55:22 PM

Dear Presenters,

We're so grateful that you're taking the time to present at our meeting tomorrow about the risks of a contested election. There will be representatives from almost 30 news organizations, plus Google, Twitter, Facebook, Wikipedia and Reddit in attendance. Below you can find a few notes on the logistics, the day-of contact information, and Zoom access link. Please let us know if you have any questions!

- Please keep your presentations to time, 7 minutes (well ok. 10 ABSOLUTELY max)
- In [this agenda](#) you will see the order in which we are planning to have you present. I will introduce each of you briefly before you speak.
- Reminder that the focus of this meeting is only what happens starting when the polls close. While there is certainly plenty to talk about as pertains to now-thru-election day, that is for a different meeting.
- If you have slides, we will assume you will handle your own "share screen" but please also them in advance to beth.semel@aspeninstitute.org just in case something goes wrong and you want us to show them (while you speak)
- We will do about 15 minutes of Q&A after the presentations with the full group. Really hoping you can stay for that, please let me know in advance if you cannot
- We are doing breakout groups there after (at around 1:30pm ET or slightly later). We would love for you to stay for those. Garrett Graff, Claire Wardle and I will be the breakout moderators.
- The meeting is OFF THE RECORD.

Day-of Contact

If you need anything before or during the meeting you can email [Beth Semel](mailto:Beth.Semel) (CCed here) or reach her by call or text at 607-731-9263.

Zoom Access Information

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 929 8008 7076

Passcode: 31

Dial by your location (only if video is not working)

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 929 8008 7076

Passcode 31

[Find your local number](#)

All best,

Vivian

--

Vivian Schiller

Executive Director, Aspen Digital
The Aspen Institute

+1-240-463-0496

@vivian



To: clint@miburosolutions.com[clint@miburosolutions.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 6/4/2020 8:17:28 PM
Subject: Sabbatical Re: AMAZING JOB
Received: Thur 6/4/2020 8:17:28 PM

Hello,

Thank you for your message. I am currently on sabbatical (for the 2019-2020 school year) and am now focused on conducting research on misinformation around COVID-19. I am receiving a significant number of inquiries and am unable to field all of them in a timely manner. I hope you understand.

Warm regards,
Kate

To: kstarbi@uw.edu[kstarbi@uw.edu]
Cc: Savilla Pitt[Savilla.Pitt@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Vivian Schiller
Sent: Thur 7/23/2020 8:56:46 PM
Subject: Invitation: Private Aspen Institute Roundtable on Coordinated Inauthentic Behavior
Received: Thur 7/23/2020 8:57:09 PM

Dear Kate,

As the election nears, Aspen Digital is pulling together a small, closed-door roundtable to think about what information threats we are seeing—or might see—from both foreign and domestic actors who organize coordinated attacks.

As you well know, the social media giants were caught flatfooted in 2016 by how their platforms were weaponized by Russia bots and trolls, and for democracy's sake we all have a vested interest in sharing lessons, insights, observations, and trends we're seeing in the information operations space today. That's particularly true because so much has changed in this space since the last presidential election—we've seen companies like Facebook and Twitter take aggressive action against so-called "coordinated inauthentic behavior" campaigns, as well as the rise of new platforms, like Snap and TikTok, and the particularly vexing new challenge of domestic actors employing the same tactics as the Kremlin did four years ago.

I want to invite you to join for a private roundtable discussion on Tuesday, August 11, from 1 to 3 p.m. ET; we'll have representatives from tech companies, researchers, academics, as well as some current and former government officials to all discuss this challenge and—we hope—help all of us be better prepared to react in these last 100 days before the election. Please do let us know if you plan to join us by Wednesday, July 29.

I hope you can join us!

Sincerely,

Vivian

--

Vivian Schiller

Executive Director, Aspen Digital

The Aspen Institute

+1-240-463-0496

@vivian

 **AD ASPEN DIGITAL**
THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

To: clintonwatts@icloud.com[clintonwatts@icloud.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 6/2/2020 2:37:49 PM
Subject: Sabbatical Re: Please DocuSign: Miburo Contractor Agreement - Researchers & instructors - 050320.docx
Received: Tue 6/2/2020 2:37:49 PM

Hello,

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Warm regards,
Kate

To: Clinton Watts[clintonwatts@icloud.com]
Cc: agshellenberger@miburosolutions.com[agshellenberger@miburosolutions.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 5/27/2020 8:51:39 PM
Subject: Re: Please DocuSign: Miburo Contractor Agreement - Researchers & Instructors - 050320.docx
Received: Wed 5/27/2020 8:51:40 PM

Got it. It will only be a small piece — the last section. And I'll keep it fairly high level ... about *how* those messages go viral and not really about the narrative itself (it's too convoluted to debunk in 75 minutes anyway).

On May 27, 2020, at 1:23 PM, Clinton Watts <clintonwatts@icloud.com> wrote:

kate

Just wanted resend as I was half awake this morning. Plandemic is a GO!

Feel free to use it.

On May 27, 2020, at 7:13 AM, Clinton Watts <clintonwatts@icloud.com> wrote:

Kate,

Plandemic case study is a go.

I checked with the moderator and she said to give it a whirl. You might just be a little cautious when your discussing it (as I'm sure you would) and not wade too much into all the true/false aspects of the video if you think that makes sense.

Looking forward to next week.

Clint

On May 26, 2020, at 10:10 PM, Clinton Watts <clintonwatts@icloud.com> wrote:

Let me ask the envoy Lydia

She may be ok with it

On May 26, 2020, at 7:56 PM, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

That's depressing. Plandemic is probably the least "controversial" of our examples. If we can't agree that that video is false conspiracy theory... yikes!

I can leave out Covid19 or just introduce it as an opportunity for the spread of disinformation (both foreign and domestic).

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Kate,
This is good.

The COVID 19 one is a good example and I've been

watching you on Twitter. But I do worry that it will provoke a reaction about the COVID plandemic stuff. We will surely have some that are believers and want to then debate it. The U.S. audience is a bit problematic. Are there any others recently that you could point to?

On May 26, 2020, at 2:03 PM, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

This is all super-helpful.
I'll use 3-4 sections, with 2-3 case studies.
Something like:

- Introduction with definition of terms: misinformation, disinformation, "fake news" [10 minutes + short discussion]
- 2016 election interference (IRA) stuff (disinformation agents as online "trolls", translating traditional methods to online spaces) [15 minutes + short discussion]
- Syria + White Helmets (disinformation integrating with online "activism", "echo-system" of disinformation, objective: demotivating Western response) [20 minutes + short discussion]
- possibly a Covid19 example (anti-vaccine communities mesh with far-right activists to spread false information about Covid19) [15 minutes + short discussion]

Does that sound reasonable?

What % of folks are going to disagree that my Covid-19 example (e.g. "Plandemic") is mis/disinformation?

I think the most powerful piece will probably be the White Helmets example...

Kate

On May 26, 2020, at 10:32 AM,
Clinton Watts
<clintonwatts@icloud.com>
wrote:

Kate,
Understand, I'll make some notes below

On May 26, 2020, at 1:02
PM, Kate Starbird
<kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

Hi Clint,
A couple of questions...
how interactive are the
presentations? I can't
imagine speaking to my
slides for 75 minutes
straight without some other
kind of feedback. I'd rather
do something like 15-20
minute sections with 5-10
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after. Would that be okay?

So the set up sucks, with Webex it is hard
to be interactive. we've averaged about
120-180 folks in each session.
But yes, we could do a case study and
then a discussion for each one. i will be
moderating along with Lydia Snider who
is the person that set up this program for
the

But I don't know how that
discussion might work.
Maybe some kind of
facilitated Q&A?

we can do that. Maybe if you could put
together 3 case studies you like, and then
we do Q & A after each and then some
take aways you'd like to emphasize.
Lydia and I can facilitate Q & A in
between.

How many folks attend?
How able are they to ask
questions (either via audio
or via textual chat)?

somewhere between 120-180 depending
on the day.

Can you remind me what
we're hoping to cover? Or
give a summary of
Thomas Rid's talk?
(Maybe let me see the
slides, if that's okay?)

the slides are a MASSIVE file. I can
attach his worksheet though which is
here.

He talked traditional active measures.
And showcased his book for the most
part.

In the template I attached for your
session, i was hoping for case studies
related to influence and from different
actor sets that are trying to do influence
on target populations.

These are the lesson objectives I initially
put together, but I'm flexible and can
adjust to what you think you can easily
teach.

- Evaluate the techniques by which Kremlin operatives exploit social media to generate foreign policy outcomes
- Compare and contrast extremist group

employment of social media to advance narratives, recruit members and conduct operations

- Understand how non-state collectives form, coordinate and collaborate to either push disinformation or counter disinformation
- **[Kate – 1 or 2 objectives that you think you'd like to discuss or emphasize]**

<Miburo Notes - Session 5 - Rid Course - 052120.pdf>

<Miburo Notes - Starbird Course - 060420.docx>

I know which examples I'll be focused on, but I'm trying to think about how to frame them in terms of the bigger take-aways. And I don't want to just repeat content they've already heard.

I'm really looking forward to it!

Kate

On May 25,
2020, at
12:25 PM,
Clinton
Watts
<clintonwatts@icloud.com> wrote:

Kate,

I'm thrilled to have you join us in a couple weeks.

Thomas Rid went last week and did a nice set up for you and was praising your work. The group is excited.

In preparation for the June 4 class, I wanted to check in with a timeline and some details.

June 3 -
could you
please
send me a
filled out
notes
worksheet
(template
attached)
with 1-2
pages of
takeaways
for your
course, and
a copy of
the slides
you would
like to use
during the
presentation. I'll send
these into
the
Government
folks so
they can
see them
inside any
government
buildings
while you
present.
Many are
audio only
and then
follow along
with your
slides as
you
present.

June 4 -
1200pm ET
(9am PT) -
We'll do a
quick 10
minute test
of the
Webex to
make sure
that you are
not having
any trouble
logging in.
We'll
answer any
questions
you have.

June 4 -
110 PM ET
(1010 am
PT) - we'll
log on and
the class
will begin to
assemble
on Webex.
- 120 pmET
(1020 Am
PT) we'll
give you
control of
the Webex

to share
your screen
and
content.
- 130pm ET
(1030am
PT) we'll
start the
session, I'll
do a quick
intro and
then turn it
over to you.
We usually
have
instructors
present for
about 70-75
minutes
and then
we do Q&A
until 3pm
ET
(1200pm
PT) and we
do a hard
stop

Here is the
download
link for
Webex in
case you
have not
already
been using
it. <https://www.webex.com/downloads.html>

I'm cc'ing
Graham
who
recently
joined my
team so he
can help
me stay on
track with
all the
classes as
we have a
few going
this month.

Really
excited to
have you
joining and
thanks for
doing this.

Please let
me know if
you have
any
questions
and hope
you are
having a
good
Memorial

day
weekend

Clint

<Miburo
Notes -
Starbird
Course -
060420.doc
x>

On May 12, 2020, at 10:59 AM, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

Here's a short bio. If you want a longer one, let me know!

Kate Starbird is an Associate Professor at the Department of Human Centered Design & Engineering (HCDE) at the University of Washington (UW). Starbird's research is situated within human-computer interaction and the emerging field of crisis informatics—the study of the how information-communication technologies are used during crisis events. Currently, her work focuses on the production and spread of online disinformation in the context of crisis and conflict. Starbird is a co-founder and executive council member of the UW Center for an Informed Public.

On May 12, 2020, at 3:46 AM, Clinton Watts <clintonwatts@icloud.com> wrote:

Kate,
One last thing, do you have a preferred bio that you would like to use? or that you can point me to that I can put in the course announcement?

Thanks

Clint

On May 11, 2020, at 3:23 PM, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

A shorter honoraria agreement sounds like the right way to go!

On May 11, 2020, at 4:07 AM, Clinton Watts <clintonwatts@icloud.com> wrote:

Kate
this is good to hear as I'm excited to have you.
And Sam Woolley and Thomas Rid are going in the weeks prior to you.

I would like you to take the honoraria if you would. All the other academics are, and I have the funding on this one, so can give it to you as an honoraria. I only think its fair based on the time you put in. I can do up a shorter honoraria agreement which is not a big deal and if its closer to what you normally do that works for me. Plus, there will be opportunities between now and October where you could do more at the same rate if you are interested. Not a big deal to me, but there is funding available and I would like you to have it.

Either way, thrilled you can join, and I will set up some quick calls to get you set up for the 4th.

Clint

On May 11, 2020, at 1:02 AM, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

Sorry for the slow response on this. I've been thinking... I'm happy to do the June 4 training, but I'd rather not receive any compensation. I think it's best for me to treat it as a similar kind of public appearance/talk that I typically give. Due to my compensation schedule (11 months of the year right now, and no free weeks until August), I can't really do additional contract work.

So, I'm happy to participate, but not interested in being tied to a contract.

Would that work? Or no?

On May 6, 2020, at 2:53 AM, Clinton Watts <clintonwatts@icloud.com> wrote:

Kate,
Sorry to be slow and or confuse.

This is a standard boilerplate contract I use for researchers, so some of the language might have come through as a little heavy. If there are portions that don't seem like they work, I can just remove them. I also left it in place in case there are projects you might want to work on at a later date as I'll have quite a few coming up through the summer.

As for slides, they are yours and I don't need any ownership over them and they are yours to use. The language is for content that I pay people to create - usually reports. I've had trouble in recent years with paying people to do projects or research reports, and then they go publicly publish them a month or two later on their blog or on social media so I've added that contract language.

In this case, the class and I only want to have Kate teach, as we know you've done great research. Please let me know how I can amend. And if you want to discuss on the phone please let me know. I'd like to have you do 2-3 remote sessions if you are game for it, with after case studies, one on public messaging as they really need help in USG on this.

Clint

On May 3, 2020, at 4:04 PM, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

Hi Clint,
I'm looking over this contract and I'm running up against some pretty substantial

issues which might be difficult to navigate. (This is my first time looking at a contract like this, so forgive me.)

Most of my presentations are built upon existing slide decks and previous research, much of it funded by grant awards. That content is in some cases owned by other publishers (through which we've published papers), though we have "fair use" of it. I can't grant ownership of the content to the company under these terms. I can grant the rights to a particular presentation of the content (my audio with those slides) but not to the slides themselves or the content they represent. And I can't build a wholly new and independent slide deck — because everything worth my saying is based on my lab's previous research.

It's also difficult for me to enter contracts like this, in general, due to the way academic work is structured. Typically, if I take any compensation, it comes through as an honorarium (for giving a presentation or writing a paper) and/or reimbursement for expenses. I'm not sure how to manage this, but I don't think I can sign a contract like that one.

Warm regards,
Kate

On May 3, 2020, at 9:50 AM, Clinton Watts via DocuSign <dse_NA3@docusign.net> wrote:



Clinton
docume



Clinton
[clinton](#)

Kate, Thrilled t
upcoming train
a standing con
which we can t
additional clas
projects/report
can negotiate a
interested. ND

Do Not Share Th

This email contai
DocuSign. Pleas
link, or access co

Alternate Signin

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Documents', and
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home, on-the-go
DocuSign provid
solution for Digita
Management™.

