

To: Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]
From: Clint Watts - Miburo
Sent: Thur 6/4/2020 8:16:32 PM
Subject: AMAZING JOB
Received: Thur 6/4/2020 8:17:26 PM

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

ay and prep process would be the same (and we won't have the Zoom problems next time!)

Thanks Kate

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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To: Katrina Ligett[kligett@gmail.com]; Francis Fukuyama[ffukuyam@stanford.edu]
Cc: Francis Fukuyama[f.fukuyama@stanford.edu]; Celia Clark[celia.clark@stanford.edu]; Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]
From: Renee DiResta
Sent: Thur 11/4/2021 3:41:23 PM
Subject: RE: Middleware discussion
Received: Thur 11/4/2021 3:42:41 PM

I imagine finding a time for a phone call might be tough given our respective schedules, but does anyone have 30 minutes in the afternoon PT on Friday or Monday to do a quick sync?

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 <rdiresta@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 <rdiresta@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: Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]
From: Renee DiResta
Sent: Mon 9/13/2021 7:55:02 PM
Subject: DARPA ISAT workshop pre-invite
Received: Mon 9/13/2021 7:55:45 PM

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
- Oct 18: 12:30-4:15 ET Factors contributing to affective group polarization
- Nov 5: 10:30-2:30 ET Strategies and Tactics for polarization mitigation

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: Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]
From: Clinton Watts
Sent: Tue 4/6/2021 4:55:25 PM
Subject: Select Invitation - Societal Resilience Roundtable - April 12, 2pm -315pm ET
Received: Tue 4/6/2021 4:56:03 PM

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.

Would you be able to attend the Zoom roundtable that I will moderate next week with some policymakers on Monday, 12 April?

If so, could you please RSVP to this message as quickly as possible and I'll get you the additional administrative details for next week's session.

Thank you for your consideration and I hope you can join,

Best wishes,

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](#)

To: Donovan, Joan M[joan_donovan@hks.harvard.edu]; Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]
From: Vivian Schiller
Sent: Wed 6/9/2021 5:31:53 PM
Subject: Re: Public Inquiry into Jan 6th
Received: Wed 6/9/2021 5:32:13 PM

Sounds great. Now if only you could also get subpoena power! Let me know if we can help in any way.

From: Donovan, Joan M <joan_donovan@hks.harvard.edu>
Date: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at 11:54 AM
To: Vivian Schiller <Vivian.Schiller@aspensinstitute.org>, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Subject: Public Inquiry into Jan 6th

Hi Vivian,

Kate and I were talking to Craig about a need for a Public Inquiry into Jan 6th and the momentum for a research/journalist consortium, where a shared data set could be the key to accountability. He suggested we contact you before he meets with us.

I think Kate's lab is the perfect place to house such a data repository, and Craig has shown some interest in funding UW CIP to bulk up their infrastructure.

Justin Hendrix and I have also been talking about the need for an independent research endeavor: <https://techpolicy.press/senate-report-on-january-6-points-to-need-to-investigate-role-of-social-media-in-insurrection/>

Now that we know Gov will be stalled on their investigations, it's now in our hands to gather and analyze the evidence. To that end, I just hired Luke O'Brien to write a report about Jan 6th, looking deeply at the operatives, like Ali Alexander and Lin Wood, and their social media calls to insurrection.

Craig is apprehensive that the project might be dangerous because we'd be targeted, but Kate and I both know the risks.

What might you advise here? Ideally, we want to put Craig at ease that this is a field wide endeavor, where we are facilitating the exchange of knowledge and data. How have you managed this in the past?

Best,
Joan

Joan Donovan, PhD
[Research Director](#)
Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics, and Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School

To: Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]
From: Vivian Schiller
Sent: Fri 2/26/2021 4:46:39 PM
Subject: FW: Aspen Commission on Information Disorder
Received: Fri 2/26/2021 4:47:09 PM
[Commission 1 Page.pdf](#)

Hi Kate, Just bumping this up. Please say yes! Vivian

From: Vivian Schiller <Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org>
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 10:24 AM
To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Cc: Garrett Graff <Garrett.Graff@aspeninstitute.org>, Sara Sendek <sara.sendek@aspeninstitute.org>, Chris Krebs (Fellow) <chris.krebs@aspeninstitute.org>
Subject: Aspen Commission on Information Disorder

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 months. These are subject to change by the Commission once it convenes.

We would be honored to have you join us as a Commissioner! Please feel free to contact myself, Vivian.schiller@aspeninstitute.org or Garrett Graff, garrett.graff@aspeninstitute.org, if you have any questions or to let us know whether you are willing to participate at your earliest convenience. We look forward to hearing from you.

Cheers,

Vivian

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Vivian Schiller
Executive Director, Aspen Digital

The Aspen Institute
+1-240-463-0496
@vivian





The Aspen Commission on Information Disorder

The insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, fueled by months of disinformation about the validity and outcome of the 2020 presidential election, provides a stark example of the real-life dangers that disinformation campaigns pose when they penetrate public discourse. Conspiracy theories, information operations, and other forms of disinformation—both coordinated and independent—fragment our shared realities and are driving an immediate real-world crisis. While the insurrection is as a clarion call, the crisis we confront stretches far beyond electoral politics and democratic norms. Our nation is already wrestling with disinformation challenges from vaccine safety to emerging technologies like 5G. Information disorder, often infused with racism, misogyny and anti-Semitism, threatens not only our democracy but also our economy, our public health, and our future.

The **Aspen Commission on Information Disorder** aims to identify and prioritize the most dangerous sources and causes of information disorder and deliver a set of short-term actions and longer-term goals to help government, the private sector, and civil society respond to this modern-day crisis of faith in key institutions.

Disinformation is one of the largest, most complex problems the world faces today. The policy problems encompass deep, fundamental questions of the First Amendment, content moderation, Section 230, national security, and more. No single project could attempt to answer all of them at once; the root causes and ongoing public crisis in reliable and trustworthy information represents a vast field of study and includes factors running from our education system to the business incentives for tech companies. Similarly, there is no easy fix. Solutions will take generations to play out. However, this national crisis requires immediate, definable near-term steps, and the Commission will initially maintain its focus on quick, effective wins: What actions can government, media, civic groups and private industry take *now* to help secure reliability in our information ecosystems, with an emphasis on rebuilding public trust in the foundation of democracy?

The Commission's efforts will draw from the enormous amounts of thoughtful work that has already taken place in this arena; rather than reinventing ideas or starting from scratch, a key and explicit facet of the Commission's undertaking will be to elevate and amplify the excellent work already being done inside government, academia, research centers, and the private sector on these topics, as well as to convene and connect key voices across disciplines.



SCOPE: We are facing a national emergency as significant numbers of Americans turn to an alternate reality, not based in truth or facts. Through a series of expert briefings, structured conversations and roundtables, and surveys of existing research, this Commission will determine: (a) the most damaging near-term disinformation threats that policymakers should prioritize; (b) the lawful and ethical means by which the federal government can promote fact-based information to counter the most dangerous disinformation campaigns; and (c) how private industry, tech platforms, and government can work together in the short term to engage disaffected populations who have lost faith in evidence based reality? As interest and time allows, the Commission may also (d) lay out a longer-term research, study, or action agenda for the field to undertake in the years ahead. Throughout its work, the commission will also consider (e) issues of equity and community representation when it comes both to the negative effects of disinformation as well as efforts to counter such problems.

The Commission may choose to task a limited number of original research projects or convene small, industry-specific working groups to help answer questions, test hypotheses, and evaluate thinking as its work develops.

WHO: The Commission will consist of multiple co-chairs, representing key perspectives and a mix of experiences, alongside approximately 15 commissioners drawn from government, research and academia, civil society, and private industry. The composition of the commission is intended to represent a diversity of expertise, backgrounds and lived experience. We will also draw upon both formal and informal expert advisors, as well as commission additional research as needed.

WHEN: The commission will first convene in mid-March for two hours and twice monthly thereafter through August. All meetings will be virtual until such time it is safe to meet in person.

At the 45-day mark, approximately in late April or early May, the commission will publish a white paper that surveys and frames the “information disorder” problem and defines and prioritizes how the group sees the most dangerous and urgent issues that must be addressed first.

At the six-month mark, the group will convene in Aspen (if safe to do so) to announce and publish a set of immediately actionable solutions to the most pressing issues, as well as a set of recommendations for the longer term. The commission will also, potentially, recommend a longer path forward past August.

###

To: Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]
Cc: David Forscey[David.Forscey@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Vivian Schiller
Sent: Sun 11/15/2020 8:10:32 PM
Subject: Re: Aspen Institute Meeting Invitation
Received: Sun 11/15/2020 8:11:01 PM

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: kstarbi@uw.edu[kstarbi@uw.edu]
Cc: David Forscey[David.Forscey@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Vivian Schiller
Sent: Sun 11/15/2020 6:33:45 PM
Subject: Aspen Institute Meeting Invitation
Received: Sun 11/15/2020 6:34:24 PM

Hi Kate,

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@vivian

 **ASPEN DIGITAL**
THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

To: Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]
Cc: Beth Semel[Beth.Semel@aspeninstitute.org]; Garrett Graff[Garrett.Graff@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Vivian Schiller
Sent: Mon 8/31/2020 10:18:07 PM
Subject: Re: Speaking Invitation - Aspen Institute
Received: Mon 8/31/2020 10:18:32 PM

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 mins 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 mins. 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 work with them! It's fantastic. Just to be clear, this meeting is focused on what happens 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: Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]
Cc: Beth Semel[Beth.Semel@aspeninstitute.org]; Garrett Graff[Garrett.Graff@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Vivian Schiller
Sent: Fri 8/14/2020 10:29:48 PM
Subject: Re: Speaking Invitation - Aspen Institute
Received: Fri 8/14/2020 10:30:01 PM

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!

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Vivian Schiller
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<image001.png>

To: Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]
Cc: Beth Semel[Beth.Semel@aspeninstitute.org]; Garrett Graff[Garrett.Graff@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Vivian Schiller
Sent: Sun 8/16/2020 10:02:09 PM
Subject: Re: Speaking Invitation - Aspen Institute
Received: Sun 8/16/2020 10:02:24 PM

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 work with them! It's fantastic. Just to be clear, this meeting is focused on what happens 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 when our feeds and airwaves are flooded with uncertainty. How do we inform without causing such alarm that the public loses 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: kstarbi@uw.edu[kstarbi@uw.edu]
From: Vivian Schiller
Sent: Fri 8/14/2020 9:48:06 PM
Subject: Speaking Invitation - Aspen Institute
Received: Fri 8/14/2020 9:49:19 PM

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.

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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



To: Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]
From: Renee DiResta
Sent: Mon 12/20/2021 10:50:39 PM
Subject: Re: Virality Project - final report review
Received: Mon 12/20/2021 10:51:27 PM

In the table in her paper <https://academic-oup-com.stanford.idm.oclc.org/ofid/article/4/3/ofx146/3978712> I think 100% of the people named do benefit financially.

In our paper it is a very significantly high percentage, upon just skimming it again there are only 1-2 mentioned in that chapter that perhaps don't (Naiomi Wolf?). Also, we are saying "who benefit (*often*, financially)" we could additionally note other types of benefits might include general audience growth/clout or capturing public attention. That might then require going down a bunny trail on why those things are a benefit, so my pref is to keep it simple.

From: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Sent: Monday, December 20, 2021 2:41 PM
To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Subject: Re: Virality Project - final report review

Here is the relevant passage from Smith's paper:

"Although many of the individuals who spread vaccine misinformation are ordinary citizens, the sources of most antivaccine tropes are individuals or groups who benefit from the spread of such inaccuracies. Many of the primary antivaccine "thought leaders" have written books or produced movies that characterize vaccines as dangerous and unsafe (see Supplemental Information for examples of antivaccine books and sites). Others run groups dependent on donations from individuals who support their ideas. Still others rely on clicks, advertising revenue, and product sales from online sites where they share articles on the "dangers" of vaccines. "

And then ours:

"These mechanisms rely on a group of social media influencers that Smith divides into five distinct groups: The Doctors, The Celebrity, The Organizers, The "Mommy Bloggers," and The Opportunists. Smith notes that most of these influencers are not ordinary citizens but individuals or groups who benefit (often, financially) from the spread of health misinformation." -- we are attributing the claim to the paper in the sentence in question, so I have amended to "many" since that is the specific word the cited paper uses, but could reduce it down further if you think it sounds like we are saying it?

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Monday, December 20, 2021 2:34 PM
To: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: Virality Project - final report review

Could we use "some" and then footnote specific cases (i.e. highlighting where the actor makes money from the sale of books)? I think the issue is that "many" casts suspicion over all of them, which can be problematic.

Kate

On Dec 20, 2021, at 2:31 PM, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu> wrote:

I can chat about that financial question whenever; I reread the passage and it definitely says "most" but not all; we can change to "many" or something like that.

To: Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]
From: Renee DiResta
Sent: Mon 12/20/2021 10:41:02 PM
Subject: Re: Virality Project - final report review
Received: Mon 12/20/2021 10:44:12 PM

Here is the relevant passage from Smith's paper:

"Although many of the individuals who spread vaccine misinformation are ordinary citizens, the sources of most antivaccine tropes are individuals or groups who benefit from the spread of such inaccuracies. Many of the primary antivaccine "thought leaders" have written books or produced movies that characterize vaccines as dangerous and unsafe (see Supplemental Information for examples of antivaccine books and sites). Others run groups dependent on donations from individuals who support their ideas. Still others rely on clicks, advertising revenue, and product sales from online sites where they share articles on the "dangers" of vaccines. "

And then ours:

"These mechanisms rely on a group of social media influencers that Smith divides into five distinct groups: The Doctors, The Celebrity, The Organizers, The "Mommy Bloggers," and The Opportunists. Smith notes that most of these influencers are not ordinary citizens but individuals or groups who benefit (often, financially) from the spread of health misinformation." -- we are attributing the claim to the paper in the sentence in question, so I have amended to "many" since that is the specific word the cited paper uses, but could reduce it down further if you think it sounds like we are saying it?

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Monday, December 20, 2021 2:34 PM
To: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: Virality Project - final report review

Could we use "some" and then footnote specific cases (i.e. highlighting where the actor makes money from the sale of books)? I think the issue is that "many" casts suspicion over all of them, which can be problematic.

Kate

On Dec 20, 2021, at 2:31 PM, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu> wrote:

I can chat about that financial question whenever; I reread the passage and it definitely says "most" but not all; we can change to "many" or something like that.

To: Debra L Zumwalt[zumwalt@stanford.edu]; Julia Carter[jccarter@uw.edu]; Tune, Cydney A.[cydney.tune@pillsburylaw.com]; Buder, James K (ATG)[james.buder@atg.wa.gov]; Jevin West[jevinw@uw.edu]
Cc: kstarbi[kstarbi@uw.edu]
From: Alex Stamos
Sent: Fri 10/2/2020 7:22:49 PM
Subject: RE: UW-Stanford Intro on Project Veritas
Received: Fri 10/2/2020 7:24:00 PM

Great. I just added everybody to a 4pm all-hands. It would be great if an attorney or two could join to explain their side.

Do we want to plan on a call before then to look through the letter?

Alex

From: Debra L Zumwalt <zumwalt@stanford.edu>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2020 12:17 PM
To: Julia Carter <jccarter@uw.edu>; Tune, Cydney A. <cydney.tune@pillsburylaw.com>; Buder, James K (ATG) <james.buder@atg.wa.gov>; Jevin West <jevinw@uw.edu>
Cc: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>; kstarbi <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Carole Palmer <clpalmer@uw.edu>
Subject: RE: UW-Stanford Intro on Project Veritas

You should be getting it momentarily!
Thanks,
Debra

From: Julia Carter <jccarter@uw.edu>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2020 11:31 AM
To: Tune, Cydney A. <cydney.tune@pillsburylaw.com>; Buder, James K (ATG) <james.buder@atg.wa.gov>; Debra L Zumwalt <zumwalt@stanford.edu>; Jevin West <jevinw@uw.edu>
Cc: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>; kstarbi <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Carole Palmer <clpalmer@uw.edu>
Subject: RE: UW-Stanford Intro on Project Veritas

Good morning! I'm writing to check in on the ETA of the draft of the response letter? Our team is standing by to review, but would be good to know when we can expect it (and to make sure we haven't missed it).

Thank you so much!