Questions abou

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questions about t
please reach out
them directly.

If you are having
document, pleas
[Signing](#) page on



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contact the sender wit

Clint Watts
Author of Messing With The Enemy: Surviving in a Social Media World of Hackers, Terrorists, Russians and Fake News
Distinguished Research Fellow, Foreign Policy Research Institute
Non-Resident Fellow, Alliance For Securing Democracy, German Marshall Fund
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Conversations with a terrorist, a TED Talk

To: Clinton Watts[clintonwatts@icloud.com]
Cc: agshellenberger@miburosolutions.com[agshellenberger@miburosolutions.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 5/26/2020 11:55:14 PM
Subject: Re: Please DocuSign: Miburo Contractor Agreement - Researchers & Instructors - 050320.docx
Received: Tue 5/26/2020 11:55:15 PM

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But yes, we could do a case study and then a discussion for each one. i will be moderating along with Lydia Snider who is the person that set up this program for the

But I don't know how that discussion might work. Maybe some kind of facilitated Q&A?

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- **[Kate – 1 or 2 objectives that you think you'd like to discuss or emphasize]**

<Miburo Notes - Session 5 - Rid Course - 052120.pdf>

<Miburo Notes - Starbird Course - 060420.docx>

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I'm really looking forward to it!

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Kate,

I'm thrilled to have you join us in a couple weeks. Thomas Rid went last week and did a nice set up for you and was praising your work. The group is excited.

In preparation for the June 4 class, I wanted to check in with a timeline and some details.

June 3 - could you please send me a filled out notes worksheet (template attached) with 1-2 pages of takeaways for your course, and a copy of the slides you would like to use during the presentation. I'll send these into the Government folks so they can see them inside any government buildings while you present. Many are audio only and then follow along with your slides as you present.

June 4 - 1200pm ET (9am PT) - We'll do a quick 10 minute test of the Webex to make sure that you are not having any trouble logging in. We'll answer any questions you have.

June 4 - 110 PM ET (1010 am PT) - we'll log on and the class will begin to assemble on Webex.
- 120 pmET (1020 Am PT) we'll give you control of the Webex to share your screen and content.
- 130pm ET (1030am PT) we'll start the session, I'll do a quick intro and then turn it over to you. We usually have instructors present for about 70-75 minutes and then we do Q&A until 3pm ET (1200pm PT) and we do a hard stop

Here is the download link for Webex in case you have not already been using it. <https://www.webex.com/downloads.html>

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<Miburo Notes - Starbird Course - 060420.docx>

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Clinton Watts sent you a document to review and sign.

REVIEW DOCUMENT



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Subject: Re: Please DocuSign: Miburo Contractor Agreement - Researchers & Instructors - 050320.docx
Received: Tue 5/26/2020 6:03:57 PM

This is all super-helpful.

I'll use 3-4 sections, with 2-3 case studies. Something like:

- Introduction with definition of terms: misinformation, disinformation, "fake news" [10 minutes + short discussion]
- 2016 election interference (IRA) stuff (disinformation agents as online "trolls", translating traditional methods to online spaces) [15 minutes + short discussion]
- Syria + White Helmets (disinformation integrating with online "activism", "echo-system" of disinformation, objective: demotivating Western response) [20 minutes + short discussion]
- possibly a Covid19 example (anti-vaccine communities mesh with far-right activists to spread false information about Covid19) [15 minutes + short discussion]

Does that sound reasonable?

What % of folks are going to disagree that my Covid-19 example (e.g. "Plandemic") is mis/disinformation?

I think the most powerful piece will probably be the White Helmets example...

Kate

On May 26, 2020, at 10:32 AM, Clinton Watts <clintonwatts@icloud.com> wrote:

Kate,
Understand, I'll make some notes below

On May 26, 2020, at 1:02 PM, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

Hi Clint,
A couple of questions... how interactive are the presentations? I can't imagine speaking to my slides for 75 minutes straight without some other kind of feedback. I'd rather do something like 15-20 minute sections with 5-10 minutes of discussion after. Would that be okay?

So the set up sucks, with Webex it is hard to be interactive. we've averaged about 120-180 folks in each session. But yes, we could do a case study and then a discussion for each one. I will be moderating along with Lydia Snider who is the person that set up this program for the

But I don't know how that discussion might work. Maybe some kind of facilitated Q&A?

we can do that. Maybe if you could put together 3 case studies you like, and then we do Q & A after each and then some take aways you'd like to emphasize. Lydia and I can facilitate Q & A in between.

How many folks attend? How able are they to ask questions (either via audio or via textual chat)?

somewhere between 120-180 depending on the day.

Can you remind me what we're hoping to cover? Or give a summary of Thomas Rid's talk? (Maybe let me see the slides, if that's okay?)

the slides are a MASSIVE file. I can attach his worksheet though which is here.

He talked traditional active measures. And showcased his book for the most part.

In the template I attached for your session, I was hoping for case studies related to influence and from different actor sets that are trying to do influence on target populations.

These are the lesson objectives I initially put together, but I'm flexible and can adjust to what you think you can easily teach.

- Evaluate the techniques by which Kremlin operatives exploit social media to generate foreign policy outcomes

- Compare and contrast extremist group employment of social media to advance narratives, recruit members and conduct operations
- Understand how non-state collectives form, coordinate and collaborate to either push disinformation or counter disinformation
- **[Kate – 1 or 2 objectives that you think you'd like to discuss or emphasize]**

<Miburo Notes - Session 5 - Rid Course - 052120.pdf>

<Miburo Notes - Starbird Course - 060420.docx>

I know which examples I'll be focused on, but I'm trying to think about how to frame them in terms of the bigger take-aways. And I don't want to just repeat content they've already heard.

I'm really looking forward to it!

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heavy.
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portions
that don't
seem like
they work, I
can just
remove
them. I
also left it in
place in
case there
are projects
you might
want to
work on at
a later date
as I'll have
quite a few
coming up
through the
summer.

As for
slides, they
are yours
and I don't
need any
ownership
over them
and they
are yours to
use. The
language is
for content
that I pay
people to
create -
usually
reports.
I've had
trouble in
recent
years with

paying
people to
do projects
or research
reports, and
then they
go publicly
publish
them a
month or
two later on
their blog or
on social
media so
I've added
that
contract
language.

In this case,
the class
and I only
want to
have Kate
teach, as
we know
you've
done great
research.
Please let
me know
how I can
amend.
And if you
want to
discuss on
the phone
please let
me know.
I'd like to
have you
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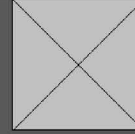
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Warm regards,
Kate

On May
3, 2020,
at 9:50
AM,
Clinton
Watts via
DocuSign
<[dsc_NA
3@docu
sign.net](mailto:dsc_NA3@docu
sign.net)>
wrote:





Clinton Watts sent you a document to review and sign.

REVIEW DOCUMENT



Clinton Watts

clintonwatts@icloud.com

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Clint Watts

Author of Messing With The Enemy: Surviving in a Social Media World of Hackers, Terrorists, Russians and Fake News

Distinguished Research

Fellow, Foreign Policy Research Institute

Non-Resident Fellow, Alliance For Securing Democracy, **German**

Marshall Fund

Conversations with a terrorist, a TED Talk

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Conversations with a terrorist, a TED Talk

To: Clinton Watts[clintonwatts@icloud.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 5/12/2020 2:59:53 PM
Subject: Re: Please DocuSign: Miburo Contractor Agreement - Researchers & Instructors - 050320.docx
Received: Tue 5/12/2020 2:59:55 PM

Here's a short bio. If you want a longer one, let me know!

Kate Starbird is an Associate Professor at the Department of Human Centered Design & Engineering (HCDE) at the University of Washington (UW). Starbird's research is situated within human-computer interaction and the emerging field of crisis informatics—the study of how information-communication technologies are used during crisis events. Currently, her work focuses on the production and spread of online disinformation in the context of crisis and conflict. Starbird is a co-founder and executive council member of the UW Center for an Informed Public.

On May 12, 2020, at 3:46 AM, Clinton Watts <clintonwatts@icloud.com> wrote:

Kate,

One last thing, do you have a preferred bio that you would like to use? or that you can point me to that I can put in the course announcement?

Thanks

Clint

On May 11, 2020, at 3:23 PM, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

A shorter honoraria agreement sounds like the right way to go!

On May 11, 2020, at 4:07 AM, Clinton Watts <clintonwatts@icloud.com> wrote:

Kate

this is good to hear as I'm excited to have you. And Sam Woolley and Thomas Rid are going in the weeks prior to you.

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Plus, there will be opportunities between now and October where you could do more at the same rate if you are interested. Not a big deal to me, but there is funding available and I would like you to have it.

Either way, thrilled you can join, and I will set up some quick calls to get you set up for the 4th.

Clint

On May 11, 2020, at 1:02 AM, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

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In this case, the class and I only want to have Kate teach, as we know you've done great research. Please let me know how I can amend. And if you want to discuss on the phone please let me know. I'd like to have you do 2-3 remote sessions if you are game for it, with after case studies, one on public messaging as they really need help in USG on this.

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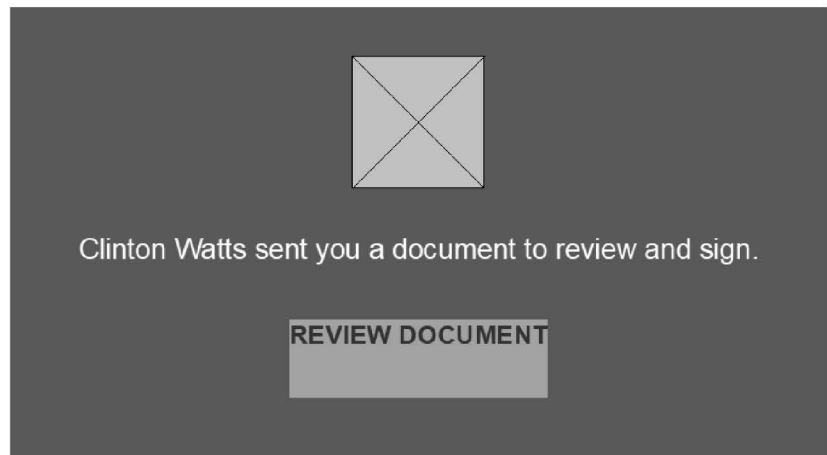
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Clinton Watts via DocuSign
<dse_NA3@docusign.net> wrote:



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To: Clinton Watts[clintonwatts@icloud.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 5/11/2020 7:23:13 PM
Subject: Re: Please DocuSign: Miburo Contractor Agreement - Researchers & Instructors - 050320.docx
Received: Mon 5/11/2020 7:23:15 PM

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Sent: Sun 5/3/2020 8:04:28 PM
Subject: Re: Please DocuSign: Miburo Contractor Agreement - Researchers & instructors - 050320.docx
Received: Sun 5/3/2020 8:04:31 PM

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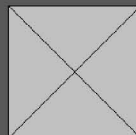
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To: Clinton Watts[clintonwatts@icloud.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 5/11/2020 5:02:11 AM
Subject: Re: Please DocuSign: Miburo Contractor Agreement - Researchers & Instructors - 050320.docx
Received: Mon 5/11/2020 5:02:13 AM

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To: Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 6/9/2021 5:32:15 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Public Inquiry into Jan 6th
Received: Wed 6/9/2021 5:32:15 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

If you are a student in my class, please disregard this message — I will get back to you shortly!

If this is a media request, please contact Michael Grass (megrass@uw.edu), the Communications Manager at the Center for an Informed Public, who may be able to coordinate a time for us to chat — or find another researcher at the Center who can speak with you.

Warm regards,
Kate

To: clintonwatts@icloud.com[clintonwatts@icloud.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 5/11/2020 11:08:01 AM
Subject: Sabbatical Re: Please DocuSign: Miburo Contractor Agreement - Researchers & instructors - 050320.docx
Received: Mon 5/11/2020 11:08:01 AM

Hello,

Thank you for your message. I am currently on sabbatical (for the 2019-2020 school year) and am now focused on conducting research on misinformation around COVID-19. I am receiving a significant number of inquiries and am unable to field all of them in a timely manner. I hope you understand.

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To: clintonwatts@icloud.com[clintonwatts@icloud.com]
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To: Renee DiResta [rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 5/7/2020 8:29:50 PM
Subject: Re: is this view helpful at all?
Received: Thur 5/7/2020 8:29:52 PM

Interesting. But why frame it around targeting Fauci? Just to get eyes on their theories?

On May 7, 2020, at 12:48 PM, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu> wrote:

Wakefield and some of the "vaccines cause autism" foundations have ties to Trump and the campaign; Wakefield was at the inauguration. A few of the donors with autistic children who see him as a hero, supported Trump. So there have been ties in those networks beyond just twitter hashtag promotion.

From: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2020 12:47 PM
To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Subject: Re: is this view helpful at all?

My hunch is 2 b/c RFK Jr. did a lot of the early touting of her and her book, and blurbed it, and has vocally supported her on the conference circuit for some time. But within perhaps a week, she'd tweeted about working with Vorhies, and he apparently launched her new Twitter feed.

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2020 12:28 PM
To: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: is this view helpful at all?

51 replied to me to say he would contact you directly.
What's interesting is that there are three potential objectives here:

- 1) Mikovitz: sell books, raise reputation
- 2) anti-vaxxers: leverage COVID 19 to spread their anti-vac nonsense
- 3) pro-Trumpers: use Mikovitz to bash Fauci (which seemed to be an initial driver, but has faded a bit from the narrative?)

Could be multiple folks with different motivations, but as an origin story, it would be strange to be both 2) and 3). One likely came before the other (in terms of this effort to left her), right? I'm curious to know which one.

On May 7, 2020, at 12:14 PM, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi! No, he hasn't yet. I actually know one of the other activists who he's in touch with - I think I mentioned this to you, she's a CFS community leader who started also getting bizarre followers, though I couldn't find any real strong link there at a glance.

Yes, NYT - who i'm working with since I've been looking at twitter trends w/Ben Decker a bit - is covering that dynamic. They've read that little summary file I added you to and have the Vorhies tweets. I can't quite tell if RFK Jr hired Vorhies or where the money flows are. That's one of the gaps...

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2020 11:52 AM
To: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: is this view helpful at all?

Hi Renee,
Did 51 follow up with you?

I am not currently commenting publicly on this (besides my cryptic Facebook post which got copied-pasted elsewhere). It's a minefield. But I do think there would be value in showing how this narrative was purposefully mobilized with help from political operatives. The problem is that those signals are relatively weak/diffuse.

The Vorhies connection is significant. And the massive following early on suggests some boosting. And her first tweets, which suggest a political motive behind the campaign (one that seems very indirectly related to her story and so clearly suggests an attempt to game COVID19 attention dynamics).

Kate

<Screen Shot 2020-05-07 at 10.02.12 AM.png>

On May 7, 2020, at 11:01 AM, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu> wrote:

Really interesting viz - thanks for sending it over! I've never used Bokeh.

What I'm trying to do for most of the inquiries today is point out moments where things hopped from one community to another; since sharing channels are pretty well established (and have been used for the #Reopen stuff), what I've been using to illustrate is the YouTube videos and what communities/content topics the creators fit into. And then there's the deliberate calls to coordinate by Vorhies, and the generic buckets of twitter followers and the communities they fall into. Shifts in hashtags over time could be interesting too.

Are you commenting publicly on this one?

We are somewhat wary of publishing a whole "Here's how this one individual person was turned into a figurehead/influencer" case study on an individual person...trying to stick to movement dynamics in comments, and then some of the Zach Vorhies stuff b/c it's so overtly out there.

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 9:27 PM
To: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Subject: is this view helpful at all?

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I can't publish this, but it's sometimes helpful to see who's tweeting when...

To: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 5/7/2020 7:28:12 PM
Subject: Re: is this view helpful at all?
Received: Thur 5/7/2020 7:28:16 PM

Ethan replied to me to say he would contact you directly.
What's interesting is that there are three potential objectives here:

- 1) Mikovitz: sell books, raise reputation
- 2) anti-vaxxers: leverage COVID19 to spread their anti-vac nonsense
- 3) pro-Trumpers: use Mikovitz to bash Fauci (which seemed to be an initial driver, but has faded a bit from the narrative?)

Could be multiple folks with different motivations, but as an origin story, it would be strange to be both 2) and 3). One likely came before the other (in terms of this effort to left her), right? I'm curious to know which one.

On May 7, 2020, at 12:14 PM, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu> wrote:

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From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>

Sent: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 9:27 PM

To: Renee DiResta <rdirresta@stanford.edu>

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To: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 5/7/2020 6:52:23 PM
Subject: Re: is this view helpful at all?
Received: Thur 5/7/2020 6:52:25 PM

Hi Renee,
Did Ethan follow up with you?

I am not currently commenting publicly on this (besides my cryptic Facebook post which got copied-pasted elsewhere). It's a minefield. But I do think there would be value in showing how this narrative was purposefully mobilized with help from political operatives. The problem is that those signals are relatively weak/diffuse.

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Kate



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To: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 5/7/2020 4:27:53 AM
Subject: is this view helpful at all?
Received: Thur 5/7/2020 4:27:56 AM
[Cumulative-DrPlandemic-Apr19-Apr21.html](#)

You can pan, zoom, and hover (to see info about the tweet). The library is wonky, so you have to pan to situate the tweet on the the far left or far right to read the tweets.

I can't publish this, but it's sometimes helpful to see who's tweeting when...

To: Clint Watts - Miburo[clint@miburolutions.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Sun 5/3/2020 4:31:51 PM
Subject: Re: Checking in reference online training, follow up to months back
Received: Sun 5/3/2020 4:31:54 PM

This email works.

On May 3, 2020, at 9:19 AM, Clint Watts - Miburo <clint@miburolutions.com> wrote:

Kate,
for the NDA and contract, do you want me to send to your UW email or elsewhere?

On Apr 30, 2020, at 11:03 AM, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

Sounds good!

On Apr 30, 2020, at 1:30 AM, Clint Watts - Miburo <clint@miburolutions.com> wrote:

It's a go Kate.
4 June, 130-300pm would be great.

I'll send paperwork and a calendar invite if that works for you.

Thanks for doing this.

Clint

On Apr 29, 2020, at 4:05 PM, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

June 4 would work. But I need to save the date ASAP before it fills.

On Apr 29, 2020, at 2:50 AM, Clint Watts - Miburo
<clint@miburolutions.com> wrote:

Ahh too bad.
I've got open slots on May 19 and May 21 from 1 - 230pm
if that works.

or I just requested some slots for early June

Would either June 2 or June 4 work?

On Apr 28, 2020, at 1:32 PM, Kate Starbird
<kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

Hi Clint,
I'm already booked May 14. Drat!

Could definitely look at something in June

though.

Kate

On Apr 28, 2020, at 4:25 AM,
Clinton Watts
<clintonwatts@icloud.com>
wrote:

Kate,
Hope you are well and

Several months back I wrote to you regarding a possible opportunity to do a training session with a government audience in the DC area. After several contracting delays, funding issues, etc., the contract for the training program came through. And then two weeks later COVID-19 shut everything down indefinitely. But I now have some good news.

The U.S.G. has been quite nimble on this and has now added the ability to revise this training method to include virtual sessions. Based on that, I am writing back to gauge your interest and availability in providing a 90 minute block of instruction related to your expertise.

Here's some additional details.

Length of Session: 90 Minutes

Platform: Webex

Attendees: Roughly 100

Topic:

Case Studies In Digital Influence Operations – State And Non-State Actors

- Evaluate the techniques by which Kremlin operatives exploit social media to generate foreign policy outcomes

- Compare and contrast extremist group employment of social media to advance narratives, recruit members and conduct operations

Understand how non-state collectives form, coordinate and collaborate to either push disinformation or counter disinformation

(With this being a government audience, there is a lot of sensitivity around certain topics so we would need to discuss)

For the class, we'd like:

- A copy of any PowerPoint that you would like to show delivered 48 hours in advance (Slides will also be shown in remote locations during your discussion)
- A 1-2 page note sheet – just high level takeaways and notes that you'd like the audience to remember.

For this course, I could offer a fee of \$1250.00 for the 90 minute session and the preparatory work. We'd also promote your work and publications with the audience.

The available time slots I have for the course are:

May 14, 130pm - 3pm

Would you be interested?

If you'd like to discuss, let me know and I can give you more details.

I also believe I have a second session we could do in June if you are interested in that one as well.

Stay Healthy

Clint

Clint Watts
Author of [Messing With The](#)

Enemy: Surviving in a Social Media World
of Hackers, Terrorists, Russians and
Fake News
Distinguished Research
Fellow, Foreign Policy Research Institute
Non-Resident Fellow, Alliance
For Securing Democracy, German
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Conversations with a terrorist, a TED Talk

Clint Watts
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Conversations with a Terrorist, a TED Talk

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Inc. that may be sensitive and confidential. This message is
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the intended recipient, then you received this message in
error and are requested to delete it (and all copies). You are
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To: Clint Watts - Miburo[clint@miburolutions.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 4/30/2020 3:03:44 PM
Subject: Re: Checking in reference online training, follow up to months back
Received: Thur 4/30/2020 3:03:45 PM

Sounds good!

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It's a go Kate.
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Could definitely look at something in June though.

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To: Clint Watts - Miburo[clint@miburolutions.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 4/29/2020 8:05:34 PM
Subject: Re: Checking in reference online training, follow up to months back
Received: Wed 4/29/2020 8:05:35 PM

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To: Clinton Watts[clintonwatts@icloud.com]
Cc: Clint Watts[clint@miburoolutions.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 4/28/2020 5:32:05 PM
Subject: Re: Checking in reference online training, follow up to months back
Received: Tue 4/28/2020 5:32:06 PM

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Distinguished Research Fellow, [Foreign Policy Research Institute](#)

Non-Resident Fellow, [Alliance For Securing Democracy](#), [German Marshall Fund](#)

[Conversations with a terrorist, a TED Talk](#)

To: rdirستا@stanford.edu[rdirستا@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 5/7/2020 6:04:07 PM
Subject: Sabbatical Re: is this view helpful at all?
Received: Thur 5/7/2020 6:04:07 PM

Hello,

Thank you for your message. I am currently on sabbatical (for the 2019-2020 school year) and am now focused on conducting research on misinformation around COVID-19. I am receiving a significant number of inquiries and am unable to field all of them in a timely manner. I hope you understand.

Warm regards,
Kate

To: clintonwatts@icloud.com[clintonwatts@icloud.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 5/6/2020 9:54:34 AM
Subject: Sabbatical Re: Please DocuSign: Miburo Contractor Agreement - Researchers & instructors - 050320.docx
Received: Wed 5/6/2020 9:54:34 AM

Hello,

Thank you for your message. I am currently on sabbatical (for the 2019-2020 school year) and am now focused on conducting research on misinformation around COVID-19. I am receiving a significant number of inquiries and am unable to field all of them in a timely manner. I hope you understand.

Warm regards,
Kate

To: rdirستا@stanford.edu[rdirستا@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 4/28/2020 8:17:48 PM
Subject: Sabbatical Re: CHT wanted an intro to you...
Received: Tue 4/28/2020 8:17:48 PM

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From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Sun 5/3/2020 4:20:06 PM
Subject: Sabbatical Re: Checking in reference online training, follow up to months back
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Warm regards,
Kate

To: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 4/30/2020 8:50:24 PM
Subject: Re: Dr Judy A Mikovits Tweeted: We introduced, unwittingly andunknowing...
Received: Thur 4/30/2020 8:50:25 PM

Our data is still be migrated to a new system... won't have access to fresh data until tomorrow. Hope to get some time to take a look at some of this over the weekend.

On Apr 30, 2020, at 9:58 AM, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu> wrote:

◆ I signed up for a CT alert for her name and I've been getting a who's who of grifters and conspiracy theorists popping up in my email every hour. That Truth About Vaccines docuseries, and also the Health Freedom whatever conference that just happened over the past 3 days, both rely on referral credits. They sell access to the videos, people donate \$60-200 to "support the movement" and maintain access. "Truth About Vaccines" is by the same people who did "Truth About Cancer", which has amassed over 1MM followers over the years. They recycle old interviews from the Vaxxed bus and the like, prob some rev-share there, and then record a couple new ones about Covid to make this timely. Probably not a bad business while people are trapped in their houses. The pages that share it never note that they get \$\$ from the referrals.

Besides those, it's been GatewayPundit/TruePundit and some of the larger MAGA/Q groups. Unsurprising. Those don't share the health stuff, they only care about the YouTube videos.

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From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2020 8:28 AM
To: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Subject: Fwd: Dr Judy A Mikovits Tweeted: We introduced, unwittingly and unknowing...

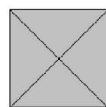
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Begin forwarded message:

From: Twitter <info@twitter.com>
Subject: Dr Judy A Mikovits Tweeted: We introduced, unwittingly and unknowing...
Date: April 29, 2020 at 7:01:06 PM PDT
To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>



Your Highlights



Dr Judy A Mikovits
@DrJudyAMikovits

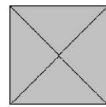
We introduced, unwittingly and unknowingly into the human population a

new family of retroviruses that has long been associated with cancers, Leukemia, Lymphoma...

@sayerjigmi joins me on the 9-part docu-series "The Truth of Vaccines".

Source: youtube.com/watch?v=1jV1u1...

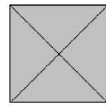
Watch 



Governor Jay Inslee 

@GovInslee

WATCH: Update on State Response to COVID-19 pscp.tv/w/cXicOjFtTUVQ...



Aaron Ginn

@aginnt

Whaaatttt????

“The World Health Organization lauded Sweden as a ‘model’ for battling the coronavirus as countries lift lockdowns.”

WHO lauds Sweden as a ‘model’ in coronavirus fight for resisting lockdown

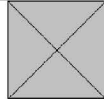
The World Health Organization lauded Sweden as a “model” for battling the coronavirus as coun... [more](#)

nypost.com



Steve Herman 

@WTVOA



A call for a national rent freeze
from @JoeBiden. twitter.com/JoeBiden/statu...



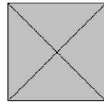
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13



7



Carl T. Bergstrom
@CT_Bergstrom

"Nurse wearing respirator mask...."

stgeorgeutah.com/news/archive/2...



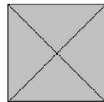
4



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18



Davey Alba
@daveyalba

oh man this rules.

congrats @cwarzel @KendallTTaggart@RosalindZAdams @jacknicas and everyone on the list! twitter.com/LivingstonAwar...



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2



15

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We sent this email to @kate30_dev. [Unsubscribe](#)

Twitter, Inc. 1355 Market Street, Suite 900 San Francisco, CA 94103

To: Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]
From: Renee DiResta
Sent: Thur 4/30/2020 4:58:06 PM
Subject: Re: Dr Judy A Mikovits Tweeted: We introduced, unwittingly andunknowing...
Received: Thur 4/30/2020 4:59:55 PM

◆ I signed up for a CT alert for her name and I've been getting a who's who of grifters and conspiracy theorists popping up in my email every hour. That Truth About Vaccines docuseries, and also the Health Freedom whatever conference that just happened over the past 3 days, both rely on referral credits. They sell access to the videos, people donate \$60-200 to "support the movement" and maintain access. "Truth About Vaccines" is by the same people who did "Truth About Cancer", which has amassed over 1MM followers over the years. They recycle old interviews from the Vaxxed bus and the like, prob some rev-share there, and then record a couple new ones about Covid to make this timely. Probably not a bad business while people are trapped in their houses. The pages that share it never note that they get \$\$ from the referrals.

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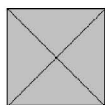
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Date: April 29, 2020 at 7:01:06 PM PDT
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Your Highlights



Dr Judy A Mikovits
@DrJudyAMikovits

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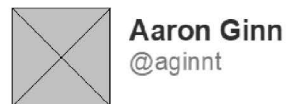
@sayerjgmi joins me on the 9-part docu-series "The Truth of Vaccines".

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Watch 



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Whaaatttt????

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WHO lauds Sweden as a ‘model’ in coronavirus fight for resisting lockdown

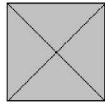
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nypost.com



A call for a national rent freeze from @JoeBiden. [twitter.com/JoeBiden/statu...](https://twitter.com/JoeBiden/status...)





Carl T. Bergstrom 
@CT_Bergstrom

"Nurse wearing respirator mask....."

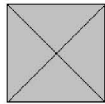
stgeorgeutah.com/news/archive/2...




 4

 1

 18



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 5

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 15

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We sent this email to @kate30_dev. [Unsubscribe](#)

Twitter, Inc. 1355 Market Street, Suite 900 San Francisco, CA 94103

To: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 4/30/2020 3:28:58 PM
Subject: Fwd: Dr Judy A Mikovits Tweeted: We introduced, unwittingly andunknowing...
Received: Thur 4/30/2020 3:29:00 PM

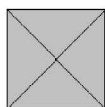
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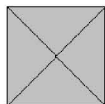
Watch



100

2K

2.8K



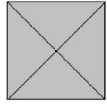
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410

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Aaron Ginn

@aginnt

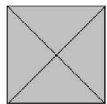
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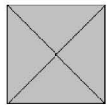
nypost.com



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@W7VOA

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@CT_Bergstrom

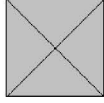
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We sent this email to [@kate30_dev](#). [Unsubscribe](#)

Twitter, Inc. 1355 Market Street, Suite 900 San Francisco, CA 94103

To: clintonwatts@icloud.com[clintonwatts@icloud.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 4/14/2020 4:21:27 PM
Subject: Sabbatical Re: Seeking Talented Cyber & Social Media Analysts
Received: Tue 4/14/2020 4:21:27 PM

Hello,

Thank you for your message. I am currently on sabbatical (for the 2019-2020 school year) and am now focused on conducting research on misinformation around COVID-19. I am receiving a significant number of inquiries and am unable to field all of them in a timely manner. I hope you understand.