From: Julia Carter
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2020 2:47 PM
To: Tune, Cydney A. <cydney.tune@pillsburylaw.com>; Buder, James K (ATG) <james.buder@atg.wa.gov>; Debra L Zumwalt <zumwalt@stanford.edu>; Jevin West <jevinw@uw.edu>
Cc: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>; kstarbi <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Subject: RE: UW-Stanford Intro on Project Veritas

I'm happy to take the liberty of setting up the Zoom call for 3pm for those on the string. Stay tuned for a link. If 3:30 is better, let me know and I'll adjust.

Thanks all!

Julia

JULIA CARTER (she/her)
Director of Strategy and Operations | Center for an Informed Public
University of Washington
206.897.1798 / Box 352115 / cip.uw.edu
News & Insights: [Sign up for the CIP's newsletter](#)
Follow the CIP on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

From: Tune, Cydney A. <cydney.tune@pillsburylaw.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2020 2:14 PM

To: Buder, James K (ATG) <james.buder@atg.wa.gov>; Debra L Zumwalt <zumwalt@stanford.edu>; Jevin West <jevinw@uw.edu>; Julia Carter <jccarter@uw.edu>

Cc: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>; kstarbi <kstarbi@uw.edu>

Subject: RE: UW-Stanford Intro on Project Veritas

Importance: High

James –

As we have a number of people who want to participate and we haven't heard back from Debra yet, I was thinking that we should go ahead and schedule the call at 3 pm today. Debra can join us if she is able. Even if not, though, we can proceed with this initial call.

Can you set up a Zoom call for 3 pm today and invite everyone who is included on this email? That would be very helpful.

If 3:30 would work better for the group as a whole, I can make that work too.

Thanks in advance and talk soon,

Cydney

Cydney A. Tune | Senior Counsel

Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP

Four Embarcadero Center, 22nd Floor | San Francisco, CA 94111-5998

t +1.415.983.6443 | f +1.415.983.1200

cydney.tune@pillsburylaw.com | [website bio](#)

From: Tune, Cydney A. <cydney.tune@pillsburylaw.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2020 1:27 PM
To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Buder, James K (ATG) <james.buder@atg.wa.gov>; Debra L Zumwalt <zumwalt@stanford.edu>
Cc: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>
Subject: RE: UW-Stanford Intro on Project Veritas

Hi Kate - Thank you for the introduction to James Buder. That's very helpful.

Hi James - I could do a call at 3 pm this afternoon if that still works for you. I'm not sure if Debra will want to be on the call, let's see how she responds and we'll go from there.

Hi Debra - Do you want to be on the call with James and I?

- If so, would 3 pm this afternoon work for you?
- If you want to be on the call but can't make 3 pm work, is there another time today or tomorrow morning that you want to propose?
- If you want us to proceed without you, let us know and we'll go ahead.

My best to you all,

Cydney

Cydney A. Tune | Senior Counsel

Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP

Four Embarcadero Center, 22nd Floor | San Francisco, CA 94111-5998

t +1.415.983.6443 | f +1.415.983.1200

cydney.tune@pillsburylaw.com | [website bio](#)

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2020 1:12 PM
To: Tune, Cydney A. <cydney.tune@pillsburylaw.com>
Cc: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>; Debra L Zumwalt <zumwalt@stanford.edu>; Buder, James K (ATG) <james.buder@atg.wa.gov>
Subject: Re: UW-Stanford Intro on Project Veritas

Hello Cydney,

I'm writing to introduce you to James Buder, our representative from the Attorney General's office here in Washington. He has some availability this afternoon (3-4:30) and he is willing to connect.

Unfortunately, I'm not available at that time, but I can follow up with folks afterwards or sometime tomorrow morning.

Best,
Kate

On Oct 1, 2020, at 7:50 AM, Tune, Cydney A. <cydney.tune@pillsburylaw.com> wrote:

Hi Alex - Thank you for the introduction.

Hi Professor Starbird - It is very nice to meet you, even though it's not under the best of circumstances.

Best regards,

Cydney

Cydney A. Tune | Senior Counsel

Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP

Four Embarcadero Center, 22nd Floor | San Francisco, CA 94111-5998

t +1.415.983.6443 | f +1.415.983.1200

cydney.tune@pillsburylaw.com | [website bio](#)

From: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>

Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 9:49 PM

To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Tune, Cydney A. <cydney.tune@pillsburylaw.com>; Debra L Zumwalt <zumwalt@stanford.edu>

Subject: UW-Stanford Intro on Project Veritas

* EXTERNAL EMAIL *

Kate,

Debra, the general counsel of Stanford, and Cydney from Pillsbury will be handling the Veritas matter on our side. Please let us know when you have a legal contact at UW for them to work with.

Debra and Cydney, this is Professor Kate Starbird, our excellent counterpart at UW.

-Alex

--

Alex Stamos

Director, Stanford Internet Observatory

stamos@stanford.edu

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To: Mike Caulfield[mica42@uw.edu]; Daniel Bateyko[dbateyko@stanford.edu]; tjaggie[tjaggie@uw.edu]
Cc: Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]
From: Renee DiResta
Sent: Tue 6/28/2022 6:09:06 PM
Subject: RE: Trope Tracker for today's primary
Received: Tue 6/28/2022 6:09:11 PM

Thanks. Is this what your team will be doing today? Our team is going to be testing out looking at alt-platforms, CT (with lists made from candidates, parties, regional groups), and some other things from our capability set. Believe Junkipedia is in the mix too. We're looking at Colorado, Oklahoma, and NY. Will be creating tickets, etc, so we can share feedback on that process on Thursday.

My main concern with logging multiple tickets for different processes is that they seem time consuming (vs just checking a box that says "yeah we on Trope Tracker team also saw this" or something) and that there will be small variations in the tickets in terms of URLs etc. How are you envisioning "merging" these? Is it T2 analysts who have to do that work?

From: Mike Caulfield <mica42@uw.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, June 28, 2022 12:37 PM
To: Daniel Bateyko <dbateyko@stanford.edu>; tjaggie <tjaggie@uw.edu>
Cc: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Subject: Trope Tracker for today's primary

The trope tracker is a bit long in the tooth -- hasn't been updated since I first put it together a year ago. But it still might be helpful in primaries today.

Because the tracker may encode some bias towards previous narratives, it should never be used as a replacement for general scans, just as a supplement.

In an ideal world, intake looks like this:

1. Some intake on general terms ("ballot", "voter fraud") with multiple people
2. One or two people on trope tracker

The heuristic/method field in Jira should be credited to "Trope Tracker (v. 1a)" + the heading over the search link clicked.

- If the item is already logged via the general term teams work, we'd still like to log the same item through Trope Tracker
- If the general team discovers something already logged by Trope Tracker, we'd still like to log it via the general team

This will show us what things we are missing with general queries and with Trope Tracker, and allow future researchers to decide whether they only want terms coming through the general process or the Trope Tracker. As we add additional processes (algorithmic, community, etc) we should still hold to this -- do not skip logging just because another process got there first.

How Trope Tracker Works

Trope tracker is a search string generator built in Jupyter. It outputs a set of search strings scoped for a certain time range using a set of terms previously associated with election fraud narratives. That generated HTML is then put in a PDF.

It is currently scoped to tweets of the last two days. We do two days instead of one because older tweets can become viral. (Time can be adjusted in Jupyter).

To search for a term, any number of likes, just click the search link

Magic USB

USB, thumb drive, etc. portrayed as being of shady provenance.

thumb drive (votes OR ballots OR poll)	+5	+15	+75	+250	+500	sep/oct20	nov/dec20	
USB (votes OR ballots OR poll)	+5	+15	+75	+250	+500	sep/oct20	nov/dec20	spring21
jump drive (votes OR ballots OR poll)	+5	+15	+75	+250	+500	sep/oct20	nov/dec20	s
memory card (votes OR ballots OR poll)	+5	+15	+75	+250	+500	sep/oct20	nov/dec20	

.....

If there are a lot of results of limited importance, or if there are just too many results to sort through, you can use the "+" numbers to filter by number of likes. E.g. clicking "+5" will show the same search term but only those with five likes or more.

Additional links are provided of previous periods if you want to see what these narratives have looked like before. This can also be helpful in determining whether you are looking at an old claim or a new one.

Future Plans

As I said, this version is a bit old. The current plan is to update it with newer work on election tropes, and create search strings linked to the taxonomy. Running it side by side with other processes over the course of the election will hopefully show its strengths and weaknesses and help prompt revisions. But as long as you log things that come from it as coming from this process, its good to go.

Sincerely,

Mike.

To: Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]; Jeffrey T. Hancock[hancockj@stanford.edu]
Cc: Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]
From: Renee DiResta
Sent: Thur 9/16/2021 3:18:09 PM
Subject: RE: IRB for NSF grant, UW leading w/ another institution
Received: Thur 9/16/2021 3:20:02 PM

Yup – looping in Elena here for all things IRB on our end.

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Thursday, September 16, 2021 10:53 AM
To: Jeffrey T. Hancock <hancockj@stanford.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Subject: Fwd: IRB for NSF grant, UW leading w/ another institution

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.

Looking through the grant, we noticed portions that do not qualify as human subjects research under UW policies like activities that solely use publicly available data. These portions will not be covered under the single IRB review so your Stanford collaborators will need to follow their institution's policies on whether a formal determination of not human subjects research is needed for those activities.

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 <hsdrely@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 <hsdrely@uw.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 10:54 AM
To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Cc: Mallory Shaw <mdshaw87@uw.edu>; Crystal Welliver <welliver@uw.edu>
Subject: Re: IRB for NSF grant, UW leading w/ another institution

Hi Kate,

Is the eGC1 for this project A165026? Before I bring this to the rest of the team to discuss, I want to make sure that I have the correct information and grant application to look at.

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.

Thanks,
Jenny Maki
IRB Reliance Administrator
206-543-4798

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 10:25 AM
To: HSD Rely <hsdrely@uw.edu>
Cc: Mallory Shaw <mdshaw87@uw.edu>; Crystal Welliver <welliver@uw.edu>
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 <hsdrely@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,
Jenny Maki
IRB Reliance Administrator
206-543-4798

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 2:16 PM
To: HSD Rely <hsdrely@uw.edu>
Cc: Mallory Shaw <mdshaw87@uw.edu>
Subject: IRB for NSF grant, UW leading w/ another institution

Hello,

I'm reaching out with questions around an IRB proposal our team (HCDE/iSchool) is developing. The project has been awarded (by the NSF) and is awaiting IRB approval.

And I'm hoping to open up a discussion to ask some questions we have about how best to structure the IRB.

We're the lead institution on a collaborative NSF grant (collaborating with Stanford). We have a letter from Stanford stating that they will be relying upon us for the "single IRB".

The work includes several complementary research components. Some are UW-focused. Some are collaborative. And a few elements are Stanford-led. I'm attaching an early draft of our IRB which provide some info about the different components. I'm also including a graphic below.

I have several questions, including:

- Should we put all the components in the same IRB? Or split them out (social media analysis vs. ethnography vs. surveys and experiments)?
- What about components for which we aren't yet ready to execute (materials are still in development or depend upon other aspects)? For example, the surveys and experiments are not yet ready to launch and will be informed by other research components.
- The research is oriented around collaborative rapid response efforts — which we are studying as a kind of “intervention” — and which inform and are informed by the other research elements. Does that make sense? How do we best communicate that?

I'd be happy to get on a call to chat about the project and get your sense of how best to structure the IRB.

Thank you,

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

<SaTC-IRB-slide-SS2.png>


To: kstarbi@uw.edu[kstarbi@uw.edu]
From: Renee DiResta (Google Docs)
Sent: Tue 8/16/2022 11:23:35 PM
Subject: Influencer - Revi... - same comment as in case study 1, this...
Received: Tue 8/16/2022 11:23:37 PM

Renee DiResta added a comment to the following document

 Influencer - Revision

 1 comment

Less than an hour after her first tweet and minutes after her call to action, @L's claims started to gain traction among micro-, meso-, and macro-influencers — and eventually to mega-influencers. At 4:24 UTC, meso-influencer @TheLaurenChen (259K followers) retweeted @L's call to action without comment. Lauren was a host at BlazeTV, the same hyper-partisan news outlet for which @ElijahSchaffer (initiator of Sonoma Ballots) worked. Shortly thereafter, meso-influencer Ian Miles Cheong (@stillgray), who had been tagged into conversation minutes earlier, and who played a similar role as an early amplifier of Sonoma Ballots, posted a series of quotes and retweets of @L. At 5:02 UTC, mega-influencer @michellemalkin, who @L had tried to interact directly with earlier, posted the first of two quotes and two mention tweets promoting @L and her work. GOP congressman @DrPaulGosar (70K followers), who had helped amplify #SharpieGate and whose follower count had grown considerably through his ...

 Renee DiResta

• 4:18 PM, Aug 16 (PDT)

New

same comment as in case study 1, this might be better moved into supplemental materials and replaced with a graph.

 Renee DiResta

• 4:18 PM, Aug 16 (PDT)

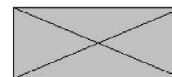
New

this section doesn't have one of the bokeh graphs...

Open

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

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



To: Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]; Scherer, William[William.Scherer@mail.house.gov]
From: Renee DiResta
Sent: Thur 1/20/2022 7:14:03 PM
Subject: Re: January 6th Meeting today
Received: Thur 1/20/2022 7:16:04 PM

Yes, that works for me too.

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Thursday, January 20, 2022 9:15 AM
To: Scherer, William <William.Scherer@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: January 6th Meeting today

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 <rdiresta@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>

--

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

To: kstarbi@uw.edu[kstarbi@uw.edu]
From: Renee DiResta (via Google Sheets)
Sent: Thur 5/7/2020 3:22:14 AM
Subject: Mikovits YT shares - Invitation to edit
Received: Thur 5/7/2020 3:22:51 AM

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Mikovits YT shares

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To: kstarbi@uw.edu[kstarbi@uw.edu]
From: Renee DiResta (via Google Docs)
Sent: Wed 5/6/2020 7:33:52 PM
Subject: Manufacturing an influencer: the cross-platform approach - Invitation to edit
Received: Wed 5/6/2020 7:34:55 PM

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



Manufacturing an influencer: the cross-platform approach

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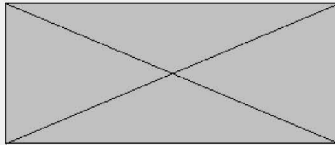
Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA

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To: kstarbi@uw.edu[kstarbi@uw.edu]
From: Laura Rosenberger
Sent: Wed 8/2/2017 10:43:45 AM
Subject: ADVISORY: Russian Propaganda Tracking Tool Launches Today
Received: Wed 8/2/2017 10:44:27 AM

If you have problems viewing this email, you can view it as a web page. To view the mobile-friendly web page click [here](#)



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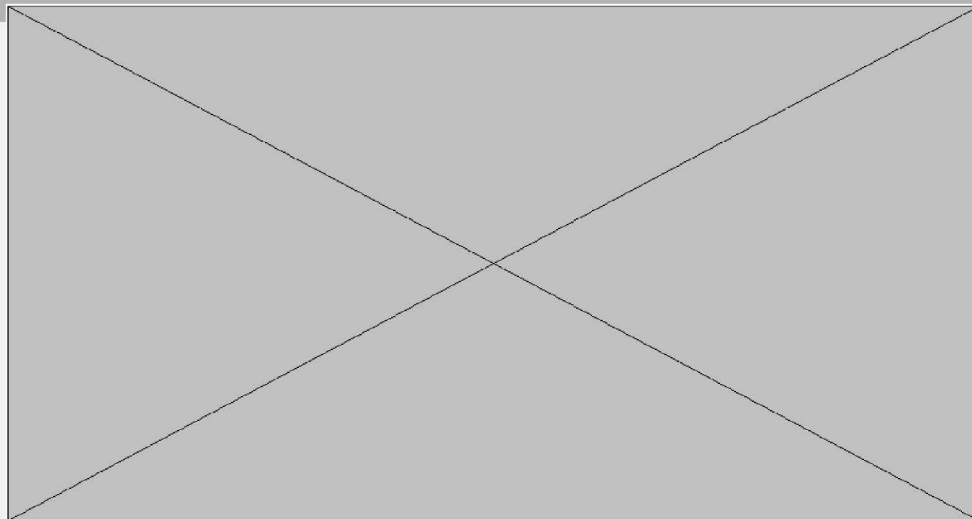
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[SecuringDemocracy.ORG](#)

Hamilton 68 Dashboard Launches Today

MEDIA
ADVISORY
August 2,
2017

A New Tool to Track Russian Disinformation on Twitter

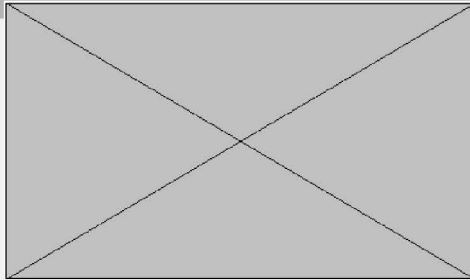


So, What is This Tool Exactly? | J.M. Berger, Laura Rosenberger

In the Federalist Papers No. 68, Alexander Hamilton wrote of protecting America's electoral process from foreign meddling. Today, we face foreign interference of a type Hamilton could scarcely have imagined. The **Hamilton 68** dashboard, a project with the Alliance for Securing Democracy at the German Marshall Fund of the United States, seeks to expose the effects of online influence networks and inform the public of themes and content being promoted to Americans through a near real-time look at Russian propaganda and disinformation efforts online.