Warm regards,
Kate

To: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 4/29/2020 8:13:02 PM
Subject: Re: CHT wanted an intro to you...
Received: Wed 4/29/2020 8:13:03 PM

Perfect. And that all makes sense. I've met him before and was impressed with his presentation (at a conference)... but he does seem to authentically care and want to help.
Thanks!

On Apr 28, 2020, at 3:26 PM, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu> wrote:

I remember that! Feels like ages ago even though it was just last summer. That was not great. 💎 I've known Tristan for a few years, we met in early 2017 when he read some random article I'd done about bots. He was actually the one who introduced me to Mark Warner way back in the day. I think he and his team do genuinely want to do good. As I'm sure you've noticed, SV does not generally do a great job interfacing with academia. The parallel processes and totally separate bodies of work are a source of recurring frustration for me.

I'll connect you via email.

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 3:19 PM
To: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: CHT wanted an intro to you...

Sure.
They take a lot of heat in my circles for re-discovering what researchers have already done (or proposing new fields that already exist), but it looks like this is an attempt to address that criticism. I'd be happy to chat with them.

Kate

On Apr 28, 2020, at 1:17 PM, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu> wrote:

Center for Humane Tech pinged me looking to connect with you. Let me know if it's ok to intro. As I understand it, they're looking to do some calls with academic experts to discuss some policy interventions they've been looking to propose.

[Miranda Meyerson](#), partnerships manager at the [Center for Humane Technology](#).

More on CHT: Launched by former Google design ethicist Tristan Harris and deeply concerned former tech insiders, Center for Humane Technology (CHT) is an independent nonprofit organization based in San Francisco whose mission is to realign technology with the needs of humanity. CHT envisions a world where technology supports our shared well-being, sense-making, democracy, and the ability to tackle complex global challenges. CHT's ultimate aim is to drive a comprehensive shift in product development, business models, policies, and governance structures toward Humane Technology by changing the way technologists think about their work and how they build products.

--
Miranda Meyerson
Strategic Partnerships Manager
Center for Humane Technology

humanetech.com
cell: 510.684.8290

To: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 4/28/2020 10:19:36 PM
Subject: Re: CHT wanted an intro to you...
Received: Tue 4/28/2020 10:19:37 PM

Sure.

They take a lot of heat in my circles for re-discovering what researchers have already done (or proposing new fields that already exist), but it looks like this is an attempt to address that criticism. I'd be happy to chat with them.

Kate

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Miranda Meyerson
Strategic Partnerships Manager
Center for Humane Technology
humanetech.com
cell: 510.684.8290

To: Celia Clark[celia.clark@stanford.edu]
Cc: Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]; Megan Joan Palmer[mjpalmer@stanford.edu]; Alam, Eram[ealam@fas.harvard.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 4/2/2020 9:20:12 PM
Subject: Re: HAI Event on COVID-19 - Session II
Received: Thur 4/2/2020 9:20:13 PM

Hi Celia,

Thanks again for inviting me. It was a wonderful event and I learned so much from the other speakers.

I don't have slides, but my presentation was largely based on this article:

<https://onezero.medium.com/reflecting-on-the-covid-19-infodemic-as-a-crisis-informatics-researcher-ce0656fa4d0a>

Kate

On Apr 2, 2020, at 1:42 PM, Celia Clark <celia.clark@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi Everyone –

Thank you again for participating in yesterday's HAI event. It was a big success and we have received a ton of positive feedback. HAI would like to post your presentation slides on the event website. I will not do this without your permission, so please let me know if you agree to us posting your slides. Also, if you would like to send me an updated slide deck for the website please do. We are in the process of editing the recordings and will post session and individual videos on the website soon.

Thank you so much again and I hope you have a wonderful afternoon.

Best,
Celia

Celia Clark
Events Manager
Institute for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence (HAI)
Stanford University
Office: 650-725-4537
Cell: 415-416-8869
<https://hai.stanford.edu/>

-----Original Appointment-----

From: Celia Clark
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 4:02 PM
To: Celia Clark; Renee DiResta; mjpalmer@stanford.edu; kstarbi@uw.edu; Alam, Eram
Subject: HAI Event on COVID-19 - Session II
When: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 10:25 AM-12:00 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).
Where: Zoom

Hi Everyone –

Below is all the information for your session on Wednesday. Please join the Zoom 15mins before the session starts. You are in session two, therefore, please login at **10:25am PDT**. The session starts at 10:40am. Your moderator is Rob Reich, he will introduce each speaker between talks. After you are introduced, you can then share your slides and begin your presentation. You are allotted 7mins for your talk. I will make an announcement when there is only one-minute remaining. If you go over time, we will turn off your video and continue with the next talk. At the end of the session, there will be a moderated Q&A for 30mins. Please share your face on screen during this time. At the end of your session, the host will end the Zoom. We hope that you will then go to the HAI website and continue watching the event.

IMPORTANT: Please do not share your Zoom link with anyone! This isn't a webinar. The audience will not be on Zoom. Please have individuals watch the event on the HAI website at <https://hai.stanford.edu/events/covid-19-and-ai-virtual-conference/livestream>

Zoom Information

Zoom Link: <https://stanford.zoom.us/j/896472408>

Event Agenda: <https://hai.stanford.edu/events/covid-19-and-ai-virtual-conference/agenda> (In order by speaker order)

Emergency Phone Number: 650-723-5797 (Only use this number if your Zoom stops working – Call the number and we will connect you to the live event.)

Event Manger Phone Number: 415-416-8869 (Please call or text me if you are having difficulties or have questions.)

How to look and sound great when presenting over Zoom

Before you can use Zoom, you must install the Zoom software for your device and log in for the first time from your Mac, PC, mobile, or tablet device. Note that there were security updates to Zoom in 2019, so please make sure you are using the latest release.

Visit the Zoom test meeting at <https://zoom.us/test> to make sure your setup is working. Use a computer, not a phone, iPad or tablet. Close out of everything else on your computer and all browser tabs.

Use an Ethernet cable connection if possible. Ask other household members to refrain from streaming video during your presentation.

Use wired earbuds (with a built-in mic) or the microphone built into your computer. Headphones are ok but tend to look awkward. With wireless earbuds or headphones, Bluetooth may have latency and batteries may run down.

During the session, mute your microphone when you are not speaking (click on the microphone icon on the bottom left corner of the Zoom interface). Be sure to UNMUTE when you speak. The event manager will also help with the process.

Find a quiet room free from distractions. Avoid having dark voids behind you like hallways etc.

Have your source of light in front of you, not behind. Face a window if possible and wear a contrasting color that separates you from the wall behind you.

Set your camera so your face is in the upper half of the screen. You may need to set your device on a stack of books or box. Don't simply tilt your laptop screen up. Look into your camera as you speak.

When in Zoom, go to the Video button in the lower left and select "Video Settings." Check the box for "Touch up my appearance."

Sit up straight, relax and project the same energy you would if speaking to a crowd.

Thank you so much and please do not hesitate to call, text, or email me!

Best,
Celia

Celia Clark
Events Manager
Institute for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence (HAI)
Stanford University

Office: 650-725-4537
Cell: 415-416-8869
<https://hai.stanford.edu/>

To: clint@miburosolutions.com[clint@miburosolutions.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 4/29/2020 9:50:49 AM
Subject: Sabbatical Re: Checking in reference online training, follow up to months back
Received: Wed 4/29/2020 9:50:49 AM

Hello,

Thank you for your message. I am currently on sabbatical (for the 2019-2020 school year) and am now focused on conducting research on misinformation around COVID-19. I am receiving a significant number of inquiries and am unable to field all of them in a timely manner. I hope you understand.

Warm regards,
Kate

To: clintonwatts@icloud.com[clintonwatts@icloud.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 4/28/2020 11:26:10 AM
Subject: Sabbatical Re: Checking in reference online training, follow up to months back
Received: Tue 4/28/2020 11:26:10 AM

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Warm regards,
Kate

To: Yaron Weitzman[yaron.weitzman627@gmail.com]
Cc: Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 8/10/2020 6:43:46 PM
Subject: Re: Interview for article about the rise of disinformation in the NBA
Received: Mon 8/10/2020 6:43:53 PM

Hi Yaron,

I don't have a ton of availability this week, but could do today 2:45-3:30 (Pacific). Would that work?

Kate

On Aug 10, 2020, at 11:41 AM, Yaron Weitzman <yaron.weitzman627@gmail.com> wrote:

Thanks, Renee! And hi, Kate... You around to chat at some point this week?

On Mon, Aug 10, 2020, 2:11 PM Renee DiResta <rdirresta@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi Yaron,

Looping in Prof Kate Starbird here, she has very relevant expertise. :) Looking forward to reading the article!

Best,
Renee

From: Yaron Weitzman <yaron.weitzman627@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 9, 2020 10:45 AM
To: Renee DiResta <rdirresta@stanford.edu>
Subject: Interview for article about the rise of disinformation in the NBA

Renee,

My name is Yaron Weitzman—I'm a reporter for the sports website Bleacher Report. I'm reaching out because I'm working on a story on the rise of disinformation/belief in conspiracy theories among NBA players—why it's happening, why it's dangerous—and came across your work in some older articles.

Seems like you're the one of the people I should definitely be speaking to. Would you be open to doing an interview?

Thanks! And please feel free to let me know if you have any questions,

Yaron

--

Yaron Weitzman

NBA Writer, Bleacher Report

Author, *Tanking to the Top: The Philadelphia 76ers and the Most Audacious Process in the History of Professional Sports*

914-426-0975

To: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 8/10/2020 1:52:11 AM
Subject: Re: Interview for article about the rise of disinformation in the NBA
Received: Mon 8/10/2020 1:52:19 AM

Sure. I imagine they'll enjoy the connection. Plus, I've been using the Shaq/flat earth example for a few years now.

On Aug 9, 2020, at 2:23 PM, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu> wrote:

Interested in this?  I'd love to hear your take. If he hasn't reached out already I'll connect.

From: Yaron Weitzman <yaron.weitzman627@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 9, 2020 10:45 AM
To: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Subject: Interview for article about the rise of disinformation in the NBA

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914-426-0975

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Sent: Mon 12/2/2019 6:28:09 PM
Subject: Sabbatical RE: Syria collaboration?
Received: Mon 12/2/2019 6:28:09 PM

Hello,

Thank you for your message. I am currently on sabbatical (for the 2019-2020 school year). During this time, I may be slow to respond to email — or at least that's a goal of mine as I try to recharge my batteries and relearn how to focus on a few core projects.

Thank you for understanding,
Kate

To: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
Cc: Shelby Grossman[shelbygrossman@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 12/2/2019 10:28:02 PM
Subject: Re: Syria collaboration?
Received: Mon 12/2/2019 10:28:17 PM

That works for me.

On Dec 2, 2019, at 2:10 PM, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu> wrote:

1:30pm Fri?

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 2:05 PM
To: Shelby Grossman <shelbygrossman@stanford.edu>
Cc: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: Syria collaboration?

I'm booked until 11:30 on Thursday morning. And then flexible until 3pm. I have plenty of flexibility on Friday as well.

On Dec 2, 2019, at 2:02 PM, Shelby Grossman <shelbygrossman@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi Kate,

Sorry for the hassle, but Renée and I both realized we have a call at 2pm on Thursday. Are you free Thursday between 930 and 1140?

Shelby

From: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Date: Monday, December 2, 2019 at 11:42 AM
To: Shelby Grossman <shelbygrossman@stanford.edu>, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Subject: RE: Syria collaboration?

Works for me!

From: Shelby Grossman <shelbygrossman@stanford.edu>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 10:50 AM
To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: Syria collaboration?

Could I propose 2?

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Date: Monday, December 2, 2019 at 10:48 AM
To: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Cc: Shelby Grossman <shelbygrossman@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: Syria collaboration?

I'm free 1-3pm.

On Dec 2, 2019, at 10:27 AM, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu> wrote:

What's a good time for you on Thursday, Kate? Looking forward to hearing your thoughts!

I have an 8am, a noon, and a 4pm mtg but otherwise clear.

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Friday, November 29, 2019 2:05 PM
To: Shelby Grossman <shelbygrossman@stanford.edu>
Cc: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: Syria collaboration?

Hi Shelby,

I'm in Seattle on Mon/Tues and half of Wed. But I'm happy to meet later in the week and chat about your research. Looking over the slides, it seems you're facing the challenge of how to turn these analyses into a coherent story and then fit those into a research paper of limited page length/words that makes a specific contribution. The data seem entirely unwieldy (and a bit of apples v oranges). I'd be happy to brainstorm ideas and share any context or methods/tools that we have that might be helpful.

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On Nov 27, 2019, at 1:35 PM, Shelby Grossman
<shelbygrossman@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi Kate,

I'm writing to see if you had thoughts on a box I'm developing to distinguish between true and false narratives.

Just kidding.

Renée and I would love to collaborate with you on our Syria paper, if you're interested. Below is the latest draft of the abstract, and attached are slides we have been working on for a presentation at CDDRL next week. This is all really rough, and we are totally open to changing anything, including the framing. Renée is on campus Monday, Thursday, and Friday of next week (as am I). Any chance you are free to meet Monday between 9 and 11:30?

Best,
Shelby

Abstract

How have Russian information operations changed since the Cold War? Some observers suggest that these efforts are generally unchanged, simply adapting tactics to the digital age. Others believe Russian activities around the U.S. 2016 elections reflect a new era of Russian disinformation. Using the universe of Facebook posts about Syria attributed to either the GRU (N=2,000) or IRA (N=1,000) from 2015 to 2018, we assess the extent to which narratives, tactics, and reach are new. We find that the substance of narratives is generally unchanged; posts aim to polarize sentiment around already charged issues and undermine support for American activities abroad. Tactically, we observe new and old strategies. Narrative laundering efforts operate more quickly in the digital age, with stories reaching hundreds of thousands of social media users within three days of appearing on a GRU

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Shelby Grossman

Research Scholar

Stanford Internet Observatory

io.stanford.edu

<20191113 CDDRL_compress.pdf>

To: Shelby Grossman[shelbygrossman@stanford.edu]
Cc: Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 12/2/2019 10:05:01 PM
Subject: Re: Syria collaboration?
Received: Mon 12/2/2019 10:05:16 PM

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Cc: Shelby Grossman[shelbygrossman@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 12/2/2019 6:47:47 PM
Subject: Re: Syria collaboration?
Received: Mon 12/2/2019 6:48:02 PM

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To: Shelby Grossman[shelbygrossman@stanford.edu]
Cc: Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 11/29/2019 10:05:10 PM
Subject: Re: Syria collaboration?
Received: Fri 11/29/2019 10:05:23 PM

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<20191113 CDDRL_compress.pdf>

To: Clinton Watts[clintonwatts@icloud.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 1/28/2020 4:23:27 PM
Subject: Re: recommendation through my network
Received: Tue 1/28/2020 4:23:28 PM

H Clint,

I just realized that I can't do April 22 after all. I need to be back in Seattle for a major event with my department. Sorry!

Kate

On Jan 24, 2020, at 5:07 AM, Clinton Watts <clintonwatts@icloud.com> wrote:

ok, I'll send them a push for Apr 22 right now.

Clint Watts

Author of *Messing With The Enemy: Surviving in a Social Media World of Hackers, Terrorists, Russians and Fake News*
Distinguished Research Fellow, [Foreign Policy Research Institute](#)
Non-Resident Fellow, [Alliance For Securing Democracy](#), German Marshall Fund
[Conversations with a terrorist, a TED Talk](#)

On Jan 23, 2020, at 4:09 PM, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

No worries. I could do April 22. But not the later dates.

On Jan 23, 2020, at 1:03 PM, Clinton Watts <clintonwatts@icloud.com> wrote:

Kate,

I was about to send you a message yesterday about the ticket and take a risk and I got a call from the contracting office today that they are hung up and need to delay the March session to April.

Very sorry for all this back and forth, I've been calling all day to try and determine what day they would shift the session to. Do you have any availability, alternatively, during either April 21-23 or April 28-30?
I'm trying to shove them to commit to dates but I can't get them to push the contract through - this the 6th month now of waiting for the contract.
VERY SORRY and hope you can still possibly do April.

Clint

Sent from iCloud

On January 19, 2020 at 11:54 AM, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

I'm leaving for a month-long, off-the-grid trip on Jan 31 (will be gone until Feb 28). If we can confirm the dates/times so I can buy a ticket before I go, that would be ideal!

On Jan 18, 2020, at 1:54 PM, Clinton Watts
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Yes that should work no problem.

I'm supposed to get final confirmation in the next 10 days so will follow up with paperwork and then we can discuss details on the session.

Really excited to have you out and know you'll be great for this audience

On Jan 16, 2020, at 11:12 PM, Kate Starbird
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March 10 works. I'll be on the west coast, so will need to fly over. Can fly in the day before and leave the evening of...

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Clinton Watts
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wrote:
Kate,
Happy new year and hope you are well.

Checking back in on the training session we discussed. I am still awaiting final confirmation but starting some planning.

Does 10 March still work for you? If so, (Hope so) I would be looking for 3 hours, two - 90 minute sessions as I mentioned. Your comparative case studies, etc.

And will you be on the West coast or east coast during that time?

Clint

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On Dec 20, 2019, at 11:22 AM, Clinton

Watts
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that's perfect.
Just sent you an invite
and I'll be on cell. Or
if you want me to call
you just let me know
where.

Talk soon and have a
good weekend

Clint

**Call with Kate
Starbird**

Scheduled: Dec 24,
2019 at 12:00 PM to
12:30 PM

Location: Call Clint
Watts at 845-863-
7923

Invitees: Clinton
Watts, Kate Starbird
<[iCal-20191220-
112147.ics](mailto:iCal-20191220-112147.ics)>

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I am worried I'll be stuck on a plane Monday if I get delayed.

Tuesday is wide open so let's go for that and pick the best time for you.

On Dec 19, 2019, at 12:08 PM, Kate Starbird

<kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

I could do Monday 10:45am (Pacific) | 1:45pm (Eastern). Would that work?
Or a Tuesday >= noon your time.

On Dec 18, 2019, at 7:03 AM, Clinton Watts

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Kate

Good to hear and hope you are getting a break.

That window in March can work.

I'm flying to MI next Monday afternoon east coast time or could do Tuesday morning East coast time

Would either of this work?

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1- congratulations on your new initiative and I'd like to hear more about it.

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Do you have any time to talk this week?

And if you are still in the Bay Area, I'm on a plane to SFO now and we could even do it in person possibly

Hope you are well

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On Oct 9, 2019, at 5:12 PM,
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Hi Clint,
It was great chatting with you yesterday.

I sent out a couple of feelers through my network for folks who might be good to work with.

One recommendation is Brannan Brouse, BYBrouse@protonmail.com, (440) 396 2598. He is already active in the space. He worked Military Intelligence for Special Operations Command in a past life but is now very much a civilian working to counter interference in 2020 election. I don't know Brannon directly, but

a collaborator of mine (Jen Ziemke) highly recommends him.

I'll let you know if I come up with other recommendations.

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Location: Call Clint Watts at 845-863-7923

Invitees: Clinton Watts, Kate Starbird

<iCal-20191220-112147.ics>

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Sent: Sun 1/19/2020 4:52:52 PM
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Received: Sun 1/19/2020 4:53:29 PM

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On Jan 18, 2020, at 1:54 PM, Clinton Watts <clintonwatts@icloud.com> wrote:

Yes that should work no problem.

I'm supposed to get final confirmation in the next 10 days so will follow up with paperwork and then we can discuss details on the session.

Really excited to have you out and know you'll be great for this audience

On Jan 16, 2020, at 11:12 PM, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

March 10 works. I'll be on the west coast, so will need to fly over. Can fly in the day before and leave the evening of...

On Jan 14, 2020, at 8:10 AM, Clinton Watts <clintonwatts@icloud.com> wrote:

Kate,
Happy new year and hope you are well.

Checking back in on the training session we discussed.
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Does 10 March still work for you? If so, (Hope so) I would be looking for 3 hours, two - 90 minute sessions as I mentioned. Your comparative case studies, etc.

And will you be on the West coast or east coast during that time?

Clint

Clint Watts
Author of [Messing With The Enemy: Surviving in a Social Media World of Hackers, Terrorists, Russians and Fake News](#)
Distinguished Research Fellow, [Foreign Policy Research Institute](#)
Non-Resident Fellow, [Alliance For Securing Democracy](#), German Marshall Fund
[Conversations with a terrorist, a TED Talk](#)

On Dec 20, 2019, at 11:22 AM, Clinton Watts
<clintonwatts@icloud.com> wrote:

that's perfect.
Just sent you an invite and I'll be on cell. Or if you want me to call you just let me know where.

Talk soon and have a good weekend

Clint

Call with Kate Starbird

Scheduled: Dec 24, 2019 at 12:00 PM to 12:30 PM

Location: Call Clint Watts at 845-863-7923

Invitees: Clinton Watts, Kate Starbird

<iCal-20191220-112147.ics>

Clint Watts

Author of Messing With The Enemy: Surviving in a Social Media World of Hackers, Terrorists, Russians and Fake News

Distinguished Research Fellow, Foreign Policy Research Institute

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Conversations with a terrorist, a TED Talk

On Dec 19, 2019, at 4:59 PM, Kate Starbird

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I can do Tuesday at 9am (or later) — Pacific time.

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I am worried I'll be stuck on a plane Monday if I get delayed.

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On Dec 19, 2019, at 12:08 PM,

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wrote:

I could do Monday 10:45am

(Pacific) | 1:45pm (Eastern).

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Or a Tuesday >= noon your time.

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7:03 AM, Clinton

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Good to hear and hope you are getting a break.

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To: Clinton Watts[clintonwatts@icloud.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 1/17/2020 4:10:24 AM
Subject: Re: recommendation through my network
Received: Fri 1/17/2020 4:11:01 AM

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One
recommen-
dation is
Brannan
Brouse, B
YBrouse
@proton
mail.com,
(440) 396
2598. He
is already
active in
the space.
He
worked
Military
Intelligen-
ce for
Special
Operatio-
ns
Comman-
d in a
past life
but is
now very
much a
civilian
working
to
counter
interferen-
ce in
2020
election.
I don't
know
Brannon
directly,
but
a collabor-
ator of

mine
(Jen
Ziemke)
highly
recommen
ds him.

I'll let
you know
if I come
up with
other
recommen
dations.

I also
figured
out how
to do
consultin
g work as
a universi
ty
professor.
(Another
project
offer
came
through
and I
realized it
was time
to figure
this out.)
I'm not
as
constrain
ed as I
thought. I
probably
would
ask
for about
twice
what I
quoted to
you, if
that's
okay.
Happy to
chat
further.

Kate

To: Clinton Watts[clintonwatts@icloud.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 12/19/2019 9:59:36 PM
Subject: Re: recommendation through my network
Received: Thur 12/19/2019 9:59:58 PM

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To: Clinton Watts[clintonwatts@icloud.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 12/19/2019 5:06:29 PM
Subject: Re: recommendation through my network
Received: Thur 12/19/2019 5:06:51 PM

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To: Clinton Watts[clintonwatts@icloud.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 12/17/2019 9:04:14 PM
Subject: Re: recommendation through my network
Received: Tue 12/17/2019 9:04:36 PM

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To: Clinton Watts[clintonwatts@icloud.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Sat 10/12/2019 3:51:02 AM
Subject: Re: recommendation through my network
Received: Sat 10/12/2019 3:51:08 AM

Apparently, that email is missing a . Here's the correct one:
BY.Brouse@protonmail.com.

On Oct 9, 2019, at 2:09 PM, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

Hi Clint,
It was great chatting with you yesterday.

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To: Clinton Watts[clintonwatts@icloud.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 10/9/2019 9:09:57 PM
Subject: recommendation through my network
Received: Wed 10/9/2019 9:10:02 PM

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To: clintonwatts@icloud.com[clintonwatts@icloud.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 11/19/2019 3:43:25 AM
Subject: Sabbatical Re: Launch of FPRI's Foreign Influence Election 2020 (FIE 2020) Project - Analysis of Russia, Iran and China
Received: Tue 11/19/2019 3:43:25 AM

Hello,

Thank you for your message. I am currently on sabbatical (for the 2019-2020 school year). During this time, I may be slow to respond to email — or at least that's a goal of mine as I try to recharge my batteries and relearn how to focus on a few core projects.

Thank you for understanding,
Kate

To: Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]
Cc: Garrett Graff[Garrett.Graff@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Vivian Schiller
Sent: Wed 9/23/2020 8:03:01 PM
Subject: Aspen DAY AFTER follow-up
Received: Wed 9/23/2020 8:08:49 PM
[Election.Coverage.Principles.draft.docx](#)

Hi Kate

Thanks so much for joining us for the DAY AFTER election conversation. It was fascinating, and we've been thinking through how to spread the information from it more widely while respecting the rules of the meeting.

I wanted to share a draft of what we've written up following Aspen's two DAY AFTER sessions this month — abiding, of course, by the rules that nothing is quotable nor acknowledging the existence of the meeting, we distilled a list of broad "principles for election coverage" that we think would be valuable to publish more widely.

Garrett and I would love any thoughts you have on this (very) rough list — are there any broad principles that stood out to you in the conversations that we should encourage news organizations or tech platforms to follow as they approach the election? Any other concrete suggestions/examples you'd suggest including in a list like this? Anything else from the conversations that sparked your interest or set off alarm bells that we should mention?

We're trying to keep this relatively simple, as an actionable/concrete list of principles that news organizations could try to hold themselves to and try to prep voters/readers/viewers for in the next six weeks. Any/all suggestions welcome!

Vivian

Aspen Digital — September 2020

Principles For Covering Election 2020

- 1) **Problems are not failures.** There will be actors trying to convince the public that every small error is evidence of a rigged system, but individual examples of mishaps, misconduct, or even malfeasance are not evidence that the electoral system is incapable of providing a legitimate answer. Normal stuff goes wrong on Election Day; there are machines that don't work; polling places that lose power or open late; voter rolls that get misdelivered. That's not unusual. There are upwards of 230,000 polling places in the US, so even an election where 99.9% of precincts operate perfectly, there will be hundreds of problems. Voting in a socially-distanced pandemic will be even more complicated as even relatively short, fast-moving lines might easily stretch hundreds of feet down the block. Reports of those problems, absent specific evidence, doesn't mean such problems are nefarious or criminal.
- 2) **Provide numbers in context.** It's critical for news organizations to present both results and potential problems precisely and framed by how the electoral systems is supposed to function. For instance, the *New York Times* has switched from reporting "precincts left" to "votes that have been received" in order to capture that some precincts may report multiple sets of results and thus vote totals might shift well after "100% precincts are reporting." Similarly, absentee ballots are often reported separately from in-person totals so someone may be reporting "100% of precincts reporting" but that tally might not include absentee ballots. In Georgia, as another example, many stories this fall noted that there were 1,000 people who "double voted" in this year's primary, but rarely mentioned that those were .09% of the total votes, that they were caught by the very mechanisms in place to prevent such instances, and that as far as investigators have found, only one of the "double voters" was known to have malign intentions.
- 3) **A slow count is a good count.** Results aren't "late" simply because they're not ready at a certain time on election night. States have until mid-December to report official counts to the federal government. There is no reason to inherently distrust the vote-counting speed. In fact, voters should *expect* that counts will not be available on the evening of November 3rd or even potentially on the 4th. If the election is a blowout, we'll know that Tuesday night or Wednesday—but if it's close, it's entirely appropriate and normal for the counting to continue for days.
- 4) **Manage expectations using careful language.** Be honest about the media's own role—the media "projects" winners, it doesn't "declare" a winner. It's also important, for instance, to distinguish between pre-election "processing" of absentee/mail-in ballots and pre-election "counting" of votes. *[[What more should we add as language that means something?]]*

- 5) **Know the calendar.** We've gotten used to in recent years knowing the "results" on election night, but the numbers collected on election night not determinative. Even election *week* doesn't really matter. The dates that do matter are that the jurisdiction has declared a winner by the state certification date, the federal so-called "safe harbor" date when states are supposed to have wrapped up their own counts and results (December 8th), and the national December 14th meeting of the Electoral College. Voters should understand that just because a state takes a week or two—or longer—to finalize results doesn't jeopardize the integrity of the system.
- 6) **Be transparent about what information you have and don't have.** Many states this cycle are going to struggle to understand their "denominator" of ballots—that it is, how many total ballots have been cast—a number that is critical for media organizations to "project" a winner because it allows them to understand how many ballots are left to count. In past years, absentee or mail-in ballots in many states accounted for a small fraction of the overall total (circa 3% to 5%), where in this year's election, states might see that number soar to 30% or more, making it much more difficult to know early on election night what the final results might be.
- 7) **Hold officials accountable while building public confidence in the system writ large.** e.g., question and report about the Post Office without discouraging people from voting in the first place. Similarly, don't repeat or amplify candidates' unfounded declarations that vote-by-mail, ballot drop boxes, or any other widely used system is inherently insecure or subject to fraud. And be very wary of premature post-election declarations of victory.
- 8) **It's normal for the "projected winner" or leader to shift as ballots are counted.** Similarly, it is normal and expected that some races (and entire states) that look close on election night might not end up close at all. None of these shifts should be considered *prima facie* evidence of fraud or misconduct. Precincts report at varying times; absentee ballots are often counted and reported separately from in-person ballots; and different populations will vote in different ways this year, some more in-person, some more by mail. Even in a regular, non-pandemic election, it is normal and expected that as many as six to eight million more votes nationwide might trickle in as the week of election day unfolds and votes are tallied and finalized.

To: clintonwatts@icloud.com[clintonwatts@icloud.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Sun 10/13/2019 5:04:31 PM
Subject: Sabbatical Re: recommendation through my network
Received: Sun 10/13/2019 5:04:31 PM

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Thank you for understanding,
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To: clintonwatts@icloud.com[clintonwatts@icloud.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Sat 10/5/2019 1:18:00 PM
Subject: Sabbatical Re: Any time for short call?
Received: Sat 10/5/2019 1:18:00 PM

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To: Clinton Watts[clintonwatts@icloud.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 10/7/2019 3:30:05 PM
Subject: Re: Any time for short call?
Received: Mon 10/7/2019 3:30:07 PM

My phone # is 206 313 2766.