[READ MORE](#)

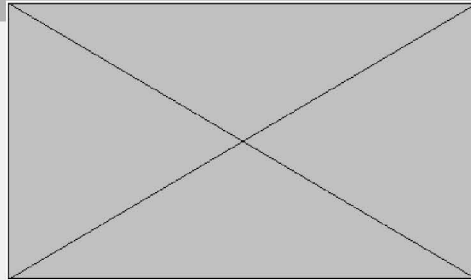
What is the Hamilton 68 Dashboard Monitoring?



The top of the dashboard shows tweets from Russia's overt propaganda outlets in English, and a short post discussing the themes of the day. But these disinformation networks also include bots and trolls, and our analysis has linked 600 Twitter accounts to Russian influence activities online. The lower section of the dashboard features topics, hashtags, and links currently promoted by this network.

[READ MORE](#)

How Current is the Hamilton 68 Dashboard?



The automated monitoring updates continuously throughout the day, with a five minute lag to real time. The "top themes" will update in the morning, and case studies, infographics, and other materials will be added in the coming weeks and months. You can sign up for alerts and emails about **Hamilton 68** dashboard updates (and other updates on the Alliance for Securing Democracy) [here](#).

[READ MORE](#)

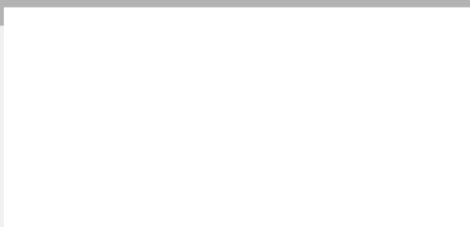
Press Inquiries

For interview requests or other questions, please contact:

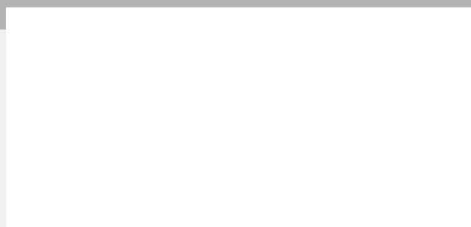
Kelsey Glover, Public Relations Manager, +1 202 683 2648, kglover@gmfus.org

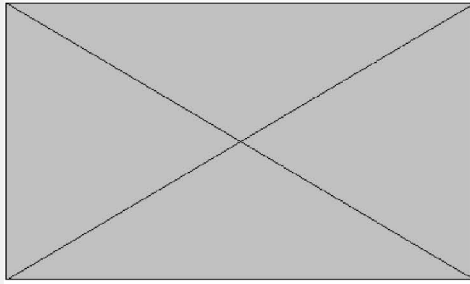
[CONTACT](#)

How is Hamilton 68 a Tool for Journalists?



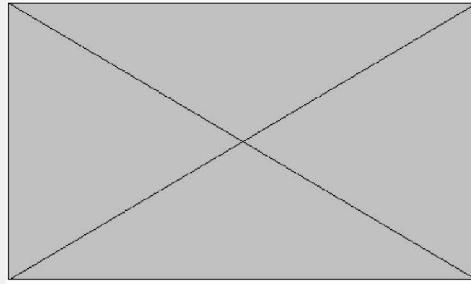
Who Created and Operates Hamilton 68?





Hamilton 68 will help journalists and ordinary people alike identify Russian messaging themes and detect active disinformation or attack campaigns at the start. This will reduce the effectiveness of Russia's attempts to influence Americans' thinking, and deter this activity in the future.

[READ MORE](#)



The **Hamilton 68** dashboard is the collective research and development of Clint Watts, J.M. Berger, Andrew Weisburd, and Jonathon Morgan. This team is working with the Alliance for Securing Democracy to develop strategies to secure democracies against external assault.

[READ MORE](#)

Alliance for Securing Democracy

The Alliance for Securing Democracy, a bipartisan, transatlantic initiative housed at The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) led by Laura Rosenberger and Jamie Fly, 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.

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To: Paul Lockaby[plockaby@uw.edu]
Cc: Sean M. McNee[smcnee@domaintools.com]; Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]; Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]; dthiel@stanford.edu[dthiel@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Sun 8/30/2020 9:28:06 PM
Subject: Re: DT and the Election Integrity Project
Received: Sun 8/30/2020 9:28:27 PM

Thanks Sean and Paul. I'll move some items around in my schedule to make sure I can attend this (Tuesday at 1pm).

Paul, do we want to invite Emma as well? Seems like she would be a good contact on our side (another faculty PI working on analysis).

Kate

> On Aug 28, 2020, at 8:26 AM, Paul Lockaby <plockaby@uw.edu> wrote:

>

> Hi Sean,

>

> I think that we're all available at 1pm on Tuesday. We all have Google accounts that we can use to join your meeting if you want to host it over Zoom. Can you make sure that a phone number is available, too?

>

> Thanks,

> -Paul

>

>> On Aug 27, 2020, at 9:43 AM, Sean M. McNee <smcnee@domaintools.com> wrote:

>>

>> Hello Paul, Kate, Alex, Elena, and David,

>>

>> The Research Team at DomainTools is excited about the possibilities of helping identify how Internet infrastructure could be used to spread misinformation or cause interference in our elections.

>>

>> Proposed Meeting Times

>>

>> Scheduling can be painful, so I will propose several possible times next week when DT can meet, and I hope that one of these slots works for everyone.

>> • Monday, Aug 31, 10:30 - 11am, Pacific

>> • Monday, Aug 31, 3:30 - 4pm, Pacific

>> • Tuesday, Sept 1, 1-1:30pm, Pacific

>> • Wednesday, Sept 2, 2:30-3pm, Pacific

>> • Thursday, Sept 3, 10:30-11am, Pacific

>> Please let me know which time works for everyone and we can make it happen. From my personal perspective, the Tuesday time slot is best, with a secondary preference for Monday afternoon.

>>

>> Access to Iris and our APIs

>>

>> To pre-emptively answer a few questions about what kind of access we can offer, here are some details:

>> • Access for academic research is provided free of charge

>> • Access is time-limited but can be easily renewed

>> • Access includes:

>> • Iris Investigate web-based investigation tool

>> • Iris APIs

>> • PhishEye APIs and email alerts

>> • Classic/Standalone APIs (e.g. Whois History, IP Whois, etc.)

>> • Monitoring APIs

>> • APIs have quotas, but sizes can be adjusted per your usage needs

>> • Training and support

>> • Because access is given for free, official training and support may be limited

>> • The Research Team, however, is here to help

>> DomainTools provided Iris and API access to Kate Starbird and her research team a few years ago. That account is still in our system and it would be straightforward to re-enable it.

>>

>> Documentation

>> • <https://www.domaintools.com/resources/api-documentation/>

>> • <https://www.domaintools.com/products/iris/>

>>

>> DomainTools uses Google Meet as our virtual conferencing platform. I am happy to host if people are ok using Meet.

>>

>> I am looking forward to talking with everyone about this opportunity!

>>

>>
>> Sean
>>
>> On Wed, Aug 26, 2020 at 12:32 PM Paul Lockaby <plockaby@uw.edu> wrote:
>> Hi Sean!
>>
>> I've cced these people:
>>
>> Kate Starbird - PI at UW CIP
>> Alex Stamos - Director of the Stanford Internet Observatory and faculty POC at Stanford
>> Elena Cryst - Assistant Director of the Internet Observatory
>> David Thiel - CTO at the Internet Observatory
>>
>> Do you have some times available to meet with us for 30 minutes? Like I said, this is to just go over what tools are available, how we intended to use them, and generally what the relationship will be between the EIP and DomainTools.
>>
>> Thanks!
>> -Paul
>>
>>
>>> On Aug 25, 2020, at 11:18 AM, Paul Lockaby <plockaby@uw.edu> wrote:
>>>
>>> Thanks Sean! You responded much faster than I expected. We're meeting with Stanford on this topic tomorrow and I'll have points of contact after that (I hope) and I'll set up a 30 minute meeting with me, Kate, Stanford's faculty POC and Stanford's technical contact just to go over what services are available and how this relationship might work. Does that sound good?
>>>
>>> Thanks,
>>> -Paul
>>>
>>>> On Aug 24, 2020, at 5:29 PM, Sean M. McNee <smcnee@domaintools.com> wrote:
>>>>
>>>> Hi Paul,
>>>>
>>>> Researching the use of domains and Internet Infrastructure for possible misinformation on the elections or for causing other electoral interference is an interesting and very timely research topic.
>>>>
>>>> DomainTools would be interested in both providing access to DT's product and services to UW and Stanford for the Election Integrity Project in support of these efforts as well as possibly having the DT Research team work actively with the Election Integrity Project on election-related research topics.
>>>>
>>>> A few ground rules DomainTools has for research access:
>>>> • Access usually is provided on a term/semester basis and can be renewed; we like to do check-ins to make sure you're still getting value from the data
>>>> • Access is given to professors/Pis as a single account--the Pis are 'admins'. Grad students and other researchers can be added to the account as required. We do not give individual accounts to students
>>>> • Account access is free. We do have rate limits on API access both in terms of queries per minute and total calls available per month. We may require IP allowlists for access.
>>>> • We ask to be acknowledged in any publication in which our data is used
>>>> DomainTools also supports longer term research using our data. We can provide letters of support and multi-year access for new grants where our data can provide value.
>>>>
>>>> If you're interested in getting access, please let me know and we can set up a time to talk through some details.
>>>>
>>>>
>>>> Sean
>>>>
>>>>
>>>> PS. Please say 'hello' to Prof. Kate Starbird from me!
>>>>
>>>>
>>>> --
>>>> Sean M. McNee, PhD
>>>> Director of Research
>>>> DomainTools
>>>
>>
>>
>>
>> --

>> Sean M. McNee, PhD
>> Director of Research
>> Domain Tools
>>
>>
>

To: c2i2 Center Staff[centerstaff@c2i2.ucla.edu]
Cc: John Sands[sands@kf.org]; SAFIYA NOBLE[snoble@g.ucla.edu]; Sarah Roberts[sarah.roberts@ucla.edu]; stamos@stanford.edu[stamos@stanford.edu]; ecryst@stanford.edu[ecryst@stanford.edu]; bellagc@stanford.edu[bellagc@stanford.edu]; Vanessa Rhinesmith[vrhinesmith@c2i2.ucla.edu]; Stacy E Wood[swood@c2i2.ucla.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 8/27/2020 5:32:00 PM
Subject: Re: Overdue intro
Received: Thur 8/27/2020 5:32:18 PM

Hello Vanessa,
(Thank you John for the introductions.)

We're excited to connect with you all! You all are doing such amazing and important work.

Early September sounds good. Would something on Friday the 11th work?
(My afternoon is still wide open that day. The rest of the week is a mess.)

Kate

On Aug 27, 2020, at 8:33 AM, c2i2 Center Staff <centerstaff@c2i2.ucla.edu> wrote:

Hi, all,

Thank you, John, for the kind words - and for the introductions!

A pleasure to connect with everyone.

We definitely have a few things going on at the moment.

Kate - would it be possible to schedule time in early September to connect (week of the 7th)?

I also added our Director of Research, Stacy Wood, to this thread.

cheers, all, and more soon, //vanessa

--

//vanessa rhinesmith

Director of Strategic Partnerships and Programs

[UCLA Center for Critical Internet Inquiry](#)

From: John Sands <sands@kf.org>

Sent: Monday, August 24, 2020 7:33 PM

To: SAFIYA NOBLE <snoble@g.ucla.edu>; Sarah Roberts <sarah.roberts@ucla.edu>; c2i2 Center Staff <centerstaff@c2i2.ucla.edu>; Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>

Cc: stamos@stanford.edu <stamos@stanford.edu>; ecryst@stanford.edu <ecryst@stanford.edu>; bellagc@stanford.edu <bellagc@stanford.edu>

Subject: Overdue intro

Dear Safiya and Sarah,

Congratulations again on the grant you received from Minderoo Foundation last week--truly phenomenal recognition of the work you're engaged in. I've been meaning to reach out about the [Election Integrity Partnership](#), a new initiative being led by, among others, Knight research grantees at Stanford and the University of Washington. Given all the other plates you're spinning these days, I'm not sure what you're planning during the runup to November, but given that the communities your work serves are among the most vulnerable targets of electoral interference, I did want to make an introduction to the team in case it would be helpful to compare notes. I've copied Kate Starbird on this message by way of introduction in case there are opportunities or alignments worth exploring.

Best wishes,
john

John Sands, PhD
Director | Learning & Impact
KNIGHT FOUNDATION
215-407-7186
kf.org | @knightfdn

To: Sam Stewart[samaruddin@google.com]
Cc: Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]; Daniel Bateyko[dbateyko@stanford.edu]; Clement Wolf[clementwolf@google.com]; Mike Caulfield[mica42@uw.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 8/2/2022 6:20:40 PM
Subject: Re: EIP 2022
Received: Tue 8/2/2022 6:20:41 PM

Hi Sam,
(Adding my UW colleague Mike Caulfield.)

We've (quietly) posted an initial "launch" article and are doing a soft (internal) launch today, focused on the AZ primaries, to test our updated system and processes:

<https://www.eipartnership.net/blog/about-eip-2022>

My sense is that we'll be fully operational by September 1, but will likely start to do "real" intake (and partner tagging) by the second or third week of August.

We'll follow up with you in the next week or so to talk about how we'll connect with you and your team.

Warm regards,
Kate

On Aug 1, 2022, at 6:10 AM, Sam Stewart <samaruddin@google.com> wrote:

Hello Renee, Kate, and Dan,

Happy August! I wanted to check back in to see if there were any status updates on the plans for the EIP?

I think during our last discussion on June 30, *sometime in August* was mentioned as a potential start date, and I wanted to check back on any firmer timeline and or next steps (scoping doc, Jira instructions, etc.).

All best,
Sam

On Fri, Jul 15, 2022 at 12:46 AM Sam Stewart <samaruddin@google.com> wrote:

Hello Renee, Kate, and Dan,

Thanks for meeting with us to brief on the plans for the EIP 2022. We've since socialized the effort internally and are happy to move forward and participate as we did in 2020.

As discussed, we welcome the opportunity to preview any of the larger reports that have nexus to our policies - including the platform analysis at launch and final project report for visibility.

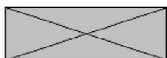
We will standby for next steps, including seeing the project scoping document, information on accessing JIRA, and other pertinent logistics when available.

All best,
Sam

--

- Samaruddin Stewart
- Government Affairs and Public Policy

• [+1 650 582 6043](tel:+16505826043) | samaruddin@google.com



--

- Samaruddin Stewart
- Government Affairs and Public Policy
- [+1 650 582 6043](tel:+16505826043) | samaruddin@google.com



To: Olga Belogolova[obelogolova@fb.com]
Cc: Julia Carter Scanlan[jccarter@uw.edu]; Emma Spiro[espiro@uw.edu]; [REDACTED] 51 @uw.edu]; Jevin West[jevinw@uw.edu]; David Agranovich[dagranovich@fb.com]; Lindsay Hundley[lhundley@fb.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 12/1/2021 5:38:04 PM
Subject: Re: Connecting about Research Opportunities - FB + UW Center for an Informed Public
Received: Wed 12/1/2021 5:38:10 PM

Hi Olga!

Thanks for sending this along. This is exciting news! It's really great to see this coming together and I think it will be really valuable for the future of disinformation research. We'll put our heads together over here and see if there's enough interest/capacity here to move forward. I think we have a few folks who might be interested (the anti-vax and Vietnamese angles hit along some active threads here), but we'll have to get a sense of capacity.