> On Oct 5, 2019, at 5:43 PM, Clinton Watts <clintonwatts@icloud.com> wrote:
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> Great.
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> I just sent a calendar invite and I'll be at 845-863-7923 or let me know a good number to call.
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>> On Oct 5, 2019, at 5:01 PM, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:
>>
>> 5 works for me.
>>
>> Sent from my iPhone
>>
>>> On Oct 5, 2019, at 7:48 PM, Clinton Watts <clintonwatts@icloud.com> wrote:
>>>
>>> Ahh sorry. My only hard times Monday are 4-5pm ET and then 630-8pm ET
>>> Could you do 5?
>>>
>>>> On Oct 5, 2019, at 12:02 PM, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:
>>>>
>>>> Sure, how about Monday afternoon (1pm Pacific, 4pm Eastern)?
>>>>
>>>>> On Oct 5, 2019, at 2:17 PM, Clinton Watts <clintonwatts@icloud.com> wrote:
>>>>>
>>>>> Monday or Tuesday next week?
>>>>>
>

To: Clinton Watts[clintonwatts@icloud.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Sat 10/5/2019 9:01:37 PM
Subject: Re: Any time for short call?
Received: Sat 10/5/2019 9:01:38 PM

5 works for me.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Oct 5, 2019, at 7:48 PM, Clinton Watts <clintonwatts@icloud.com> wrote:
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>>> Monday or Tuesday next week?
>>

To: Clinton Watts[clintonwatts@icloud.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Sat 10/5/2019 4:02:30 PM
Subject: Re: Any time for short call?
Received: Sat 10/5/2019 4:02:34 PM

Sure, how about Monday afternoon (1pm Pacific, 4pm Eastern)?

> On Oct 5, 2019, at 2:17 PM, Clinton Watts <clintonwatts@icloud.com> wrote:
>
> Monday or Tuesday next week?

To: Rosanna Guadagno[rosannaguadagno@stanford.edu]
Cc: Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]; starbird@leland.stanford.edu[starbird@leland.stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 10/7/2019 9:46:54 PM
Subject: Re: Can you recommend some readings for the 11/1 IW WG meeting?
Received: Mon 10/7/2019 9:46:57 PM

Hi Rosanna,

The readings look great to me. Lots of themes covered (perhaps too much for a single meeting, but that's the nature of this space).

I'm happy with the choice of the "bad actors" paper... it was a workshop paper (so not closely reviewed) led by an [REDACTED], but reflects a lot of the ideas that [REDACTED] has been thinking about in terms of how information operators infiltrate crowds and then both reflect and shape norms from within them. I'm happy to focus on that aspect of our work for the time I have in the meeting. It aligns with our (much longer) conceptual paper that I'm giving talks about this Fall:

[http://faculty.washington.edu/kstarbi/Starbird.\[REDACTED\]-CameraReady-Preprint.pdf](http://faculty.washington.edu/kstarbi/Starbird.[REDACTED]-CameraReady-Preprint.pdf)

Kate

On Oct 2, 2019, at 2:56 PM, Rosanna Guadagno <rosannaguadagno@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi Renee and Kate,

I hope you are both well! I've put together a potential list of readings and would love feedback from you both before I send it out to the group on Friday. I know it wasn't your job to put the readings together as Nate suggested but I would love to get some feedback from you on this. Since the meeting focuses on the 2016 US presidential election and failed IW/IO campaigns, the tentative reading list is longer and more varied than typical. It was also a bit of a challenge because there is so much to choose from in terms of writing on 2016 and so little to choose from in terms of failed campaigns. So, I did my best. I also wanted to make sure to include some of your work and Alex's too.

Kate, I picked the norms paper because I think that one of the under-discussed aspects of disinformation is the role of bot networks in establishing and changing social norms so am hoping we discuss this during the meeting. Renee, I picked the New Knowledge report as it is pretty central to the discussion. I am totally open to other suggestions in terms of highlighting your work so just let me know.

In the supplemental readings, I added one of my papers on the Russian attack on Estonia to as a reminder to people that the Russians have been slowly building their capabilities in this arena. I also added the new election security report that Mike McFaul edited because it both covers 2016 and looks to the future. Plus, the authors are nearly all members of the working group.

If you can, please give me any suggested edits by Friday. Once the readings have been sent out to the group, I will be following up with each of you about your planned talk.

Best,

Rosanna

[Rosanna E. Guadagno, Ph.D.](mailto:rosanna@stanford.edu)
Director, [Information Warfare Working Group](#)
Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC)
Stanford University
616 Serra Mall, Encina Hall, C240
Stanford, CA 94305-6165
P: 650-497-0458
F: 650-723-0089

From: Rosanna Guadagno <rosannaguadagno@stanford.edu>
Date: Wednesday, September 11, 2019 at 2:24 PM
To: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>, "starbird@leland.stanford.edu" <starbird@leland.stanford.edu>
Subject: Can you recommend some readings for the 11/1 IW WG meeting?

Hi Renee and Kate,

Hope you are both doing well! I am starting to get organized for this quarter's Information Warfare Working group meeting. Working group members have assigned readings and an optional writing assignment that is due a week before the meeting. The readings are selected by me and the meeting facilitators, in this case Andy Grotto and Nate Persily. When I asked them how they wanted to proceed on this, Nate suggested I ask you to come up with readings for this meeting. Is this something you'd be willing to do?

As a refresher, I've pasted the meeting overview below. I can also provide you with examples of reading lists from prior meetings. But, generally, we have a list of 2-4 target readings then a few more supplemental readings. Let me know if you're up for this and what questions I can address. Closer to the meeting, I will start bugging you for details on your talks too – I am really looking forward to this!

Best,

Rosanna

Rosanna E. Guadagno, Ph.D.
Director, Information Warfare Working Group
Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC)
Stanford University
<https://cisac.fsi.stanford.edu/content/information-warfare-working-group>

Google Scholar: <https://goo.gl/NL9G1J>

**Meeting #5: Dogs that don't bark: IW campaigns that failed (≠ foiled) and 2016 Election Postmortem
Fall 2019
Friday, November 1, 8:30 am to 1 pm, Annenberg Conference Room, Hoover Building**

This session examines information warfare/influence operation campaigns that failed should provide greater insight into the challenges of waging these campaigns and countermeasures that may otherwise be overlooked. We'll also discuss the successful Russian IW operation targeting the 2016 U.S. Presidential election. Specific issues to cover include:

1. Failed IW campaigns: Khashoggi assassination, French election.
2. Research assistants are currently compiling draft timelines and summary analyses of candidate events in preparation for this meeting.
3. Influence operations targeting the Parkland teens (victims of a mass shooting). What are the lessons learned?
4. What happened in the 2016 U.S. Presidential election? If we could rewind the tape, what could/would major participants have done differently? Were there intelligence failures (in tech, Congress, IC?) What was the media's role? Lessons learned and recommendations for the future?

Proposed session facilitators: Nate Persily and Andy Grotto

Working group speakers: Alex Stamos

Potential outside speakers (max of three per meeting):

1. Renee DiResta (<http://www.reneediresta.com>)
2. Kate Starbird (<https://www.hcde.washington.edu/starbird>)

<Meeting 5 readings_v1.docx>

To: Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 4/15/2021 3:21:39 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: See you soon! Aspen Commission
Received: Thur 4/15/2021 3:21:39 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

If you are a student in my class, please disregard this message — I will get back to you shortly!

If this is a media request, please contact Michael Grass (megrass@uw.edu), the Communications Manager at the Center for an Informed Public, who may be able to coordinate a time for us to chat — or find another researcher at the Center who can speak with you.

Warm regards,
Kate

To: Vivian Schiller[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Sun 8/22/2021 7:07:21 PM
Subject: Re: Thank you!
Received: Sun 8/22/2021 7:07:22 PM

Hi Vivian,

Thanks for the message. The travel part was no fun, but the meeting itself was really great. I thought we made some great progress and I'm looking forward to putting the final recommendations together.

Kate

On Aug 22, 2021, at 7:10 AM, Vivian Schiller <Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org> wrote:

Hi Kate, Just want to personally thank you for making the trek to Aspen. I know we've asked a lot from all of you, and I don't take any of it for granted. I was also so glad to finally meet you in person

Your voice is so important to this given your primary research in the field. Please keep speaking up to keep us honest.

Still more work to do, but just wanted to shoot you this note. Hope you made it home ok. My return home was only 6 hours later than scheduled, so I guess that's lucky.

See you next week on the zoom.

Vivian

--

Vivian Schiller

Executive Director, Aspen Digital

The Aspen Institute

+1-240-463-0496

@vivian

<image001[23].png>

To: Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]
From: Vivian Schiller
Sent: Sun 8/22/2021 2:10:25 PM
Subject: Thank you!
Received: Sun 8/22/2021 2:11:02 PM

Hi Kate, Just want to personally thank you for making the trek to Aspen. I know we've asked a lot from all of you, and I don't take any of it for granted. I was also so glad to finally meet you in person

Your voice is so important to this given your primary research in the field. Please keep speaking up to keep us honest.

Still more work to do, but just wanted to shoot you this note. Hope you made it home ok. My return home was only 6 hours later than scheduled, so I guess that's lucky.

See you next week on the zoom.

Vivian

--

Vivian Schiller

Executive Director, Aspen Digital

The Aspen Institute

+1-240-463-0496

@vivian



To: Marietje Schaake[marietje.schaake@gmail.com]
Cc: Kelly Born[kellykborn@gmail.com]; Renee DiResta[renee.diresta@gmail.com]; npenick@stanford.edu[npenick@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 10/4/2019 10:01:54 AM
Subject: Re: Nov 8th Cyber Policy Panel
Received: Fri 10/4/2019 10:01:54 AM

Hi all,
I'm available and planning to attend.
Warmly,
Kate

On Oct 4, 2019, at 5:07 AM, Marietje Schaake <marietje.schaake@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Kelly, All,

I am happy to join the panel/conference.

Thanks,

Marietje

On 3 Oct 2019, at 20:42, Kelly Born <kellykborn@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Marietje, Kate, Renée (copying Neil from FSI External Relations, who you may have met),
Per Neil's email below, could you please let him know if you would be available to speak to the
FSI Council next month? (I'm hoping I can join you, but still trying to sort out scheduling).

Thanks,
Kelly

From: Mr. Neil Penick
Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2019 12:14 PM
To: Kelly Born <kellykborn@gmail.com>
Subject: Nov 8th Cyber Policy Panel

Kelly,

Thanks for considering changing your plans to join the Nov 8th panel.

If you could ask both Renee, Kate and Marietje about joining a panel on the morning of November 8th, from 9:15-10:15 am, in the Bechtel Conference Center to talk about cyber policy challenges that would be great. Nate has agreed to moderate, and the audience is the 26 members of the FSI Council, made up of FSI's leading donors, university trustees and other key volunteers.

Thanks,

Neil

Senior Associate Director
for Development and External Relations

Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies
Stanford University
650/723-8681
fsi.stanford.edu

To: Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]
From: Clinton Watts
Sent: Mon 12/3/2018 8:42:25 PM
Subject: Re: Contact from Clint Watts
Received: Mon 12/3/2018 8:44:10 PM
[RFP For Hamilton 68 v2 112718 \(Not For Further Distribution\).pdf](#)
[Conceptual layout of Hamilton 2.0 v1 - Notes.pptx](#)

Kate

Great to speak with you today and thanks for taking the time.

In follow up, I'm attaching the first draft of the RFP we are looking at putting together for the new Hamilton 2.0 dashboard. I'm also attaching my bad PPT concept of what it might look like, which is a visualization of what we'll be working toward for the spring. I left out a couple of the panels as I've got others already lined up to tackle them.

If you have any people that you think might be a good pairing or interested in working either on the data scraping or analysis, please let me know.

And if you'd like to discuss in the next couple weeks or have any questions, please let me know.

Thanks,

Clint

Clint Watts
Author of [Messing With The Enemy: Surviving in a Social Media World of Hackers, Terrorists, Russians and Fake News](#)
Distinguished Research Fellow, [Foreign Policy Research Institute](#)
Non-Resident Fellow, [Alliance For Securing Democracy](#), German Marshall Fund

On Dec 2, 2018, at 7:46 PM, Clinton Watts <clintonwatts@icloud.com> wrote:

Hi Kate, yes we're still on for tomorrow can you call me at 845-863-7923. Talk to you soon

On Dec 2, 2018, at 2:30 PM, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

Confirming that the time works. Are we looking at phone or Skype or something else?

On Nov 28, 2018, at 1:16 PM, Clinton Watts <clintonwatts@icloud.com> wrote:

Yes that's great

I just sent a calendar invite and let me know if that doesn't work and I'll change it

Talk to you Monday

On Nov 28, 2018, at 4:09 PM, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

Hi Clint,

I could do a call on Monday at 10:30 Pacific. Would that work?

Kate

On Nov 28, 2018, at 10:13 AM, Clinton Watts
<clintonwatts@icloud.com> wrote:

Kate

Nice to meet you virtually.

This is my best email and I wanted to see if you had a few minutes to chat either this week or next week.

I have open time this Friday early afternoon EST and then next week Monday early afternoon EST

If you have a few minutes let me know and I'll send a calendar invite

Best wishes

Clint Watts
845-863-7923

Hamilton 2.0 – Request For Technical Proposals

State Sponsored Influence operations have grown significantly in scale with the advent of social media. Authoritarian regimes now blend their traditional media programming with overt and covert social media dialogue to advance their agendas. Understanding the confluence of day-to-day state sponsored programming and how it then moves, spreads and is amplified in social media requires a holistic, near real-time examination of multiple media types. The Alliance for Securing Democracy (ASD) seeks proposals and solutions from those interested in stemming the tide of state sponsored propaganda and nefarious influence on Western democracies.

ASD poses the following challenges for researchers, developers and students. For each challenge, ASD seeks proposals for the development of the following:

1) Panel 1 - Summary - State Sponsored News Websites

Nation states routinely run multiple foreign language websites designed to influence foreign audiences. ASD seeks the development of a website pane or series of panels depicting the Internet output of state sponsored news outlets in near real time. The pane or panels would ideally include the following outputs from a list of state sponsored, English language news sites:

- Scrolling headlines from the most trafficked or visited stories posted from the state sponsored news outlets.
- Provide a near real time table of top and trending topics and keywords occurring on these websites.
- Provide a daily or weekly update on the most quoted, cited and/or referenced experts and pundits arising in state sponsored news articles, stories & broadcasts

2) Panel 2 - Scrolling Summary View Of Overt Nation-State Twitter Accounts

Twitter has become a platform for international diplomacy. Nation-states now routinely use Twitter accounts for the heads of their government, their departments and their foreign embassies. These have become important interlocutors between state sponsored propaganda and the audiences they seek to influence. The pane or panel would ideally include the following outputs from a designated set of English language social media accounts:

- Scrolling tweets, in real or near-real time, from Twitter accounts assigned to a state's embassies, ministries and departments.
- A table showing the top/trending topics, hashtags and keywords over a 1 Day, 1 Week, 1 Month, 3 Month, 6 Month and 1 Year interval.
- A table showing the top/trending URL's and headlines being shared by the set of social media accounts.

3) Panel 3 - Summary Dashboard of specific trending content on anonymous bulletin boards and posting sites (i.e. Reddit, 4chan, etc.)

Anonymous web posting sites have been a burgeoning repository for the placement of forgeries, memes and conspiracies. Disinformation and misinformation amplified by state sponsored propaganda routinely originate on these social media sites. A summary view of the conversations related to state sponsored propaganda is sought to elucidate the migration of conspiracies to fringe and ultimately mainstream media. A pane or panels depicting content discussing, amplifying or spreading state sponsored propaganda would be made available based on the feeding of key words and topics.

Features of this panel on a website would be:

- Trends in keywords from overt state sponsored news sites that reverberate in anonymous bulletin boards and websites.
- Location of threads and posts related to state sponsored disinformation, Represented in links or urls to anonymous social media discussions.
- A table showing the top/trending topics and keywords over a 1 Day, 1 Week, 1 Month, 3 Month, 6 Month and 1 Year interval.

Hamilton 68 – 2.0 – Assessing Putin’s English Language Propaganda Machine

Weekly or Bi-Weekly Analytical Update

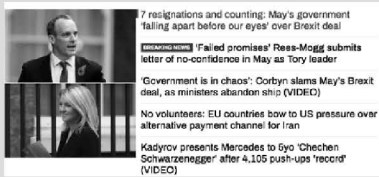
What’s New: (What if we changed the rubric to something shorter, consistent)

What’s The Same:

What to Look For:

Block 1: Overt – State Sponsored Propaganda

Top Stories



A scroll of stories across all state sponsored outlets

Hot Topics

Topic	Times mentioned in the last 48 hours
Trump	440
US	378
CNN	272
Michael Averati	264
Democrats	251
Russia	203
Israel	168
today	168

Top Western Pundits

Could be just a list



Block 2: Overt – Russia Foreign Ministries – Twitter

Scrolling Tweets of MFA & Embassies



Top/Trending Topics (new format, Rotating)

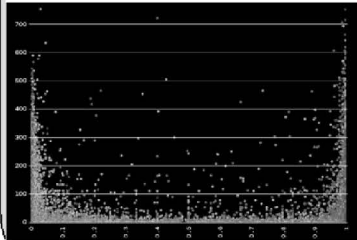


Top/Trending Urls: (With Titles/Rotating)

Trending URLs	% change in the last 48 hours
http://www.kmz.com/...	+1800%
https://www.thegate...	+900%
https://www.chicob...	+800%
https://en.us200p...	+600%
https://www.bonem...	+600%
https://dailycafe.co...	+500%
https://southflorid...	+800%
https://www.paco.tu...	+800%
https://www.bonem...	+500%

Block 3: Covert Social Media Influence – Twitter - Graphika

Graphika Valence Chart – Real Time



Top/Trending Topics (new format, Rotating)



Top/Trending Urls: (With Titles/Rotating)

Trending URLs	% change in the last 48 hours
http://www.kmz.com/...	+1800%
https://www.thegate...	+900%
https://www.chicob...	+800%
https://en.us200p...	+600%
https://www.bonem...	+600%
https://dailycafe.co...	+500%
https://southflorid...	+800%
https://www.paco.tu...	+800%
https://www.bonem...	+500%

Block 4: Active Measures Assessment – (Running Totals)

Theme	Overt Narratives	Covert Narratives	Most Traveled Content	Target Audience
Political	(Running total numbers or actual headlines)			
Social				
Financial				
Calamitous				

To: Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]
From: Clinton Watts
Sent: Mon 12/3/2018 12:46:51 AM
Subject: Re: Contact from Clint Watts
Received: Mon 12/3/2018 12:47:11 AM

Hi Kate, yes we're still on for tomorrow can you call me at 845-8 63-7923. Talk to you soon

> On Dec 2, 2018, at 2:30 PM, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:
>
> Confirming that the time works. Are we looking at phone or Skype or something else?
>
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>>
>> Yes that's great
>>
>> I just sent a calendar invite and let me know if that doesn't work and I'll change it
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>> Talk to you Monday
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>>>> I have open time this Friday early afternoon EST and then next week Monday early afternoon EST
>>>> If you have a few minutes let me know and I'll send a calendar invite
>>>>
>>>> Best wishes
>>>>
>>>> Clint Watts
>>>> 845-863-7923
>>>>
>

To: Clinton Watts[clintonwatts@icloud.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 11/28/2018 9:09:05 PM
Subject: Re: Contact from Clint Watts
Received: Wed 11/28/2018 9:09:06 PM

Hi Clint,

I could do a call on Monday at 10:30 Pacific. Would that work?

Kate

> On Nov 28, 2018, at 10:13 AM, Clinton Watts <clintonwatts@icloud.com> wrote:
>
> Kate
>
> Nice to meet you virtually.
> This is my best email and I wanted to see if you had a few minutes to chat either this week or next week.
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> If you have a few minutes let me know and I'll send a calendar invite
>
> Best wishes
>
> Clint Watts
> 845-863-7923

To: Clinton Watts[clintonwatts@icloud.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Sun 12/2/2018 7:30:41 PM
Subject: Re: Contact from Clint Watts
Received: Sun 12/2/2018 7:30:42 PM

Confirming that the time works. Are we looking at phone or Skype or something else?

> On Nov 28, 2018, at 1:16 PM, Clinton Watts <clintonwatts@icloud.com> wrote:
>
> Yes that's great
>
> I just sent a calendar invite and let me know if that doesn't work and I'll change it
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>>> Best wishes
>>>
>>> Clint Watts
>>> 845-863-7923
>>

To: kstarbi@uw.edu[kstarbi@uw.edu]
From: Clinton Watts
Sent: Wed 11/28/2018 6:13:56 PM
Subject: Contact from Clint Watts
Received: Wed 11/28/2018 6:15:10 PM

Kate

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This is my best email and I wanted to see if you had a few minutes to chat either this week or next week.

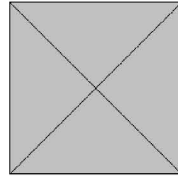
I have open time this Friday early afternoon EST and then next week Monday early afternoon EST

If you have a few minutes let me know and I'll send a calendar invite

Best wishes

Clint Watts
845-863-7923

To: Kate Starbird[katestarbird30@gmail.com]
From: Clint Watts (via Twitter)
Sent: Wed 11/28/2018 4:20:33 PM
Subject: Clint Watts (@selectedwisdom) has sent you a Direct Message on Twitter!
Received: Wed 11/28/2018 4:20:33 PM



Kate, I'm a big fan of your work and would like to chat with you about what you are working on at the moment. If interested, would you email me at clintonwatts@icloud.com

Reply

[Settings](#) | [Help](#) | [Opt-out](#) | [Download app](#)

Twitter, Inc. 1355 Market Street, Suite 900 San Francisco, CA 94103

To: Samantha Rachel Bradshaw[srbradsh@stanford.edu]
Cc: David Thiel[dthiel@stanford.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]; Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]; Paul Lockaby[plockaby@uw.edu]; Emma Spiro[espiro@uw.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 1/21/2021 9:24:19 PM
Subject: Re: Follow-up re. Collaborative Data Access
Received: Thur 1/21/2021 9:24:20 PM

Hi Sam,

I'm looping in our CIP Senior Data Engineer, Paul Lockaby, and my colleague Emma Spiro (for visibility). We chatted today about the best path forward for this type of collaboration/data sharing, which we hope to use on future collaborations, but this will be our first one. So you'll be a guinea pig of sorts... I hope that's okay.

Paul is going to connect with you and chat about what you need and develop the best solution to meet those needs. So, I'll let him take it from here. And please let us know if you have any questions about the underlying data collection, data structure, etc. Paul can answer most of that. In terms of scoping down to a dataset around StopTheSteal, we might want to do a little asynchronous chatting to find the best (comprehensive, low noise) cut of the data.

Best,
Kate

On Jan 20, 2021, at 10:05 AM, Samantha Rachel Bradshaw <srbradsh@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi Kate,

Just following up on our slack exchange re. data access to some of the Twitter data your team collected as part of the EIP. You mentioned that its quite a large dataset and that we would have to find a solution to provide direct access to outside collaborators. I just wanted to get this conversation kicked off, and have copied some of our team members from SIO since they might have more insight into solutions or past experiences.

Best,
Sam

—

Dr. Samantha Bradshaw
Postdoctoral Fellow, Stanford Internet Observatory & Digital Civil Society Lab
Center for International Security and Cooperation | Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society
Stanford University

450 Jane Stanford Way
Stanford, CA 94305-2004

srbradsh@stanford.edu
[@sbradshaw](https://twitter.com/sbradshaw)

To: kstarbi@uw.edu[kstarbi@uw.edu]
From: Laura Rosenberger
Sent: Tue 7/11/2017 9:38:52 PM
Subject: Announcing the Alliance for Securing Democracy
Received: Tue 7/11/2017 9:39:27 PM

Colleagues and Friends –

I am pleased to announce the launch of the Alliance for Securing Democracy, a new bipartisan, transatlantic initiative that I am directing at the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF). The Alliance will develop comprehensive strategies to defend against, deter, and raise the costs on Russian and other state actors' efforts to undermine democracy and democratic institutions. The Alliance will work to publicly document and expose Vladimir Putin's ongoing efforts to subvert democracy in the United States and Europe. I am pleased to be joined on this effort by Jamie Fly, former foreign policy advisor to Marco Rubio, and we will be building out our team in the months ahead. A bipartisan, transatlantic Advisory Council with decades of experience on these issues will guide the initiative's work (list below).

The Alliance will forge partnerships across the Atlantic with political leaders, policymakers, like-minded institutions, and technical experts to address the urgent need to secure our democracies, create a common understanding of the techniques used to undermine democracies, and share lessons learned about effective defensive and deterrent strategies. Enlisting leading transatlantic experts on cyber security, disinformation, illicit finance, Russian influence operations, and other relevant areas, the Alliance will develop strategies for making democracies more resilient against future meddling and better able to counter Russian efforts to use the subversion of democracy as a weapon. The Alliance will bring together experts across these areas and work with the private sector and civil society to develop and employ strategies to strengthen and secure our democracies.

Finally, it will analyze emerging technological and societal trends to identify areas of vulnerability to the eventual challenge from other state and non-governmental actors who may attempt to replicate these tactics. By analyzing what Russia is doing today, the project will develop a shared playbook with recommendations for democratic leaders about how democracy can be better safeguarded tomorrow.

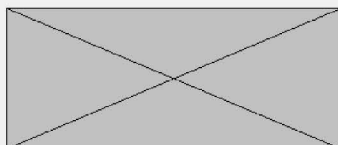
We must not lose sight of the fundamental strength of our free and transparent institutions — and we can never again allow authoritarian regimes to turn our greatest strength into a critical weakness. By shining a bright light on these tactics, ensuring that we close vulnerabilities in our system, and raising the cost on Russia and others that would seek to undermine democracies, the Alliance for Securing Democracy will help ensure that our democracies are resistant to foreign interference in the future. Doing so will not only strengthen the resilience of our democracy, it will be a reaffirmation of the entire democratic experiment.

We hope you will join us and help spread the word about this critical effort. Now is the time to #SecureDemocracy.

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

<http://securingdemocracy.gmfus.org/>
Twitter: @securedemocracy

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'Alliance for Securing Democracy' Launches at GMF

Chertoff, Ilves, Kramer, Kristol, Morell, McFaul, Rogers, Sullivan, Schake, Smith, Stavridis, and Wong to Advise New Initiative

Tuesday, July 11, 2017

WASHINGTON – The Alliance for Securing Democracy, a bipartisan, transatlantic initiative housed within The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF), formally launched today with a mission to develop comprehensive strategies to defend against, deter, and raise the costs on Russian and other actors' efforts to undermine democracy and democratic institutions.

Laura Rosenberger, GMF senior fellow and former foreign policy advisor for Hillary Clinton's 2016 Presidential Campaign, will direct the Alliance for Securing Democracy as part of a bipartisan team with GMF Senior Fellow **Jamie Fly**, former counselor for Foreign and National Security Affairs to Senator Marco Rubio. The initiative will bring together experts across the Atlantic to examine the tools—disinformation, financial influence, and cyberattacks—used by actors who are attempting to weaponize our freedoms against us.

"We cannot simply look at Russia's actions to undermine our democracy in the rearview mirror," said Rosenberger. "Starting today, the Alliance for Securing Democracy will work to build a united front with European and other democratic partners, publicly document and expose Vladimir Putin's ongoing efforts to subvert democracy in the United States and Europe, produce analysis of Russian and other state-sponsored efforts to subvert democracy, and develop a shared playbook that can be used by democracies to counter these efforts."

"Finding out what happened in the 2016 election is important. But even more important is ensuring that we as Americans and Europeans are putting in place measures to secure our democracies today and in the future," said Fly. "The Alliance for Securing Democracy will also engage the private sector, civil society, and members of both U.S. political parties to enlist their support in development and implementation of these defensive and deterrent strategies."

The Alliance for Securing Democracy will be informed by a bipartisan, transatlantic **Advisory Council** composed of former senior officials with experience in politics, foreign policy, intelligence, Russia, and Europe - bringing deep expertise across a range of issues and political perspectives.

Advisory Council:

Mike Chertoff | Toomas Hendrik Ilves | David Kramer | William Kristol | Michael Morell | Michael McFaul | Mike Rogers | Jake Sullivan | Kori Schake | Julie Smith | Admiral James Stavridis | Nicole Wong

With upcoming elections in Germany and Italy, and the U.S. 2018 mid-term elections fast approaching, there is an urgent need for a deeper understanding of Russia's tactics, how they are evolving, and how to defend against and deter them. The work of The Alliance for Securing Democracy will expand on GMF's already robust portfolio of research and analysis on Russia and strengthening transatlantic cooperation.

"GMF works to strengthen transatlantic cooperation in the spirit of the Marshall Plan, which laid the foundation of the democratic order we have enjoyed over the past 70

years,” said GMF President Karen Donfried. “GMF is proud to support this new initiative to develop a united transatlantic front against democratic subversion.”

Democracy in the United States and in Europe is under assault. Meeting this challenge to our democracy demands that Republicans and Democrats in the United States unite with our democratic allies and partners in Europe and around the world to better understand Russia’s meddling in order to defend ourselves and deter such activity in the future.

Now, it’s time to #SecureDemocracy.

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About the Advisory Council and Staff:

MIKE CHERTOFF

Mike Chertoff was U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security from 2005 to 2009. There, he worked to strengthen U.S. borders, provide intelligence analysis, and protect infrastructure. He increased the Department’s focus on preparedness ahead of disasters, and implemented enhanced security at airports and borders. Following Hurricane Katrina, Chertoff helped to transform the Federal Emergency Management Agency into an effective organization. He also served as a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals Judge from 2003 to 2005. He co-founded the Chertoff Group, a risk-management and security consulting company, and works as senior of counsel at the Washington, DC law firm Covington & Burling.