Do you have a time window in mind? I'm imagining we'd be looking at a "loop back after the holidays" timeline here. It's that time of year in the academic world.

Kate

On Dec 1, 2021, at 12:13 AM, Olga Belogolova <obelogolova@fb.com> wrote:

Kate, Julia, Emma, Jevin, and [REDACTED] 51

I hope you're all doing well. I wanted to follow up here on our conversation from September and share some exciting news. Later today (12 pm PT / 3 pm ET), we will be publicly announcing the existence of the CrowdTangle IO Research Platform (which we discussed with your team a few months back).

This announcement will come alongside our November 2021 CIB report (including 4 CIB networks from China, Palestine, Poland and Belarus) and a broader adversarial threat report that also covers two additional networks we've disrupted under other security policies, including a network from Vietnam we've removed under our mass reporting policy and another network linked to the anti-vaccination movement V_V we've removed under our brigading policy.

We know we've spoken previously about the possibility of sharing more information with you and finding a way to get your team onboarded to the archive, should there be an interest at a later time. As an update between us, we are in the process of onboarding at least 5 additional research partners and are working to expand this to even more in the coming months. We expect (and hope) that the announcement of the platform will likely spur further interest among researchers globally as well!

Reiterating our thanks for your thoughtful, tough, and insightful questions about this effort when we last connected. As we discussed in September, we would love to keep the door open for continuing this conversation and for any feedback or questions you might have about this work.

Looking forward to continuing the conversation!

Best,

Olga

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>

Date: Sunday, September 19, 2021 at 3:50 PM

To: Olga Belogolova <obelogolova@fb.com>

Cc: Julia Carter Scanlan <jccarter@uw.edu>, Emma Spiro <espiro@uw.edu>, [REDACTED] 51 @uw.edu" <[REDACTED] 51 @uw.edu>, Jevin West <jevinw@uw.edu>, Steven Siegel <ssiegel@fb.com>, Heather Alpino <halpino@fb.com>, David Agranovich <dagranovich@fb.com>, Anneliese Agren <annelieseagren@fb.com>

Subject: Re: Connecting about Research Opportunities - FB + UW Center for an Informed Public

Hi Olga,

Thank you so much for meeting with our team last week. We really enjoyed chatting with and learning from your team. We're excited about the prospect of you all making this data available to researchers for some slower and more systematic study.

We do have an

51

51

Happy to chat more about the possibility as the effort takes shape.

Warmly,
Kate

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

On Sep 14, 2021, at 12:29 PM, Olga Belogolova <obelogolova@fb.com> wrote:

Kate, Julia, Emma, Jevin, and

51

Thank you so much for taking the time to meet with our team yesterday about research opportunities and our hope to expand our sharing on coordinated inauthentic behavior networks to more research organizations. We all very much appreciated your thoughtful and insightful (and important) questions about this effort. And your ideas as well! As I mentioned on the call, we would love to keep the door open for continuing this conversation, for any questions you might have, and any other concerns you'd like to share.

If helpful, [here was our team's IO threat report](#), which we put out in May looking at some of the trends we've seen across covert influence / CIB networks. And as David mentioned, we have [a whole other effort on inauthentic behavior](#) that goes beyond inauthentic accounts (to your great questions about inauthentic amplification and distribution). There are some lines between those two sets of [policies](#) and enforcements we're exploring right now and always welcome the feedback.

In addition, we would definitely welcome recommendations on research institutions to connect with. We have a running list that we've been building for this outreach for those that might be interested in studying CIB networks, but open to ideas so that we can continue to grow and diversify the community as much as possible. And, as you said, address concerns around privileged access.

Looking forward to continuing the conversation!

Best,

Olga

--

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

To: Olga Belogolova[obelogolova@fb.com]
Cc: Julia Carter Scanlan[jccarter@uw.edu]; Emma Spiro[espiro@uw.edu]; [REDACTED]@uw.edu; Jevin West[jevinw@uw.edu]; Steven Siegel[ssiegel@fb.com]; Heather Alpino[halpino@fb.com]; David Agranovich[dagranovich@fb.com]; Anneliese Agren[annelieseagren@fb.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Sun 9/19/2021 10:48:59 PM
Subject: Re: Connecting about Research Opportunities - FB + UW Center for an Informed Public
Received: Sun 9/19/2021 10:49:00 PM

Hi Olga,

Thank you so much for meeting with our team last week. We really enjoyed chatting with and learning from your team. We're excited about the prospect of you all making this data available to researchers for some slower and more systematic study.

We do have an [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Happy to chat more about the possibility as the effort takes shape.

Warmly,
Kate

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

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Kate, Julia, Emma, Jevin, and [REDACTED]

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Best,

Olga

--

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

To: Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]; kstarbi@uw.edu[kstarbi@uw.edu]; AlexStamos[stamos@stanford.edu]; Mike Caulfield[mica42@uw.edu]; Daniel Bateyko[dbateyko@stanford.edu]
From: Renee DiResta
Sent: Wed 3/16/2022 9:26:01 PM
Subject: FW: Russian Hybrid War Report - March 2, 2022
Received: Wed 3/16/2022 9:26:14 PM

These reports emails from DFR are really nicely organized and useful for summarizing the day's top concerns and then events (in depth) since the last email. Slightly lower detail than our VP weeklies but very useful for understanding the facts in brief, and they probably involve a lot less editing (Something to think about for our outputs)

From: Graham Brookie <gbrookie@atlanticcouncil.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 10:01 AM
To: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Subject: Russian Hybrid War Report - March 2, 2022



Social platforms crack down on Kremlin media as Kremlin demands compliance (03/02/2022)

Previous monitoring (published twice per week with additional reporting as events occur) [linked here](#) .

In depth investigations:

- Kharkiv neighborhood experienced ongoing shelling prior to February 28 attack
- Kremlin media used claims of Ukraine creating a dirty bomb to justify invasion
- Russian media outlets steadily increased claims that Ukraine will start a war
 - How ten false flag narratives were promoted by pro-Kremlin media
- Top comments on Chinese social media criticize the West while supporting Putin
- Fake Telegram group urges Africans in Ukraine to wear armbands used by combatants

Key monitoring takeaways today:

Exploitation of social platforms

- Social media companies crack down on Kremlin media outlets amidst government demands for compliance
- Russian parliament proposes fifteen years in prison for sharing “fakes” about Russian troops

Documenting dissent

- Kremlin blocks independent outlets Ekho Moskvy and TV Rain, threatens Wikipedia
 - Kremlin ramps up pressure on independent media outlets
- In Belarus, protests and calls for soldiers to renounce the war in Ukraine
- Cyber activists disrupt Russian and Belarusian state-controlled media and public services
 - Georgians protest against their government, expressing solidarity with Ukraine

Tracking narratives

- Russian TikTok users allegedly compensated to produce near-identical videos
- Georgian far left push message that Ukraine war is a battle between US and Russian empires
 - South Ossetia supports Russian invasion, blaming rise of neo-Nazis

Security

- Belarusian paratroopers expected in Ukraine as Lukashenka confirms missile fire

Regional reactions

- Ugandan general tweets support for Russia
- Sudan Foreign Ministry says Russian media reported military leader's comments out of context

Social media companies crack down on Kremlin media outlets amidst government demands for compliance

[Google](#), [Meta](#), and [Twitter](#) are taking action against Russian state-owned media accounts to limit the spread of harmful information online. At the request of the European Union, Meta will restrict access to Kremlin-owned outlets *RT* and *Sputnik* across the EU. Earlier, Meta announced it would also restrict access to several Russian state media accounts in Ukraine at the government's request. In addition, the company has demonetized the accounts of Russian state-owned media organizations and prohibited them from posting ads on Facebook and Instagram.

In a similar move, [Google](#) has blocked *RT* and *Sputnik's* YouTube channels across Europe. It will also prevent RT and other relevant outlets from receiving funding from ads on their websites and apps.

Meanwhile, Twitter announced actions to reduce the spread of articles from Russian state-affiliated media. Links to Kremlin media will now include a "stay

informed” label. Since the start of the invasion, there has been an uptick in the sharing of Kremlin media articles on Twitter, with more than 45,000 tweets a day directing users to state-affiliated outlets.

Twitter also said that advertisements in Ukraine and Russia are on pause to ensure that critical public safety information is “elevated.” To this end, users in the two countries will no longer see tweet recommendations from accounts they don’t follow.

Responding to social media companies’ increased moderation efforts, the Russian government ordered companies to comply with a new law that mandates social media platforms operating in Russia must set up local offices and register with Russia’s media watchdog, Roskomnadzor. Under this legislation, local representatives could be held liable if Russia feels platforms are not abiding by local laws. These actions have been widely condemned by digital rights experts, as the law could be used as justification to intimidate employees with the threat of arrest and pressure companies to engage in censorship.

Both Russian independent news outlets and Tik Tok have already fielded requests from the government to take down content related to the war in Ukraine. In response to what Russia claims is “censorship” by social media companies, Roskomnadzor announced restrictions on access to Facebook, and access to Twitter appears to be limited as of February 26.

Over the weekend, Facebook and Twitter removed two covert influence operations targeting Ukrainians. One operation was tied to Russia, and another had connections to Belarus. Facebook also said the pro-Belarus hacking group Ghostwriter was targeting Ukrainians, including the military.

—Jacqueline Malaret, Assistant Director, Washington, DC

—Ingrid Dickinson, Young Global Professional, Washington, DC

—Lukas Andriukaitis, Associate Director, Brussels, Belgium

Russian parliament proposes fifteen years in prison for sharing “fakes” about Russian troops

Vyacheslav Volodin, chairman of the Russian State Duma, approved a proposal by the Security and Anti-Corruption Committee to draft a law introducing criminal liability for sharing “fake” content related to Russia’s armed forces. Members of the ruling United Russia party previously proposed introducing such a bill, citing “a lot of disinformation” on social media. The bill passed its first reading on March 2 and is expected to be presented for its second reading in several days.

The draft law states that the punishment for sharing fake content about Russian

troops would be fifteen years in prison. The move could be a reaction to the increasing amount of footage showing Russia targeting civilian areas in Ukraine, which Russia denies. The law might intimidate Russian internet users and discourage them from sharing or saving such footage, particularly anything documenting war crimes. Meanwhile, Karim Khan, a prosecutor with the International Criminal Court, [announced](#) that he would investigate Russia for possible war crimes or crimes against humanity in Ukraine.

—[Eto Buziashvili](#), Research Associate, Tbilisi, Georgia

Kremlin blocks independent outlets Ekho Moskvyy and TV Rain, threatens Wikipedia

On March 1, Wikipedia [shared](#) a notice they received from Russia's Roskomnadzor information agency threatening to block the crowdsourced platform due to its [Russian-language article](#) on Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The notice cited the inclusion of information about Russian military personnel casualties and Ukrainian civilian victims. In response, Wikipedia [shared workarounds](#) for users if Wikipedia does become blocked in Russia.

That same day, Russian users found themselves unable to access the websites for the liberal radio station [Ekho Moskvyy](#) and the independent broadcaster [TV Rain](#). Around the same time, the Russian Prosecutor General's office released a [statement on Telegram](#) saying they had submitted demands to Roskomnadzor to restrict access to both channels. The statement accused the outlets of calling for extremism and violence, spreading "false information" regarding Russia's special operation in Ukraine, and calling for "mass public events."

The Prosecutor General's office stated that the restrictions could legally be put in place due to Article 15.3 Federal Law No. 149-FZ Paragraph 1, "On Information, Information Technologies and Data Protection," which covers the restriction of access to information inciting mass riots, extremist activities, and participation in mass public events. According to [Article 15.3](#), the Russian government must first notify the online publication hosting the problematic content and request that it be removed; if the content is not immediately removed, they may then proceed with restricting access to the online publication.

TV Rain [posted](#) on Telegram that the Prosecutor General's office did not identify specific materials on their website that violated Russian laws. It also said it strictly followed legal standards and used trusted sources when covering events in Ukraine.

Both Ekho Moskvyy and TV Rain began trending on Twitter in Russia as these events unfolded.

Kremlin ramps up pressure on independent media outlets

On February 24, Russian federal censor Roskomnadzor stated that Russian media outlets were “obliged” to rely on information received from Russian official sources while covering Russia’s “special operation” in Ukraine. The statement also argued that Roskomnadzor would block all attempts of disseminating “knowingly false information” on the internet. Considering the fact that Russia has generally avoided disclosing information about the exact number of casualties and military loss in Ukraine, Roskomnadzor’s announcement might be an attempt to prevent independent media from reporting casualty statistics. Having said that, Kremlin outlet RBK reported on March 2 that Russia had experienced a total of 498 deaths and 1,597 injuries since the invasion, according to the Ministry of Defense.

On February 28, Roskomnadzor claimed that it found instances of Google Ads being used to spread “unreliable socially significant information” about Russian and Ukrainian casualties. Consequently, Roskomnadzor demanded that Google restrict access to such materials, and warned Russian Internet sites against distributing such ads to avoid administrative fines or website bans. Roskomnadzor did not specify what false information it had found, but its statement suggests it wishes to prevent the distribution of any kind of information about Russian casualties to prevent public outrage.

Russian authorities have already taken actions against multiple independent media outlets. On February 28, Roskomnadzor blocked access to Current Time and Krym.Realij, both projects of *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty*, as well as the New Times. Following the ban, Current Times wrote that they were accused of “spreading unreliable socially significant information about the Russian military allegedly killed and captured within the territory of Ukraine.” *RFE/RL* President Jamie Fly assessed the Kremlin’s move as “an attempt to hide the terrible truth about the human price of Putin’s criminal war against Ukraine.”

On top of blocking internet resources, journalists at independent media outlets also face physical threats. On February 24, *Interfax* journalist Dmitry Gavrillov was arrested during an anti-war rally in Saint Petersburg while he was taking a photograph of an anti-war banner. Gavrillov showed his press credentials to police but was nonetheless detained. The following day, Russian police arrested three *RFE/RL* journalists covering anti-war protests in Moscow, even though they too had all the necessary credentials to work during mass protests.

In Belarus, protests and calls for soldiers to renounce the war in Ukraine

Videos of a February 27 protest in Belarus have surfaced on social media. The protests were in response to several recent developments in the country, including Belarus joining the war against Ukraine, serving as a transit point for Russian weapons, and Belarus revoking its non-nuclear status after a February 27 constitutional referendum. Crowds gathered near the defense ministry chanting “Glory to Ukraine!” and “Long live Belarus.” The Belarusian government responded aggressively, sending in riot police to detain protesters.

Meanwhile, Belarusians living in Vilnius, Lithuania climbed over the fence of the Belarusian embassy and replaced the official state flag hanging outside the building’s entrance with the opposition nationalist flag and a Ukrainian flag.

Lastly, a video of Belarusian lieutenant colonel Sakhshchik Valery Stepanovich discouraging soldiers from joining the war in Ukraine went viral online. “This is not our war,” he said. “Find a way not to follow criminal orders. Sometimes saying ‘no’ takes the most courage.”

—Lukas Andriukaitis, Associate Director, Brussels, Belgium

Cyber activists disrupt Russian and Belarusian state-controlled media and public services

When Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, the cyber activist collective Anonymous announced their “war against the Kremlin.” Over the next several days they took credit for successful attacks on public services and state controlled media in Russia and Belarus. As there is no official Anonymous account on Twitter, the collective used hashtags #OpRussia and #OpKremlin to share news and updates about the cyber-attack campaign.

On February 26, Anonymous claimed they had hacked Kremlin-owned TV channels, which suddenly started showing footage from Ukraine that contradicted the official Kremlin narrative. Many anonymous Twitter accounts reported on the hack.

The following day, Anonymous took credit for taking down a long list of Russian government websites, including the Russian pension fund, the State Service, the presidential administration, customs, the national government site, Moscow’s mayor, and the Chechnya Republic. As of March 2, many of these sites – Mos.ru, government.ru, customs.gov.ru, kremlin.ru, gosuslugi.ru, and pfr.gov.ru – remained offline. Chechnya.gov.ru had been restored, but now required users to demonstrate they were not automated bots using “captcha” tests before being allowed to proceed to the site.

On February 28, Anonymous claimed they had downed Russian [propaganda](#) websites, three Belarusian [banks](#), and multiple Belarusian government sites, including the [Information Ministry](#), [Military Industry Authority](#), and [Defense Ministry](#). While one Belarusian bank, [Belinvestbank.by](#), has been restored, [belarusbank.by](#) and [priorbank.by](#) remained compromised at the time of writing, alongside the government sites [mil.by](#), [vpk.gov.by](#), and [mpt.gov.by](#).