TOOMAS ILVES

Toomas Hendrik Ilves was elected president of the Republic of Estonia in 2006 and in 2011. During his presidency, Ilves was appointed to serve in several high positions in the field of information and communication technology in the European Union. He previously served as minister of foreign affairs and as the ambassador of the Republic of Estonia to the United States and Canada in Washington. Ilves was also a member of the Estonian Parliament, as well as a member of the European Parliament, where he was vice president of the Foreign Affairs Committee. He now co-chairs the World Economic Forum working group The Global Futures Council on Blockchain Technology. He is currently a distinguished visiting fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University.

DAVID KRAMER

David J. Kramer joined Florida International University’s Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs as a senior fellow in the Vaclav Havel Program for Human Rights and Diplomacy in May 2017. Before moving to Miami, Kramer had worked in Washington, DC for 24 years, most recently as senior director for Human Rights and Democracy with The McCain Institute for International Leadership. Before that, he served for four years as president of Freedom House. Prior to that, he was a senior transatlantic fellow at The German Marshall Fund of the United States. Kramer served eight years in the U.S. Department of State during the George W. Bush administration, including as assistant secretary of state for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor; deputy assistant secretary of state for European and Eurasian Affairs; professional staff member in the Secretary’s Office of Policy Planning; and senior advisor to the undersecretary for Global Affairs. Kramer is a member of the board of directors of the Halifax International Security Forum and a member of the advisory council for the George W. Bush Presidential Center’s Human Freedom Project.

BILL KRISTOL

William "Bill" Kristol is the editor at large of the influential political journal, *The Weekly Standard*. Before starting that magazine in 1995, Kristol served in government, first as chief of staff to Secretary of Education William Bennett during the Reagan administration, and then as chief of staff to Vice President Dan Quayle in the George H. W. Bush administration. Kristol has also served on the board of the

Project for the New American Century (1997–2005) and the Foreign Policy Initiative (2009–17). Before coming to Washington in 1985, Kristol taught government at the University of Pennsylvania and Harvard University.

MICHAEL MORELL

Michael Morell was acting director of the Central Intelligence Agency in 2011 and again from 2012 to 2013, and had previously served as deputy director and director for Intelligence at the Agency. In his over thirty years at the CIA, Morell played a central role in the United States' fight against terrorism, its initiatives to halt the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and its efforts to respond to trends that are altering the international landscape — including the Arab Spring, the rise of China, and the cyber threat. He was one of the leaders in the search for Osama bin Laden and participated in the deliberations that led to the raid that killed bin Laden in May 2011. He has been with Beacon Global Strategies as a senior counselor since November 2013.

MIKE MCFAUL

Michael McFaul served for five years in the Obama administration, first as special assistant to the president and senior director for Russian and Eurasian Affairs at the National Security Council at the White House from 2009 to 2012, and then as U.S. ambassador to the Russian Federation from 2012 to 2014. He is currently professor of political science, director, and senior fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, and the Peter and Helen Bing senior fellow at the Hoover Institution. He joined the Stanford faculty in 1995. He is also an analyst for NBC News and a contributing columnist to *The Washington Post*.

MIKE ROGERS

Mike Rogers is a former member of Congress, officer in the Army, and FBI special agent. In the U.S. House he chaired the Intelligence Committee, becoming a leader on cybersecurity and national security policy, and overseeing the 17 intelligence agencies' \$70 billion budget. Today, Mike is a CNN national security commentator, and hosts and produces CNN's "Declassified." He serves as chief security adviser to AT&T, sits on the board of IronNet Cybersecurity and MITRE Corporation, and advises Next Century Corporation and Trident Capital. He is distinguished fellow and trustee at Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress, and a senior fellow at the Belfer Center at Harvard University.

KORI SCHAKE

Kori Schake has served in various policy roles including at the White House for the National Security Council, at the Department of Defense for the Office of the Secretary and Joint Chiefs of Staff, and at the State Department for the Policy Planning Staff. During the 2008 presidential election, she was senior policy advisor on the McCain–Palin campaign. She is now a research fellow at the Hoover Institution. She is the editor, with Jim Mattis, of the book *Warriors and Citizens: American Views of Our Military*. She teaches at Stanford, is a contributing editor covering national security and international affairs at *The Atlantic*, columnist for *Foreign Policy* magazine, and a contributor to *War on the Rocks*.

JULIE SMITH

Julianne "Julie" Smith served as the deputy national security advisor to the U.S. vice president from 2012 to 2013, acting national security advisor to the vice president in 2013, and principal director for European and NATO policy in the Office of the Secretary of Defense in the Pentagon. Smith is currently senior fellow and director of the Transatlantic Security Program at the Center for a New American Security.

ADM JIM STAVRIDIS (RET.)

Admiral James Stavridis, U.S. Navy (Ret.) served as commander of European Command and as Supreme Allied Commander, Europe from 2009 to 2013. He commanded U.S. Southern Command in Miami from 2006 to 2009 and commanded Enterprise Carrier Strike Group, conducting combat operations in the Arabian Gulf in support of both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom from 2002 to 04. He was a strategic and long-range planner on the staffs of the Chief of Naval

Operations and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He has also served as the executive assistant to the secretary of the navy and as senior military assistant to the secretary of defense. He is now dean of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, and chairman of the U.S. Naval Institute Board of Directors.

JAKE SULLIVAN

Jake Sullivan served in the Obama administration as national security advisor to Vice President Joe Biden and director of Policy Planning at the U.S. Department of State, as well as deputy chief of staff to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. He was the senior policy advisor on Secretary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign. He is now a senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and Martin R. Flug visiting lecturer in law at Yale Law School.

NICOLE WONG

Nicole Wong served as deputy U.S. chief technology officer in the Obama administration, where she focused on internet, privacy, and innovation policy. Prior to her time in government, Nicole was Google's vice president and deputy general counsel, and Twitter's legal director for products. She frequently speaks on issues related to law and technology. Nicole chairs the board of Friends of Global Voices, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting citizen and online media projects globally. She also sits on the boards of WITNESS, an organization supporting the use of video to advance human rights, and the Mozilla Foundation, which promotes open internet. Nicole currently serves as an advisor to the School of Information at the University of California, Berkeley, Harvard Business School Digital Initiative, the Democratic National Committee Cybersecurity advisory board, Refactor Capital, and the Albright Stonebridge Group.

LAURA ROSENBERGER

Laura Rosenberger is the director of the Alliance for Securing Democracy and a senior fellow at The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF). Before she joined GMF, she was foreign policy advisor for Hillary for America, where she coordinated development of the campaign's national security policies, messaging, and strategy. Prior to that, she served in a range of positions at the State Department and the White House's National Security Council (NSC). As chief of staff to Deputy Secretary of State Tony Blinken and as later, then-Deputy National Security Advisor Blinken's senior advisor, she counseled on the full range of national security policy. In her role at the NSC, she also managed the interagency Deputies Committee, the U.S. government's senior-level interagency decision-making forum on our country's most pressing national security issues. Laura also has extensive background in the Asia-Pacific region, particularly Northeast Asia. She served as NSC director for China and Korea, managing and coordinating U.S. policy on China and the Korean Peninsula, and in a variety of positions focused on the Asia-Pacific region at the Department of State, including managing U.S.-China relations and addressing North Korea's nuclear programs. She also served as special assistant to Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Bill Burns, advising him on Asia-Pacific affairs and on nonproliferation and arms control issues. Laura's first joined the State Department as a presidential management fellow.

JAMIE FLY

Jamie Fly is a senior fellow at The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF). Prior to joining GMF, he served as counselor for Foreign and National Security Affairs to Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) from 2013-17, serving as his foreign policy advisor during his presidential campaign. Before joining Senator Rubio's staff in February 2013, he served as the executive director of the Foreign Policy Initiative (FPI) from its founding in early 2009. Fly served in the Bush administration at the National Security Council (2008-09) and in the Office of the Secretary of Defense (2005-08). He was director for Counterproliferation Strategy at the National Security Council, where his portfolio included the Iranian nuclear program, Syria, missile defense, chemical weapons, proliferation finance, and other counterproliferation issues. In the

Office of the Secretary of Defense, he was an assistant for Transnational Threats Policy, where he helped to develop U.S. strategy related to the proliferation of missiles as well as nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons. For his work in the Department of Defense, he was awarded the Office of the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Public Service. Fly received a B.A. in international studies and political science from American University and an M.A. in German and European studies from Georgetown University.

The communications staff below can help with any press inquiries about the Alliance for Securing Democracy and its Advisory Council.

In the United States

Kelsey Glover, kglover@gmfus.org, +1 202 683 2648

In Europe

Sarah Halls, shalls@gmfus.org, +32 484 491 078

The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) strengthens transatlantic cooperation on regional, national, and global challenges and opportunities in the spirit of the Marshall Plan.

GMF contributes research and analysis and convenes leaders on transatlantic issues relevant to policymakers. GMF offers rising leaders opportunities to develop their skills and networks through transatlantic exchange, and supports civil society in the Balkans and Black Sea regions by fostering democratic initiatives, rule of law, and regional cooperation.

Founded in 1972 as a non-partisan, non-profit organization through a gift from Germany as a permanent memorial to Marshall Plan assistance, GMF maintains a strong presence on both sides of the Atlantic. In addition to its headquarters in Washington, DC, GMF has offices in Berlin, Paris, Brussels, Belgrade, Ankara, Bucharest, and Warsaw. GMF also has smaller representations in Bratislava, Turin, and Stockholm.

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To: Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 5/21/2021 6:44:15 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Aspen Briefing Book AND News about an In-Person Meeting
Received: Fri 5/21/2021 6:44:15 PM

Thank you for your message. I am currently receiving a large volume of email messages and requests each day. Though I would like to respond to every message, it has become increasingly difficult, and I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you.

If you are a student in my class, please disregard this message — I will get back to you shortly!

If this is a media request, please contact Michael Grass (megrass@uw.edu), the Communications Manager at the Center for an Informed Public, who may be able to coordinate a time for us to chat — or find another researcher at the Center who can speak with you.

Warm regards,
Kate

To: Laura Rosenberger[LRosenberger@gmfus.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 6/14/2017 9:14:53 PM
Subject: Re: defending democracy against Russian assault
Received: Wed 6/14/2017 9:14:53 PM

Could you do 4:30ET?

Kate Starbird
Assistant Professor
Human Centered Design & Engineering (HCDE)
University of Washington
kstarbi@uw.edu

On Jun 13, 2017, at 12:43 PM, Laura Rosenberger <LRosenberger@gmfus.org> wrote:

Thanks Kate, no problem and apologies again for the change. I am pretty open on the 23rd except 11-12 and 3:30-4:30 ET. Let me know what might work on your end.

Best,
Laura

From: Kate Starbird [mailto:kstarbi@uw.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2017 11:57 AM
To: Laura Rosenberger
Subject: Re: defending democracy against Russian assault

Hello Laura,

No problem re: the change. Unfortunately, I'm traveling the rest of this week and most of next week. I might be able to set something up for Friday June 23.

Kate Starbird
Assistant Professor
Human Centered Design & Engineering (HCDE)
University of Washington
kstarbi@uw.edu

On Jun 12, 2017, at 4:49 PM, Laura Rosenberger <LRosenberger@gmfus.org> wrote:

Hi Kate- something has come up for me tomorrow afternoon and I need to reschedule our call. I have some openings on Thursday (earlier in the day) and Friday if you have any availability then? Let me know what might work on your end. And apologies for the change.
-Laura

From: Laura Rosenberger
Sent: Tuesday, June 06, 2017 1:46 PM
To: Kate Starbird
Subject: RE: defending democracy against Russian assault

Great, thanks.

From: Kate Starbird [mailto:kstarbi@uw.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, June 06, 2017 1:34 PM

To: Laura Rosenberger
Subject: Re: defending democracy against Russian assault

My phone # is 206 313 2766.

Kate Starbird
Assistant Professor
Human Centered Design & Engineering (HCDE)
University of Washington
kstarbi@uw.edu

On Jun 6, 2017, at 9:29 AM, Laura Rosenberger <LRosenberger@gmfus.org> wrote:

Sounds good, look forward to speaking then. What's the best number to reach you? Or you can call me at 202-683-2657.

Best,
Laura

From: Kate Starbird [<mailto:kstarbi@uw.edu>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 06, 2017 11:53 AM
To: Laura Rosenberger
Subject: Re: defending democracy against Russian assault

Sure. 10:30am works best. (Pacific time).

Kate Starbird
Assistant Professor
Human Centered Design & Engineering (HCDE)
University of Washington
kstarbi@uw.edu

On Jun 6, 2017, at 5:59 AM, Laura Rosenberger <LRosenberger@gmfus.org> wrote:

Thanks very much Kate. Tuesday the 13th works well for me – I'm open so name the time that morning (your time) that's best for you.

From: Kate Starbird [<mailto:kstarbi@uw.edu>]
Sent: Monday, June 05, 2017 6:32 PM
To: Laura Rosenberger
Subject: Re: defending democracy against Russian assault

Hello Laura,

Thank you for reaching out. I'm definitely will to chat to see how I might be able to help. My next open slots are next Tuesday (June 13) am (Pacific) or the following Friday (23) early pm (Pacific). Might either of those work?

Kate Starbird
Assistant Professor
Human Centered Design & Engineering (HCDE)
University of Washington
kstarbi@uw.edu

On Jun 5, 2017, at 12:41 PM, Laura Rosenberger
<LRosenberger@gmfus.org> wrote:

Kate –

Chad Kreikemeier on SSCI passed me your contact info. I'm launching a new initiative – housed at the German Marshall Fund – focused on developing comprehensive strategies to defend democracy against Russian assault. The initiative will look at all of the tools Russia uses as part of its toolkit, and how those tools interact, to develop defensive and deterrent strategies. It will seek to convene experts across different sectors and elevate existing work being done through a robust platform. The effort will be trans-Atlantic, working closely with European partners; bipartisan; and forward-looking – understanding that these efforts will continue. I've been following some of your great work on the disinformation front, and would love to find time to connect to learn more about your work and discuss ways we might partner or collaborate. I am located in DC, so please let me know if there might be a good time to connect by phone in the coming weeks.

Best,
Laura

To: kstarbi@uw.edu[kstarbi@uw.edu]
From: Laura Rosenberger
Sent: Mon 6/5/2017 7:41:22 PM
Subject: defending democracy against Russian assault
Received: Mon 6/5/2017 7:42:06 PM

Kate –

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Best,
Laura

To: Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]
From: Laura Rosenberger
Sent: Tue 6/6/2017 12:59:32 PM
Subject: RE: defending democracy against Russian assault
Received: Tue 6/6/2017 1:00:17 PM

Thanks very much Kate. Tuesday the 13th works well for me – I'm open so name the time that morning (your time) that's best for you.

From: Kate Starbird [mailto:kstarbi@uw.edu]
Sent: Monday, June 05, 2017 6:32 PM
To: Laura Rosenberger
Subject: Re: defending democracy against Russian assault

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Laura