In addition to shutting down websites, Anonymous also took credit for leaking information from Russia's [Ministry of Defense](#) and the [Russian Nuclear Institute](#).

Anonymous is not the only cyber activist collective attacking Russian and Belarusian infrastructure. The DFRLab [previously](#) reporting about the Belarusian Cyber Partisans hacking the Belarus Railway company, while the [IT Army of Ukraine](#) is also engaging in cyber activism.

—[Nika Aleksejeva](#), *Lead Researcher, Riga, Latvia*

Georgians protest against their government, expressing solidarity with Ukraine

On March 1, a large rally in Tbilisi demanded the Georgian government's resignation and snap elections. The latest protest took place in solidarity with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky after he [announced](#) that Ukraine was recalling its ambassador to Georgia due to the government's "immoral position" on sanctions and barring Georgian volunteers from flying to Ukraine.

Georgia has seen four consecutive days of protests, as thousands take to the street to [express](#) their solidarity with Ukraine and condemn the Georgian government's position on Ukraine. Volodymyr Zelensky expressed support for the protesters when he [tweeted](#) on February 26, "Incredible Georgian people who understand that friends must be supported! Grateful to everyone in Tbilisi and other cities who came out in support of Ukraine and against the war. Indeed, there are times when citizens are not the government, but better than the government."

—[Sopo Gelava](#), *Research Associate, Tbilisi, Georgia*

Russian TikTok users allegedly compensated to produce near-identical videos

Multiple [Russian](#) TikTok users [published](#) now-deleted [videos](#) with the hashtag [#давайзамир](#) ([#letssofarpeace](#)), in which they included near-identical phrases such as "All are blaming Russia, but close their eyes that Donbas has been under fire for eight years," and "Please check all the news, we're fighting for peace." Notably, the text in many of these videos was also extremely similar, and on some

occasions identical, strongly suggesting either coordination or the distribution of talking points for Russian video creators. Indeed, some Russian TikTok users pushed back publishing messages claiming they were offered payment to post peace symbols and express the message that Russia is stopping the war rather than starting it, and that the world has ignored the Donbas for eight years.

The scope of the narrative operation caught the eye of other TikTok users, who compiled videos of TikTokers voicing similar statements, then shared them for being corrupt. Some of these TikTokers muted comments to avoid criticism, while others ultimately deleted their videos.

Not long after this first wave of similar narratives, a second wave appeared, when multiple users published videos featuring the lines, “In 2015, a new memorial named Alley of Angels was built in Donetsk” and “Russia wants to bring peace.” These videos were available at the time of publishing but may soon be deleted as well.

—Roman Osadchuk, *Research Associate*

Georgian far left push message that Ukraine war is a battle between US and Russian empires

Georgian far-left groups are promoting the narrative that the war in Ukraine is a battle between two empires over Ukrainian resources. The narrative portrays the US and Russia as equal threats to Ukraine. On February 24, Politicano, a Facebook page known for Soviet Union nostalgia and affiliated with the Kremlin linked News Front Georgia, posted that Ukraine has become a battleground for Western and Russian empires. Another Facebook page, “ნაპერწყალი” (“Spark”), which describes itself as an “independent Marxist collective initiative,” posted that the war in Ukraine is a conflict between Russian and Western imperialists, fighting over spheres of influence and resources.

The narrative that Ukraine is stuck between the imperial interests of the West and Russia aligns with messaging coming from far-right Russian philosopher Aleksandr Dugin. On February 27, Dugin posted, “This is not a war with Ukraine. This is a confrontation with globalization...on all levels, including geopolitical and ideological.” According to him, Russia is creating a global resistance zone. “When we win, everybody benefits from it,” he said.

—Sopo Gelava, *Research Associate, Tbilisi, Georgia*

South Ossetia supports Russian invasion, blaming rise of neo-Nazis

On February 28, the KGB of South Ossetia issued a statement claiming that there

is raise of neo-Nazi and nationalistic sentiments in Georgia. The claim refers to Georgians willing to join Ukraine's international legion of territorial defence, that allows foreign volunteers to support Ukraine's defense efforts. The South Ossetia KGB described Georgian volunteers as "aggressive Georgian volunteers from the ranks of [former President] Mikheil Saakashvili's radical followers." It continued, "Instead of recognising its responsibility for crimes committed against humanity from 1920s till 2008, the Tbilisi regime expresses support for Ukrainian Banderovtsi [followers of the 20th century Ukrainian nationalist Stepan Bandera] who in turn are nurturing their own revanchist goals."

That same day, South Ossetia's information agency published a story with the headline, "South Ossetia and Russia unite against Nazism." The article claimed that citizens of South Ossetia launched a flash mob on social networks with the hashtag #Мирбезнацизма ("World without Nazism"). As of March 2, the DFRLab could not find a single public post on either Facebook or Twitter featuring the hashtag during the alleged time span of the flash mob.

—Sopo Gelava, *Research Associate, Tbilisi, Georgia*

Belarusian paratroopers expected in Ukraine as Lukashenka confirms missile fire

On the morning of February 28, the Kyiv Independent reported that the first Ilyushin Il-76 transport aircraft was expected to deploy Belarusian paratroopers into Ukraine. Meanwhile, reports of ballistic missiles launched from Belarus into Ukraine continue to surface, with some reports suggesting the use of Iskander missiles. Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka later confirmed missiles were launched from Belarus on February 27.

—Lukas Andriukaitis, *Associate Director, Brussels, Belgium*

Ugandan General tweets support for Russia

Ugandan Lieutenant General Mahoozi Kainerugaba, son of President Yoweri Museveni and leader of the country's land forces, tweeted on February 28, "The majority of mankind (that are non-white) support Russia's stand in Ukraine." The DFRLab previously identified a network of inauthentic Facebook assets working to prime Lt. Gen. Kainerugaba as the next president of Uganda.

The Ugandan Embassy in Moscow called on nationals living in Ukraine to remain cautious and follow instructions issued by the Ukrainian government. The embassy said, "It is our prayer that the situation will be short lived, and that normality will soon be restored." The presidency has yet to issue any further comment on the

war.

On February 24, Vladlen Semivolos, [Russia's ambassador](#) to Uganda, spoke to Uganda's permanent secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Vincent Waiswa Bagiire, about developing bilateral cooperation in the United Nations.

—[Tessa Knight](#), *Research Associate, Cape Town, South Africa*

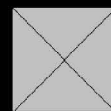
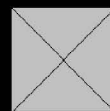
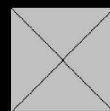
Sudan Foreign Ministry says Russian media reported military leader's comments out of context

The deputy head of Sudan's military council, Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, was [quoted](#) by Russian media outlet FAN as having recognized the independence of the Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics. Daglo, who visited Moscow last week, was quoted saying, "The whole world must realize that it is [Russia's] right to defend herself." However, the Sudan Tribune [reported](#) a statement from Sudan's Foreign Ministry claiming Daglo's quote was taken out of context and used as a "cheap attempt to fish in troubled waters."

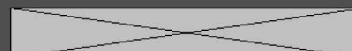
On February 27, Sudan's state news agency [reported](#) that the meeting between Sudanese and Russian officials had been scheduled prior to the war in Ukraine, and that Sudan called for de-escalation "on both sides."

—[Tessa Knight](#), *Research Associate, Cape Town, South Africa*

END



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To: Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]
Cc: Jevin West[jevinw@uw.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 8/18/2020 5:56:55 PM
Subject: adding Microsoft as a partner?
Received: Tue 8/18/2020 5:57:08 PM

Hi Alex,

Jevin (director of the UW Center for an Informed Public) just received some communication from Microsoft folks. They heard about the EIP and are interesting in finding a way to help. Would the EIP be interested in pulling MS in as a partner?

If this seems like a possibility, I'll have you connect with Jevin to figure out how it might work.

Thanks,
Kate

To: Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]; Camille Francois[camille.francois@graphika.com]; Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]; Emerson Brooking[EBrooking@ATLANTICCOUNCIL.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 8/14/2020 8:46:42 PM
Subject: how are we going to manage the onslaught of post office sabotage (and drop off your ballot) narratives?
Received: Fri 8/14/2020 8:46:52 PM

Just wondering if we're ready to jump into that. It's not exactly what we were expecting (except it kind of is), but certainly is ripe for information, misinformation, and disinformation coming from just about every direction.

To: Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 8/11/2020 7:07:03 PM
Subject: Re: Money from Craig
Received: Tue 8/11/2020 7:07:10 PM

Thanks. Super helpful context.

On Aug 11, 2020, at 11:47 AM, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu> wrote:

Yes, I would ask for the upper end.

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 11:36:05 AM
To: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: Money from Craig

I just sent him a message, because I had a hunch that he'd be interested. We're looking for funding to hire students for the Fall (specifically on the EIP project) — to increase our capacity. We're working on a budget. We could go really small (mostly hourly undergrads), but I'm thinking 50k-100k so we can hire some Master's students as well. Do you think he's comfortable in that range?

On Aug 11, 2020, at 11:33 AM, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu> wrote:

Newmark just made a comment that he wanted you to apply for a grant? He is very keyed up to fast-track any ask for election-related work.

Just wanted to let you know in case you have no idea what he is talking about (which wouldn't be a surprise).

Alex

--

Alex Stamos
Director, Stanford Internet Observatory
stamos@stanford.edu

To: Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 8/11/2020 6:36:05 PM
Subject: Re: Money from Craig
Received: Tue 8/11/2020 6:36:12 PM

I just sent him a message, because I had a hunch that he'd be interested. We're looking for funding to hire students for the Fall (specifically on the EIP project) — to increase our capacity. We're working on a budget. We could go really small (mostly hourly undergrads), but I'm thinking 50k-100k so we can hire some Master's students as well. Do you think he's comfortable in that range?

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Newmark just made a comment that he wanted you to apply for a grant? He is very keyed up to fast-track any ask for election-related work.

Just wanted to let you know in case you have no idea what he is talking about (which wouldn't be a surprise).

Alex

--

Alex Stamos
Director, Stanford Internet Observatory
stamos@stanford.edu

To: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 8/5/2020 9:53:20 PM
Subject: Re: Hello from Geneva
Received: Wed 8/5/2020 9:53:24 PM

Hi Renee,

My first set of PhD students is set to graduate this year, but all are already either set up with a job or focused on industry. But definitely keep these coming as time goes on. My next cohort of students is 2-3 years from completion and they're all a bit more junior (in terms of age) and better situated (likewise) to do a postdoc after their PhD.

Kate

On Aug 5, 2020, at 10:41 AM, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu> wrote:

Research Fellow from University of Geneva looking for a post-doc. We don't really have anyone who fits the bill here, Elena thought you might? Let me know, if at all useful I'll suggest he reach out.

From: Steven James Barela <Steven.Barela@unige.ch>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 10:32 AM
To: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Subject: Hello from Geneva

Dear Director DiResta,

Please allow me to introduce myself. I am a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Geneva and as I am familiar with your important and pioneering work studying the spread of malign narratives across social networks, I was hoping that you might be able to assist me with two small requests.

My proposal for a 5-year research project on "Digital Disinformation Operations and National Security" has advanced to the final stage of assessment for funding by the European Research Council. This project has been designed to harness the tools of international law, philosophy and social science to illuminate the stark hazards—and propose measured defensive responses—in the age of cross-border disinformation campaigns. In simple terms, I wish to explore their propriety, nature and extent.

To begin, I would like to know if might you have a spare moment to discuss my proposed project briefly to gather your feedback? Essentially, I would value your counsel on how to best guide this work to explore what you would consider the most important aspects re digital (dis)information operations.

Secondly, this project would require the hiring of a skilled post-doc researcher to accompany me in this work starting in the fall of 2021. I have a solid command of the international law and political philosophy aspects of the study, and I wish to find an accomplished junior researcher who has the skills to map news ecosystems and create network graphs & data visualizations. Knowing that in February Facebook finally released its first URL dataset for academic research through Social Science One, I plan to be looking for a passionate scholar interested in making a significant contribution to a project meant to have an impact. As a result, I would be interested in recommendations or indications of how to best find such a researcher.

I thank you in advance to my requests and look forward to your reply.

All the best,

Steve

--

Steven J. Barela, LL.M., Ph.D.
Senior Research Fellow
University of Geneva
Global Studies Institute/
Law Faculty

<pastedImage.png>

<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/interrogation-and-torture-9780190097523?cc=ch&lang=en#>

To: Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]
From: Renee DiResta
Sent: Wed 8/5/2020 5:41:38 PM
Subject: FW: Hello from Geneva
Received: Wed 8/5/2020 5:42:08 PM

Research Fellow from University of Geneva looking for a post-doc. We don't really have anyone who fits the bill here, Elena thought you might? Let me know, if at all useful I'll suggest he reach out.

From: Steven James Barela <Steven.Barela@unige.ch>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 10:32 AM
To: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Subject: Hello from Geneva

Dear Director DiResta,

Please allow me to introduce myself. I am a Senior Research Fellow at the [University of Geneva](https://www.unige.ch) and as I am familiar with your important and pioneering work studying the spread of malign narratives across social networks, I was hoping that you might be able to assist me with two small requests.

My proposal for a 5-year research project on "Digital Disinformation Operations and National Security" has advanced to the final stage of assessment for funding by the European Research Council. This project has been designed to harness the tools of international law, philosophy and social science to illuminate the stark hazards—and propose measured defensive responses—in the age of cross-border disinformation campaigns. In simple terms, I wish to explore their propriety, nature and extent.

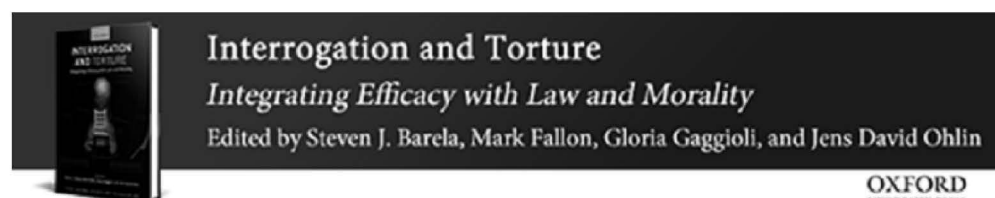
To begin, I would like to know if might you have a spare moment to discuss my proposed project briefly to gather your feedback? Essentially, I would value your counsel on how to best guide this work to explore what you would consider the most important aspects re digital (dis)information operations.

Secondly, this project would require the hiring of a skilled post-doc researcher to accompany me in this work starting in the fall of 2021. I have a solid command of the international law and political philosophy aspects of the study, and I wish to find an accomplished junior researcher who has the skills to map news ecosystems and create network graphs & data visualizations. Knowing that in February Facebook finally released its first URL dataset for academic research through Social Science One, I plan to be looking for a passionate scholar interested in making a significant contribution to a project meant to have an impact. As a result, I would be interested in recommendations or indications of how to best find such a researcher.

I thank you in advance to my requests and look forward to your reply.

All the best,
Steve

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Steven J. Barela, LL.M., Ph.D.
Senior Research Fellow
University of Geneva
Global Studies Institute/
Law Faculty



<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/interrogation-and-torture-9780190097523?cc=ch&lang=en#>

To: Isabella Garcia-Camargo[bellagc@stanford.edu]
Cc: Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]; Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]; Julia Carter[jccarter@uw.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 8/3/2020 8:40:54 PM
Subject: Re: questions about external partners for community engagement -libraries
Received: Mon 8/3/2020 8:40:55 PM

Great. I'll focus on the August 17 date and pass that along to Chris. And we'll add them to the civil society partners list once we confirmed participation. Thanks!

> On Aug 3, 2020, at 12:28 PM, Isabella Garcia-Camargo <bellagc@stanford.edu> wrote:

>

> Hi Kate,

>

> This sounds great - the August 12 meeting is a broad strokes introduction, which they are welcome to attend, but a concrete next step will be to include them into our August 17th meeting for our Civil Society partners, have added them to that list! I think engagement on the Comms side will be an interesting escalation after this, which we should discuss at our meeting Thursday if we want to take that step. Added to agenda!

>

> Best,

>

> Isabella Garcia-Camargo

>

> On 8/3/20, 10:58 AM, "Kate Starbird" <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

>

> Hi Alex (and Isabella and Elena),

>

> One focus of our Center at UW is on community outreach through libraries. Chris Coward, our lead PI on that effort, has connections to a few national library organizations. If possible, we would like to bring these organizations into the EIP as external partners for the community engagement piece (helping to translate our analysis into material for the public). Because libraries are non-partisan organizations that have traditionally served public information needs, we think this would be a great fit for this initiative.

>

> How best can we connect these folks to this effort? Chris is happy to manage this from our side. Should I get him looped into the Community Engagement group? Could we invite the library contacts (1-3 folks) to the Aug 12 meeting? Or will there be another meeting for external partners specifically on the community engagement side (journalists)?

>

> Sorry for the questions... just trying to figure out where to plug these folks in!

>

> Kate

>

To: Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]; Isabella Garcia-Camargo[bellagc@stanford.edu]; Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]
Cc: Julia Carter[jccarter@uw.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 8/3/2020 5:58:11 PM
Subject: questions about external partners for community engagement -libraries
Received: Mon 8/3/2020 5:58:12 PM

Hi Alex (and Isabella and Elena),

One focus of our Center at UW is on community outreach through libraries. Chris Coward, our lead PI on that effort, has connections to a few national library organizations. If possible, we would like to bring these organizations into the EIP as external partners for the community engagement piece (helping to translate our analysis into material for the public). Because libraries are non-partisan organizations that have traditionally served public information needs, we think this would be a great fit for this initiative.

How best can we connect these folks to this effort? Chris is happy to manage this from our side. Should I get him looped into the Community Engagement group? Could we invite the library contacts (1-3 folks) to the Aug 12 meeting? Or will there be another meeting for external partners specifically on the community engagement side (journalists)?

Sorry for the questions... just trying to figure out where to plug these folks in!

Kate

To: Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]
Cc: Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]; Teri Hanks[thanks@stanford.edu]; Isabella Garcia-Camargo[bellagc@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 8/3/2020 3:24:57 PM
Subject: Re: EIP Webinar – August 12
Received: Mon 8/3/2020 3:24:58 PM

I took a look and added a few comments/questions. Happy to take a look again if you want me to see another version. I did have a question about the slide previewing the different groups... if we wanted to just have use speak to that rather than use slide content (which I recommend). Even better, IMO, would be to stop screen sharing so each person can take the screen while they're speaking about their group.

And my only other question is more meta-level. Because we know we'll see parallel efforts both to manipulate voting behaviors and to manipulate people's perception of the fairness of voting... we don't cover the latter at all in the slides. Is that intentional?

Kate

On Aug 1, 2020, at 9:45 AM, Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu> wrote:

Thanks Kate! I really appreciate it.

—

Elena Cryst
Assistant Director
Stanford Internet Observatory

650.723.0337

<https://io.stanford.edu>

[*Book an appointment*](#)

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Date: Friday, July 31, 2020 at 6:43 PM
To: Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>
Cc: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>, Camille Francois <camille.francois@graphika.com>, Emerson Brooking <EBrooking@ATLANTICCOUNCIL.org>, Isabella Garcia-Camargo <bellagc@stanford.edu>, Julia Carter <jccarter@uw.edu>
Subject: Re: EIP Webinar – August 12

Hi Elena,

I can make it and plan to present for our team. I'm happy to provide feedback on the slide deck over the next few days.

Kate

On Jul 31, 2020, at 12:01 PM, Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi Kate, Camille and Emerson,

As I shared on slack and during our meeting yesterday, we have been given the slot in the Stanford Cyber Policy Center Webinar on August 12 from 10-11am PST. We would like to have one representative from each partner on the panel to briefly share an intro to your organization and your interest in the

partnership. Alex will be representing the Internet Observatory.

I have roughly outlined the presentation in [this slide deck](#). This is open to feedback so please feel free to comment directly on the slides. I will be finalizing (and beautifying) the deck next week. The idea is to prepare remarks for ~30 minutes of the time and leave 30 min open to moderated Q&A.

For planning purposes, we ask speakers to be available at 9:40am PST for a tech / logistics check in before the webinar starts. Could you each please confirm if you will be able to present during that webinar or if another member of your team will be there in your stead?

Elena Cryst
Assistant Director
Stanford Internet Observatory

650.723.0337

<https://io.stanford.edu>

[Book an appointment](#)

To: Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]
Cc: Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]; Camille Francois[camille.francois@graphika.com]; Emerson Brooking[EBrooking@ATLANTICCOUNCIL.org]; Isabella Garcia-Camargo[bellagc@stanford.edu]; Julia Carter[jccarter@uw.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Sat 8/1/2020 1:43:00 AM
Subject: Re: EIP Webinar – August 12
Received: Sat 8/1/2020 1:43:02 AM

Hi Elena,

I can make it and plan to present for our team. I'm happy to provide feedback on the slide deck over the next few days.

Kate

On Jul 31, 2020, at 12:01 PM, Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi Kate, Camille and Emerson,

As I shared on slack and during our meeting yesterday, we have been given the slot in the Stanford Cyber Policy Center Webinar on August 12 from 10-11am PST. We would like to have one representative from each partner on the panel to briefly share an intro to your organization and your interest in the partnership. Alex will be representing the Internet Observatory.

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Elena Cryst
Assistant Director
Stanford Internet Observatory

650.723.0337

<https://io.stanford.edu>

[Book an appointment](#)

To: Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 7/23/2020 9:53:03 PM
Subject: Re: looping back around on possibility of some (smallish) funding for students?
Received: Thur 7/23/2020 9:53:04 PM

No worries. If you're not pursuing extra funding, we'll either each out directly to Craig or others... or pull most of our students in through for-credit opportunities rather than via funded hours.

On Jul 23, 2020, at 2:12 PM, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu> wrote:

We were able to get our funding via a big election grant that Nate Persily already had access to, so I would be happy to ask Craig and some other folks to fund your component directly (I really don't want to deal with money moving between universities). Would you like me to ask on the higher end?

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 1:47 PM
To: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: looping back around on possibility of some (smallish) funding for students?

I was just wondering if you were still thinking about trying to get small funds from someone interested (like Craig Newmark) to fund this project specifically on the academic side? (Per our first conversation). I think you'd mentioned something in the 50-100k range.

On Jul 23, 2020, at 12:09 PM, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu> wrote:

How much? I can forward around an ask.

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 11:50:59 AM
To: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>
Subject: looping back around on possibility of some (smallish) funding for students?

To: Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 7/23/2020 8:46:39 PM
Subject: Re: looping back around on possibility of some (smallish) funding for students?
Received: Thur 7/23/2020 8:46:40 PM

I was just wondering if you were still thinking about trying to get small funds from someone interested (like Craig Newmark) to fund this project specifically on the academic side? (Per our first conversation). I think you'd mentioned something in the 50-100k range.

On Jul 23, 2020, at 12:09 PM, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu> wrote:

How much? I can forward around an ask.

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 11:50:59 AM
To: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>
Subject: looping back around on possibility of some (smallish) funding for students?

To: Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 7/23/2020 6:50:59 PM
Subject: looping back around on possibility of some (smallish) funding for students?
Received: Thur 7/23/2020 6:51:00 PM

To: Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]
Cc: Isabella Garcia-Camargo[bellagc@stanford.edu]; camille.francois@graphika.com[camille.francois@graphika.com]; Graham Brookie[gbrookie@ATLANTICCOUNCIL.ORG]; espiro@uw.edu[espiro@uw.edu]; jevinw@uw.edu[jevinw@uw.edu]; ccoward@uw.edu[ccoward@uw.edu]; NYap@atlanticcouncil.org[NYap@atlanticcouncil.org]; EBrooking@ATLANTICCOUNCIL.org[EBrooking@ATLANTICCOUNCIL.org]; Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]; David Thiel[dthiel@stanford.edu]; Nate Persily[npersily@law.stanford.edu]; Alex Ahmed Zaheer[azaheer@stanford.edu]; Shelby Grossman[shelbygrossman@stanford.edu]; Carly Maya Miller[carlym2@stanford.edu]; Julia Carter[jccarter@uw.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 7/21/2020 9:01:55 PM
Subject: Re: [Follow Up] SIO Elections Monitoring Warroom Kickoff
Received: Tue 7/21/2020 9:01:57 PM

Hi everyone,

Speaking on behalf of my colleagues at the University of Washington's Center for an Informed Public, we are really excited to be a partner in this effort! We couldn't ask for a better team and we're thrilled to be working with you all!

We foresee our primary role as contributing to the near real-time analysis, particularly with visualizations and large-scale quantifications (network graphs, topic models) that can inform and complement more qualitative/forensic analyses. We are also setting up rapid-response teams to do qualitative coding (of posts or accounts or media outlets). Our analyses rely heavily on Twitter, Google, and Youtube. We're developing some expertise with Crowdtangle data on Facebook groups as well. Data sharing is something we all might want to talk about, and we can talk about how we might contribute there.

We are also willing/able to dedicate some resources from our communications team (writing, editing, brainstorming how to deal with trolls, facilitating conversations with journalists, etc.), if that would be helpful.

We may need to chat more about how/where our other election-research activities intersect with or complement this (a parallel program and partnership with AARP to train their members to submit election misinformation they see; a research project analyzing collaborations between journalists and researchers around real-time analysis; and an effort to help libraries communicate about specific misinformation narratives to their publics). But we're happy to figure that out as we go.

Elena, can you please add Julia Carter (our Director of Strategy and Operations, cced above) to the meeting on Thursday? (I may have a few other invitees to add — as we assemble our team).

Thank you,
Kate

On Jul 17, 2020, at 1:03 PM, Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu> wrote:

Dear All,

Following on Isabella's Wednesday email, we would like to request a response by next Thursday, July 23. We will hold our next meeting on that Thursday at 10:30am ([zoom link](#)). I'll send out a calendar invite momentarily. After that we will set a time for weekly calls.

Thank you all and it was great to have all of you on Wednesday's call. Have a good weekend!

—

Elena Cryst
Assistant Director
Stanford Internet Observatory

650.723.0337

<https://io.stanford.edu>

[Book an appointment](#)

From: Isabella Garcia-Camargo <bellagc@stanford.edu>

Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2020 at 3:51 PM

To: "camille.francois@graphika.com" <camille.francois@graphika.com>, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>, Graham Brookie <gbrookie@ATLANTICCOUNCIL.ORG>, "espiro@uw.edu" <espiro@uw.edu>, "jevinw@uw.edu" <jevinw@uw.edu>, "ccoward@uw.edu" <ccoward@uw.edu>, "NYap@atlanticcouncil.org" <NYap@atlanticcouncil.org>, "EBrooking@ATLANTICCOUNCIL.org" <EBrooking@ATLANTICCOUNCIL.org>

Cc: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>, Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>, David Thiel <dthiel@stanford.edu>, Nate Persily <npersily@law.stanford.edu>, Alex Ahmed Zaheer <aazaheer@stanford.edu>, Shelby Grossman <shelbygrossman@stanford.edu>, Carly Maya Miller <carlym2@stanford.edu>

Subject: [Follow Up] SIO Elections Monitoring Warroom Kickoff

Good Afternoon All,

Thank you very much for joining us this afternoon on our kick off call for the Election Disinformation Partnership. We were very grateful for the thoughtful discussion, especially around the role of each individual member in the partnership and how we ensure a system of trust. For reference, the slides that Alex presented can be found [here](#).

As we mentioned on the call, we view this partnership as a way to share access and expertise through a collegial and communal network.

We look forward to hearing from each of the participating groups on the following three points:

- Would you like to participate in this partnership?
- Who will be your primary POC for this integration? This person should be able to meet 1-2 times a week for the next several months.
- Do you have a specific area of focus or expertise that you'd like to lean into? We are working on outlining the capabilities of the partnership as a whole, so any detail here is helpful.

If you have further questions, please contact me and CC Elena Cryst (ecryst@stanford.edu) and we will get back to you as promptly as possible. Thank you again for your participation today, and we look forward to continuing the discussion!

Respectfully,

Isabella Garcia-Camargo

To: Isabella Garcia-Camargo[bellagc@stanford.edu]
Cc: espiro@uw.edu[espiro@uw.edu]; jevinw@uw.edu[jevinw@uw.edu]; ccoward@uw.edu[ccoward@uw.edu]; Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 7/16/2020 3:26:02 PM
Subject: Re: [Follow Up] SIO Elections Monitoring Warroom Kickoff
Received: Thur 7/16/2020 3:26:04 PM

Hi Isabella (and Alex),

My colleagues and I at the UW CiP need to discuss this a bit before responding and unfortunately I'm about to head off the grid for a few days. I hope to get back to you all by early next week.

Kate

On Jul 15, 2020, at 3:51 PM, Isabella Garcia-Camargo <bellagc@stanford.edu> wrote:

Good Afternoon All,

Thank you very much for joining us this afternoon on our kick off call for the Election Disinformation Partnership. We were very grateful for the thoughtful discussion, especially around the role of each individual member in the partnership and how we ensure a system of trust. For reference, the slides that Alex presented can be found [here](#).

As we mentioned on the call, we view this partnership as a way to share access and expertise through a collegial and communal network.

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If you have further questions, please contact me and CC Elena Cryst (ecryst@stanford.edu) and we will get back to you as promptly as possible. Thank you again for your participation today, and we look forward to continuing the discussion!

Respectfully,

Isabella Garcia-Camargo

To: Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]
Cc: Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]; Isabella Garcia-Camargo[bellagc@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Sun 7/12/2020 4:59:09 PM
Subject: Re: Kickoff event for SIO Elections Warroom
Received: Sun 7/12/2020 4:59:10 PM

Hi Elena,
My colleagues at the CiP are:

- Emma Spiro (espiro@uw.edu)
- Jevin West (jevinw@uw.edu)
- Chris Coward (ccoward@uw.edu)
- Ryan Calo can't make it

We are not yet ready to commit the CiP as a partner, so it will likely be informational for them — to see if this is something that we want to do as a Center or if it's just something that I will do with my own lab. I hope that's okay.

Kate

On Jul 11, 2020, at 4:56 PM, Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi Kate,

It would be great to have your colleagues on the call. Yes, please send through their email addresses and I will add them to the call!

—

Elena Cryst
Assistant Director
Stanford Internet Observatory

650.723.0337

<https://io.stanford.edu>

[*Book an appointment*](#)

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Date: Saturday, July 11, 2020 at 1:52 PM
To: Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>
Cc: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>, Isabella Garcia-Camargo <bellagc@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: Kickoff event for SIO Elections Warroom

Hi Elena!

I hope you are doing well and staying healthy (and sane) in these strange times.

I'd be thrilled to attend. I'll move things around to make that time work.

I've asked some of my collaborators at the UW Center for an Informed Public and there seems to be some interest (to participate as a Center rather than just my lab). If I send along some names, can you add them to the invite list?

Kate

On Jul 10, 2020, at 8:35 AM, Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi Kate,

I hope this note finds you and your family well. I was up in Seattle last week visiting my folks and it was cool to see your face in the Seattle Times! I am following up on the call you had with Alex yesterday regarding SIO's planned collaborative work on monitoring election misinformation for the November election. We are scheduling a kickoff call with our partners next Wednesday at 1pm Pacific. I will be sending through the invitation shortly and we will circulate the agenda the day before. Please let me know if there is anyone else on your end we should include in the call.

I am also copying Isabella García-Camargo on this email. She is a recent graduate from Stanford's CS department, is currently interning at DHS / CISA and will be PM for this project at SIO.

Thank you and we hope you can join on Wednesday.

Elena Cryst
Assistant Director
Stanford Internet Observatory

650.723.0337

<https://io.stanford.edu>

[Book an appointment](#)

To: Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]
Cc: Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]; Isabella Garcia-Camargo[bellagc@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Sat 7/11/2020 8:51:51 PM
Subject: Re: Kickoff event for SIO Elections Warroom
Received: Sat 7/11/2020 8:51:52 PM

Hi Elena!

I hope you are doing well and staying healthy (and sane) in these strange times.

I'd be thrilled to attend. I'll move things around to make that time work.

I've asked some of my collaborators at the UW Center for an Informed Public and there seems to be some interest (to participate as a Center rather than just my lab). If I send along some names, can you add them to the invite list?

Kate

On Jul 10, 2020, at 8:35 AM, Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi Kate,

I hope this note finds you and your family well. I was up in Seattle last week visiting my folks and it was cool to see your face in the Seattle Times! I am following up on the call you had with Alex yesterday regarding SIO's planned collaborative work on monitoring election misinformation for the November election. We are scheduling a kickoff call with our partners next Wednesday at 1pm Pacific. I will be sending through the invitation shortly and we will circulate the agenda the day before. Please let me know if there is anyone else on your end we should include in the call.

I am also copying Isabella García-Camargo on this email. She is a recent graduate from Stanford's CS department, is currently interning at DHS / CISA and will be PM for this project at SIO.

Thank you and we hope you can join on Wednesday.

Elena Cryst
Assistant Director
Stanford Internet Observatory

650.723.0337

<https://io.stanford.edu>

[Book an appointment](#)

To: Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 7/9/2020 6:50:49 PM
Subject: Re: Election research collaboration - chat this afternoon?
Received: Thur 7/9/2020 6:50:50 PM

Yes.

On Jul 9, 2020, at 8:45 AM, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu> wrote:

Still available today at 2pm?

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 10:26:21 AM
To: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: Election research collaboration - chat this afternoon?

Hi Alex,
Happy to chat. I'm booked solid this afternoon. Could we do something tomorrow afternoon? I could do something between 2 and 3pm tomorrow or after 5pm...

Kate

On Jul 8, 2020, at 9:41 AM, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hey, Kate-

Do you have any time this afternoon to chat? We are working on some election monitoring ideas with CISA and I would love your informal feedback before we go too far down this road.

Sorry for the last minute ask, but things that should have been assembled a year ago are coming together quickly this week.

Alex

-

Alex Stamos
Director, Stanford Internet Observatory
stamos@stanford.edu

To: Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 7/9/2020 6:40:37 PM
Subject: Re: Kate and Alex talk election plans
Received: Thur 7/9/2020 6:40:38 PM

Yes. I can make this work!

On Jul 9, 2020, at 10:17 AM, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu> wrote:

Let's see if this time works!



Hi there,

alex stamos is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

Password:

31

Meeting URL:

<https://stanford.zoom.us/j/98480467962?pwd=dXlQSmwwVWZlcGkzbzM3dUZyOXZtZz09>

iPhone one-tap (US Toll): +18333021536,,98480467962# or
+16507249799,,98480467962#

Or Telephone:

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

Meeting ID: 984 8046 7962

Password:

31

[International numbers](#)

Join from a SIP room system

SIP: 98480467962@zoomcrc.com

Meeting ID: 984 8046 7962

Password:

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<Mail Attachment.ics>

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Director, Stanford Internet Observatory
stamos@stanford.edu

To: Jack Nicas[jack.nicas@nytimes.com]
Cc: Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]; katestarbird30@gmail.com[katestarbird30@gmail.com]
From: Renee DiResta
Sent: Tue 11/24/2020 9:26:30 PM
Subject: Re: New York Times inquiry
Received: Tue 11/24/2020 9:26:58 PM

We don't at SIO, sorry.

On Tue, Nov 24, 2020 at 11:50 AM Jack Nicas <jack.nicas@nytimes.com> wrote:

Hi Kate and Renee:

This is Jack Nicas writing from the New York Times. I'm working on a story about some Twitter accounts that have impersonated Trump family members, including his sister, [Elizabeth](#), and his brother, Robert.

This is a long shot but Ben Decker thought you might collect archives of old tweets from certain accounts, and that the accounts I'm investigating could be in there.

If so, these are the accounts I'm looking into:

[@UncleRobTrump](#)

[@BigRobTrump](#)

[@BallerBarron](#)

[@TheBettyTrump](#)

[@TheBiTrumpGuy](#)

[@AuntMaryTrump](#)

All have been suspended. Would you happen to have any records of their tweets?

Thank you for checking either way!

Jack Nicas

Reporter

The New York Times

[508-864-3864](tel:508-864-3864) | [@jacknicas](#)

[My stories](#)

To: Shelby Grossman[shelbygrossman@stanford.edu]; Isabella Garcia-Camargo[bellagc@stanford.edu]; info@eipartnership.net[info@eipartnership.net]; Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]
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From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 10/15/2020 7:57:49 PM
Subject: Re: GEC/Election Integrity Partnership
Received: Thur 10/15/2020 7:57:51 PM

Shelby, Bella, Renee and others, can you all do 12:30 instead?
I think Renee is supposed to be with me at the other meeting (at 2pm) and I know we can't move that one (due to another dependency).

On Oct 15, 2020, at 12:50 PM, Levis, Adela <LevisA@state.gov> wrote:

We can try to be flexible, but it is UW and Stanford's call if we need to reschedule or if we need to stick to the original time in order to accommodate others.

If we need to reschedule, we'll do 12:30PT/15:30EST.

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2020 3:41 PM
To: Levis, Adela <LevisA@state.gov>
Cc: Shelby Grossman <shelbygrossman@stanford.edu>; Ruppe, Adele E <RuppeAE@state.gov>; Jevin West <jevinw@uw.edu>; Isabella Garcia-Camargo <bellagc@stanford.edu>; info@eipartnership.net <info@eipartnership.net>; Renee DiResta <rdirresta@stanford.edu>; Beebe, William <BeebeW@state.gov>; Stewart, Samaruddin K <StewartSK@state.gov>; Dempsey, Alex L <DempseyAL2@state.gov>
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Please let me know if you have any questions ahead of time.

Join Microsoft Teams Meeting

+1 509-824-1908 United States, Spokane (Toll)
Conference ID: 865 243 158#

Warm regards,
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Levisa@state.gov
<image001.png>

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Top 10 U.S. Government Counter Disinformation & Propaganda
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Levisa@state.gov

[linkedin.com/in/adelalevis/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/adelalevis/)

[Top 10 U.S. Government Counter Disinformation & Propaganda Academic & Think-Tank Research Topics](#)

GEC Mission: "To direct, lead, synchronize, integrate, and coordinate efforts of the Federal Government to recognize, understand, expose, and counter foreign state and foreign non-state propaganda and disinformation efforts aimed at undermining or influencing the policies, security, or stability of the United States, its allies, and partner nations."

To: stamos@stanford.edu[stamos@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 5/11/2022 5:05:43 PM
Subject: Delayed Response | Media Contact Re: Draft Grant Proposals
Received: Wed 5/11/2022 5:05:43 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, 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: stamos@stanford.edu[stamos@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 5/4/2022 5:39:55 PM
Subject: Delayed Response | Media Contact Re: Guardian article about EIP study & James O'Keefe complaint
Received: Wed 5/4/2022 5:39:55 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: Eline Gordts[eline.gordts@theguardian.com]; Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]
Cc: Brand, Lee[lee.brand@pillsburylaw.com]; Flanagan, Sarah[sarah.flanagan@pillsburylaw.com]; Ernest Miranda[ejmirand@stanford.edu]; Debra L Zumwalt[zumwalt@stanford.edu]; megrass@uw.edu[megrass@uw.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]; info@eipartnership.net[info@eipartnership.net]
From: Alex Stamos
Sent: Wed 5/4/2022 5:39:50 PM
Subject: Re: Guardian article about EIP study & James O'Keefe complaint
Received: Wed 5/4/2022 5:39:54 PM

Hi, Eline-

It is true that Project Veritas initiated litigation against Stanford and the University of Washington, with both universities standing behind our work and vigorously defending against their claims. For further comment, I'll refer you to our attorneys, Sarah Flanagan and Lee Brand or Ernest Miranda from Stanford's communications team.

Sincerely,
Alex

From: 'Eline Gordts' via Info <info@eipartnership.net>
Date: Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at 10:20 AM
To: megrass@uw.edu <megrass@uw.edu>, renee.diresta@gmail.com <renee.diresta@gmail.com>, info@eipartnership.net <info@eipartnership.net>
Subject: Guardian article about EIP study & James O'Keefe complaint

Hi,

I'm the west coast editor at the Guardian, and am emailing you after receiving a complaint from lawyers for James O'Keefe about [this Guardian article](#) writing up a 2021 EIP study. O'Keefe takes issue with this line in our story about repeat spreaders of voting misinformation:

The "repeat spreaders" responsible for the most widely spread misinformation included Eric Trump, Donald Trump, Donald Trump Jr and influencers like James O'Keefe, Tim Pool, Elijah Riot and Sidney Powell.

O'Keefe's lawyers mention that they have filed litigation against EIP for defamatory content. As we're crafting our response, it would be very helpful to get a sense of your thinking around his allegations, what exactly they are suing over and whether Project Veritas is suing or James O'Keefe. Would it be possible to discuss this over the phone? Or is there anyone else at your organization I should speak with?

All the best,
Eline

--
Eline Gordts -- she/her
West Coast Editor
Guardian News & Media
eline.gordts@theguardian.com

twitter: @elinegordts

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To: Maria Bianchi Buck[mariabianchibuck@gmail.com]
Cc: Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]; Julia Carter Scanlan[jccarter@uw.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]; Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]; Angela Catella[acatella@pewtrusts.org]; Whittemore, Sam[Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 4/22/2022 7:02:17 PM
Subject: Re: Following up from Pew
Received: Fri 4/22/2022 7:02:19 PM

Hi Maria,

I know that our Stanford colleagues are extremely busy after their big event yesterday — where Obama and others spoke.

I'd be happy to find a time next week to chat, either as a larger group or just as the UW team. There may be some questions that we can only answer with the whole group in the room.

In my first read, the proposal here all looks well-aligned with our plans. However, there may be some specifics here that we can't quite guarantee and might end up being slightly different from our final outputs. For example, specific platforms may choose not to work with us — especially if their leadership or core people whom we've worked with previously change. We may be able to cover some languages (e.g. UW is planning on adding Vietnamese) but not others. We may end up running 3 workshops or 1 workshop, rather than 2. And the number of products is likely to be tied to the amount of malicious activity, which could mean more or fewer reports.

I think we might need some information about the flexibility we have on these. Can you give us a sense of that? Or should we adjust the bullets to add the flexibility we think we'll need?

Kate

On Apr 22, 2022, at 6:37 AM, Maria Bianchi Buck <mariabianchibuck@gmail.com> wrote:

Happy Friday!

Thank you all for your help over the past week! I have one more thing I'd love your feedback on - I'm working on translating the information you've provided and the conversations we've had into more structured deliverables.

I have two requests: I'd love to schedule a meeting or meetings next week to really get down into the details of these with you. Because of the structure of the grants (where we'll be making individual grants to each institution) it might make sense to do that with each university team separately, or I'm happy to meet with everyone again if that works better!

Before that, I'd appreciate it if you could review what I've proposed here **by the end of the day**, if at all possible, and let me know if anything needs to be struck or changed before being included in our investment recommendation to give the partnership a sense of the work the grant will cover.

I apologize for the incredibly tight turnaround, and I really appreciate your help!

Maria

Implement Real Time Monitoring and Reporting on Misinformation

- Create software architecture allowing for the expansion of EIP's automated misinformation detection. This expanded coverage will allow the EIP to expand their scope to include streaming platforms, and will also allow the partnership to monitor content in additional languages.

- Expand human capacity for data monitoring, allowing the EIP team to better understand the context in which misinformation is arising and more rapidly and effectively quantify. Combined with the automated monitoring tools, this will lead to higher quality tickets reporting misinformation, allowing the EIP to update the elections field on developing trends in something close to real time.

Work with Platforms to Strengthen Sector Response to Misinformation

- Partner with social media companies, including Facebook/Meta, Twitter, Youtube, and TikTok, expanding scope of their work to cover additional platforms. These platforms will integrate with the EIP ticketing system, enabling smooth reporting pathways.
- Conduct a detailed comparative analysis of social media platforms' published elections-related speech policies. The EIP will additionally publish recommendations for best practices for platforms, helping to move the field toward a more responsive posture toward election disinformation.

Provide Analysis to Inform the Election Field's Response to Misinformation

- Provide 3 rapid response briefings for election administrators, platforms, journalists, and other partners in response to emerging trends. These briefings will occur on an as needed basis, and will heighten field awareness new forms that misinformation is taking in the 2022 cycle.
- Produce 5 real time reporting and analysis products. These products will explore and explain specific misinformation narratives and patterns, helping platforms, journalists, community partners and election officials better prepare for and combat emerging trends.
- The EIP will conduct a threat ideation exercise for partners entities. The activity will leverage the experience of the EIP team to help the partners explore potential outcomes over the course of the 2022 election process.
- Hold a webinar for election officials. The webinar will increase awareness of the partnership among election officials, and will highlight ways that election officials can engage with the partnership and benefit from its analysis.
- Produce an end of cycle analysis product. The EIP team will publish a peer-reviewed academic publication describing the tactics and dynamics of information spread in the 2022 cycle.

Increase Diversity in Coverage and Outreach across Geographic, Linguistic, and Social groups

- Expand the language capacity of the partnership to cover 6 languages. The partners will recruit core team members with native language proficiency in English, Spanish and Chinese, and will additionally build competency through recruitment or monitoring in Tagalog, Vietnamese, and Arabic.
- Create partnerships with 3 community organizations serving marginalized communities. Disinformation campaigns are often microtargeted towards specific demographic groups, so partnerships with groups serving these communities will help the partnership understand how they are receiving and processing information and how it spreads within communities.
- Hold a webinar for Community Partner organizations and other civil society groups. The webinar will be aimed at increasing awareness of the partnership, and will highlight ways that community groups can engage.
- Conduct 2 briefings focusing on the impact of emerging misinformation trends on marginalized or targeted communities.

On Wed, Apr 20, 2022 at 3:02 PM Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi Angela –

Here is that graphic.

—

Elena Cryst

Assistant Director

Stanford Internet Observatory

<https://io.stanford.edu>

From: Angela Catella <acatella@pewtrusts.org>
Date: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at 10:48 AM
To: Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>, mariabianchibuck <mariabianchibuck@gmail.com>, Julia Scanlan <jccarter@uw.edu>
Cc: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>, Whittemore, Sam <Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org>
Subject: RE: Following up from Pew

Thanks, Elena. I believe its actually this graphic we were hoping to have a better version of. Thanks!

<image001.png>

From: Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 1:36 PM
To: mariabianchibuck <mariabianchibuck@gmail.com>; Julia Scanlan <jccarter@uw.edu>
Cc: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Angela Catella <acatella@pewtrusts.org>; Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>; Whittemore, Sam <Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org>
Subject: Re: Following up from Pew

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]: This message is from an external sender. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Hi Maria –

Sure thing. I've attached the image here.

—

Elena Cryst

Assistant Director

Stanford Internet Observatory

<https://io.stanford.edu>

From: Maria Bianchi Buck <mariabianchibuck@gmail.com>
Date: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at 6:30 AM
To: Julia Scanlan <jccarter@uw.edu>, Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>
Cc: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>, acatella@pewtrusts.org <acatella@pewtrusts.org>, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>, Whittemore, Sam <Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org>
Subject: Re: Following up from Pew

Thank you so much, Julia! These were exactly what I needed.

I have one (hopefully simple!) more request. Would it be possible to send me a higher resolution version of the graphic on page two of your original project note? I thought that was a really helpful illustration of the model, and would like to include it in our investment recommendation.

Thank you!

Maria

On Fri, Apr 15, 2022 at 7:32 PM Julia Scanlan <jccarter@uw.edu> wrote:

Hi Maria,

Thank you for your patience as we've put together responses to your questions and some follow-up from our conversation on Monday. Attached is a document that provides additional detail on the requested areas. Let us know if there's anything that's unclear or about which you'd like to know more.

We also have attached our proposed budgets; these are for the 2022-2023 cycle. As we mentioned on the call, these should be considered preliminary and not final. The final versions require full review and approval from our sponsored research offices. Note that as these are grants the universities' sponsored research overhead rates are assessed (57.4% for Stanford, 55.5% for UW).

Thank you for your continued consideration!

Julia

JULIA SCANLAN (she/her)

Director for Strategy and Operations | Center for an Informed Public

University of Washington

206.897.1798 / Box 351205 / cip.uw.edu

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<image002.jpg>

From: Maria Bianchi Buck <mariabianchibuck@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2022 2:07 PM

To: Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>

Cc: Julia Scanlan <jccarter@uw.edu>; Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; acatella@pewtrusts.org; Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdirresta@stanford.edu>; Whittemore, Sam <Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org>

Subject: Re: Following up from Pew

Thank you all again for your willingness to jump on a call with us on Monday! The information you provided was incredibly helpful. I have a few follow up questions after the call.

1. When you have a chance, Elena, can you send me the timeline you mentioned during our conversation on platform policy changes?
2. Another budget question which I didn't think to ask on our call: how does the amount requested for 2022 in the proposal you sent compare to the overall budget for EIP in 2022?
3. As part of our efforts to ensure we are incorporating diverse perspectives to inform the work, we would value any information you can provide on...
 - a.) how your work takes racial disparities and equity into account in program design
 - b.) how your project team (and leadership and advisory bodies, if relevant) are reflective of racial diversity
4. In your proposal and impact goals, you talk about working closely with community groups.
 - a.) Have you already identified any of these potential partners?
 - b.) Are you offering any financial support to enable these groups to play this role? Would such financial support be useful?
 - c.) Are there any specific research products you hope to produce, or hypothesis you hope to test based on this work in the 2022 cycle?

I'm happy to set up another call with some or all of the team, or to get responses by email as they are available. Thank you again!

Maria

On Thu, Apr 7, 2022 at 7:38 PM Maria Bianchi Buck <mariabianchibuck@gmail.com> wrote:

Yes, I can be available then! Thank you for your willingness to move so quickly!

Maria

On Thu, Apr 7, 2022 at 6:42 PM Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi Maria –

Thank you for sending through the budget template and questions. I think it might be helpful for us to go over all of them in a call and then we can follow up with more detailed responses in writing. Are you available next Monday from 1-2pm PT / 4-5pm ET? I believe that time will work for myself, Kate, Julia and Renee.

—

Elena Cryst, MBA (she/her)

Assistant Director

Stanford Internet Observatory

<https://io.stanford.edu>

[Book an appointment](#)

From: Maria Bianchi Buck <mariabianchibuck@gmail.com>

Date: Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at 6:54 PM

To: Julia Scanlan <jccarter@uw.edu>

Cc: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>, Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>, acatella@pewtrusts.org <acatella@pewtrusts.org>, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>, Whittemore, Sam <Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org>

Subject: Re: Following up from Pew

I'm so sorry about that! Here you go!

On Wed, Apr 6, 2022 at 8:21 PM Julia Scanlan <jccarter@uw.edu> wrote:

Hi Maria,

Thank you so much for this update, and that's great news about the initial write-up. We'll be happy to compile answers and send them as soon as we can. I didn't see a budget template attached to your email

– could you resend?

More soon,

Julia

From: Maria Bianchi Buck <mariabianchibuck@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 6, 2022 3:47 PM
To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>
Cc: acatella@pewtrusts.org; Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>; Julia Scanlan <jccarter@uw.edu>; Whittemore, Sam <Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org>
Subject: Re: Following up from Pew

SIO & CIP Teams:

Thank you so much for your responsiveness and flexibility throughout! Our initial write-up was well received by the funding partners and we're currently working on getting our investment recommendation to them fully compiled. I have another round of clarifying questions that we've tried to prioritize in order of what's most time-sensitive to keep the grant process moving forward - I'd appreciate answers as soon as possible, and am happy to take partial responses as you're able to get them together. As ever, I'm incredibly appreciative of your time and effort in pulling this information together.

I'm also happy to jump on the phone, if you have any questions about what I've written here!

Best,

Maria

High priority questions on budget & funding sources

- 1.) Could you share any off-the-shelf information on the project's budget in 2020? (e.g., topline costs for each organization and major subcategories, sources of funding where that information is available.)
- 2.) Are there other funders currently supporting, or considering supporting, EIP? To the extent that you're able to share, who has funded the work at what level?
- 3.) Could you share a brief description of the Newmark gift and NSF grants (i.e., amount, duration, primary use)?
- 4.) Are you still pursuing funding from DHS/other federal sources? I think you mentioned some reasons why this funding might be undesirable - can you expand on those?
- 5.) In terms of absorbing the requested funding, do you anticipate any challenges to staffing up quickly (e.g., due to administrative hurdles on hiring)?
- 6.) One thing that will help us more forward is starting to assemble the budget information in a similar level of detail to that described in the attached budget template. This template is what we'll use for the grant itself, so if you're able to fill it out, that will save time on the backend, but if you have this information in a different format, we can wait to translate it over.

Clarifications on Impact Indicators (note: happy to set up a call to discuss live if that's easier for you than writing out answers here)

- 1.) Increased quality of cataloged tickets/incidents - Can you help me articulate what impact the higher quality of tickets will have for the projects' impact? What will this improved data help you do or assess?
- 2.) Diversity in coverage and outreach across geographic, linguistic, and social groups - Can you articulate what impact you hope this expanded outreach will have? What new learnings will it provide?
- 3.) Impact on technology company's policies - Could you give me an example of a policy change that happened in 2020 that illustrates the sort of potential change you're talking about? I know that this isn't an area where you can commit to anything specific, so this is a place where talking about previous efforts will be helpful!
- 4.) Impact of assessments and findings - I understand that it can be challenging to understand the impact of resources made publicly available, but are there any ways you can think about how stakeholders are using this information and how you know they are getting value out of it?
- 5.) Long-term: Building a redeploy-able system for monitoring information around critical societal events - Can you provide a little more detail about what this will look like?

Lower Priority Questions

- 1.) In your proposal, you mention "Our engagement with civil society organizations augments our social listening by allowing for high-quality tips from community partners who may be the targets of specific misinformation." Is it possible to provide a little more detail on how this works? What makes tips received from these partners of higher quality?
- 2.) In the proposal, you state "35% of the URLs shared with Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube were either labeled, removed, or soft-blocked by the platforms." Can you explain what soft-blocking means in this context?
- 3.) Are there additional advisory bodies at either institution that will govern or guide this work?
- 4.) Are there contacts at platforms you could put me in touch with to share additional context on how they're thinking about working with EIP in the upcoming cycle?

On Thu, Mar 31, 2022 at 10:45 AM Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

Hi Maria,

Echoing this answer, there are places where our workstreams will be separate (for example at the Tier 1 level, where we identify and do a first analysis of problematic content) and others that will be collaborative (for example at Tier 2 where we pull all the content we can about a particular "incident" of mis- or disinformation). We will share data and work collaboratively on analyses — and we will likely be co-authoring many of the outputs. And we're working together to design all of the different aspects of the process to make sure that everything flows together.

Kate

On Mar 30, 2022, at 10:25 PM, Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi Maria,

There are separate workstreams/divisions of labor between the two university teams. We will be staffing up our own research associates to review separate first tier data ingests as this is more efficient operationally. Our collaboration will be at the analysis and outputs/deliverables stage. We maintain high-level visibility on both side's first tier process (and are collaborating closely on the data ingest architecture) to ensure that they are compatible with each other.

Does that answer your question?

Thanks!

—

Elena Cryst

Assistant Director

Stanford Internet Observatory

<https://io.stanford.edu>

From: Maria Bianchi Buck <mariabianchibuck@gmail.com>

Date: Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at 10:47 AM

To: Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>

Cc: acatella@pewtrusts.org <acatella@pewtrusts.org>, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>, Julia Carter <jccarter@uw.edu>, Whittemore, Sam <Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org>

Subject: Re: Following up from Pew

Elena,

Thank you so much for sending this!

I have one hopefully quick question arising from our conversation last week: Are there separate work streams or divisions of labor between the two university teams? Because we're talking about structuring this as two separate grants, it would be useful to understand if there are pieces of the work or deliverables that are more relevant to one organization than the other.

Maria

On Wed, Mar 23, 2022 at 1:32 PM Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi Maria –

Thank you for your patience as we put together our responses to your questions from Friday's call. Below are some further details on how we're conceptualizing metrics and measurable outputs for the Election Integrity Partnership. I'm also attaching a budget breakdown for our two orgs.

The Election Integrity Partnership will measure its impact on the following key indicators:

- Quality of cataloged tickets or incidents
 - For each ticket/incident that EIP reports, we are able to capture whether a platform partner responded to the ticket and whether or not they took action on reported content. We hope to see a high rate of response and action, however, as we do not have full transparency on platforms' decisions, we cannot rely solely on this metric to determine ticket quality.
 - To enhance our understanding of our ticket quality, we will want to further differentiate by platform to see if there is a significant difference in the response rate by platform. We anticipate that there will be based on platforms' staffing constraints and on different policy enforcement practices, and robust data collection will enable us to more accurately assess this.
- Diversity in coverage and outreach across geographic, linguistic, and social groups
 - We seek to engage with a range of civil society organizations that work closely with a diversity of groups. As with measuring the volume of tickets overall, measuring the volume of tickets relevant to specific target audiences may lead to biased data collection processes. We will measure impact in this space through the quality and diversity in our stakeholder engagement.
 - We will have core team members with native language proficiency for the top three languages in the United States (English, Spanish, Chinese), and will additionally have research analysts or partnerships with organizations that have language competency in Tagalog, Vietnamese, Arabic, and other target LEP groups. We previously engaged with a group of Ethnic Media Fellows affiliated with the National Conference on Citizenship who were formed to listen for misinformation around the 2020 census to support our work on vaccine hesitancy. We intend to expand this engagement and supplement with civil society organizations focused on these communities.
 - In addition to assessing the profile of our stakeholder engagement, we can measure the uptake of our outputs through tracking metrics on receipt and open rate for our email briefings.
- Impact on technology company's policies
 - In 2020, several Election Integrity Partnership analysts conducted a detailed comparative analysis of social media platforms' published elections-related speech policies. This post was updated several times as platforms changed their policies. While we cannot draw a causal link between our work and the policy changes, we can say that subsequent updates to platforms'

policies directly addressed deficiencies identified by our analysts.

- We intend to repeat this work in 2022 and 2024, expanding it to more platforms and making clear recommendations for best practices in election speech policies. We will measure this through published changes in the platforms' policies.

- Impact of assessments and findings

- We are able to measure short-term impact of our outputs via metrics such as attendance at or readership of regular briefings, and web traffic and engagement with published content. These metrics tell us how many people our content reaches.

- For direct policy impact, we consistently re-assess platform policies to see if policies have changed after the posting of our policy assessments. In 2020 we saw numerous changes that more tightly aligned policies to our assessment rubric and we anticipate further changes of this nature in response to our assessments.

- Long-term: Building a redeploy-able system for monitoring information around critical societal events

- Part of our impact will be measured on whether this methodically built model can be smoothly redeployed after the 2022 election to focus on other critical societal events. This includes developing clear stakeholder relationship models and an adaptable technical infrastructure.

Additional questions

- Budget clarifications:

- Is EIP seeking other philanthropic funding to support this work?

Yes. UWCIP has received a philanthropic gift that has enabled the hiring of a project lead for EIP. SIO has received a philanthropic gift that has enabled hiring a dedicating a portion of existing staff time to this project. Neither of these are sufficient to cover this project at scale.

- How does EIP accept philanthropic funding? Will that look like separate grants to each institution, or is it possible to make one grant to Stanford and have it sub-granted to UW?

We prefer funding to be made to the two organizations independently. While it is possible to set up a grant with a sub-award from one institution to the other, our respective universities charge overhead on such a subaward that would significantly reduce the amount of useable funds it adds in addition to increasing administrative burden and delaying the process.

- In your proposal, does the amount earmarked for 2022 also cover the post-election analysis period?

Yes, the 2022 budget covers the post-election period for 2022 but does not cover the time and effort that will go into expanding this for Election 2024

- Context to help interpret the statistics from your 2020 efforts:

- Can you contextualize the numbers you shared to help our funding partners interpret them? These were:

- 639 distinct “tickets” on election-related mis- and disinformation. This is the number of in-scope reports of election-related mis- and

disinformation made by our analysts. Additional tickets were filed that were either deemed out of scope of the project or duplicate on this number. Some tickets contained just one unique piece of content while others contained a set of interrelated content pieces. For 2022 we have refined how we think about “incidents” or “tickets” to allow us to capture more nuanced data on both.

- EIP platform stakeholders responded directly to 75% or more of the tickets reported to them

Of the tickets reported to the platform stakeholder, EIP tracked that platforms acknowledged receiving 75% of the tickets.

- 35% of the URLs shared with Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube were either labeled, removed, or soft-blocked by the platforms

Of the incidents reported to these four platforms for violating their published election-related policies, the platforms actioned 35% by either labeling, removing, or soft-blocking the content.

○ Can we contextualize these numbers for the partnership?

- What was the time period over which the 639 tickets were reported?

Roughly September 1, 2020 to November 15, 2020

- Qualitatively, what is the impact? For example, did these allow for significant analytical work? What about impact on how voters or election officials experienced misinfo? (if that is knowable)

Yes, this did allow for significant analytical work. Highlights of that are in our EIP report, but further work is forthcoming in several academic journal articles that are currently under review.

Regarding impact on voters or election officials: We don't have sufficient data to say this for 2020 but these are questions we hope to answer for 2022. Part of our longer term work (and a supplemental grant we've received from the National Science Foundation) is designed to look at more of the societal impact. This will require controlled testing and surveys of relevant groups to scientifically assess impact.

- How would more tickets translate to expanded impact? Better research, etc?

Number of tickets is not the right metric to assess this. We do not want to be in a position where analysts are incentivized to create tickets unnecessarily, and our ultimate vision is a world where this project is not needed and tickets don't exist. What will be more important is understanding the narratives that underly the tickets and catalogue the recurring themes and tropes to provide better advanced information to the public.

- It seems like a 75% response rate is good. Could that be improved?

What happened to the other ~25%?

We speculate that tickets that went unacknowledged were reported to platforms that did not have capacity to receive tickets or chose not to acknowledge receipt. We hope to see a higher response rate in the future but this is ultimately up to the platforms and not the partnership.

- Is the EIP team happy with the 35% action rate? Should it have been higher? If not, what context explains why 35% is appropriate? If so, what would a better rate look like?

The platforms did not share with us their rationale for each decision. We hope to see a higher number of reported incidents actioned upon as an indication that these incidents are violating or because the platforms have modified their enforcement policies.

There are many reasons a platform may have actioned or not actioned content, and in many cases inaction is an appropriate outcome.

Sometimes incidents were shared for visibility or because they related to a larger narrative.

Some of this action rate relates to different platforms' own policy thresholds. This number is not split out by platform so it can be challenging to compare, say, TikTok to Reddit in platform enforcement.

Elena Cryst

Assistant Director

Stanford Internet Observatory

<https://io.stanford.edu>

From: Maria Bianchi Buck <mariabianchibuck@gmail.com>

Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 11:25 AM

To: Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>

Cc: acatella@pewtrusts.org <acatella@pewtrusts.org>, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>, Julia Carter <jccarter@uw.edu>, Whittemore, Sam <Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org>

Subject: Re: Following up from Pew

Elena and team,

Thank you so much for sending over the proposal - that was immensely helpful. There are a few areas where some additional information would be helpful, which I've detailed below. If it would be useful to you, I'd be happy to set up a call for later this week or early next week to talk through our questions. Any of the following times would work for us:

Thursday, 3/17: 9am or 11am PT

Friday, 3/18: Anytime before 12pm PT

Tuesday, 3/22: 8-9am PT, 11:30am-1pm PT, or any time after 2pm PT

Thank you so much for your help with this!

Maria

Top priority questions

- What deliverables or impact goals for the 2022 work feel appropriate? Some examples of potential goals might be the following, but we would value your perspective on how to best define impact and what milestones or performance metrics should look like:
 - Additional platforms covered or volume of tickets served
 - Partnerships with organizations representing traditionally underrepresented groups, LEP communities, etc.
 - Outreach or awareness w/ election officials or collateral/analysis for election officials
 - Evidence base creation for future policy/efforts
- Is it possible to break the 2022 costs down into salaries & benefits, subcontractor fees, and other expenses (technology, etc)? Rough estimates for sub-categories are sufficient at this point.

Additional questions

- Budget clarifications:
 - Is EIP seeking other philanthropic funding to support this work?
 - How does EIP accept philanthropic funding? Will that look like separate grants to each institution, or is it possible to make one grant to Stanford and have it sub-granted to UW?
 - In your proposal, does the amount earmarked for 2022 also cover the post-election analysis period?
- Context to help interpret the statistics from your 2020 efforts:
 - Can you contextualize the numbers you shared to help our funding partners interpret them? These were:
 - 639 distinct “tickets” on election-related mis- and disinformation.
 - EIP platform stakeholders responded directly to 75% or more of the tickets reported to them
 - 35% of the URLs shared with Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube were either labeled, removed, or soft-blocked by the platforms
 - Can we contextualize these numbers for the partnership?
 - What was the time period over which the 639 tickets were reported?
 - Qualitatively, what is the impact? For example, did these allow for significant analytical work? What about impact on how voters or election officials experienced misinfo? (if that is knowable)
 - How would more tickets translate to expanded impact? Better research, etc?
 - It seems like a 75% response rate is good. Could that be improved? What happened to the other ~25%?
 - Is the EIP team happy with the 35% action rate? Should it have been higher? If not, what context explains why 35% is appropriate? If so, what would a better rate look like?

On Wed, Mar 9, 2022 at 10:55 AM Whittemore, Sam
<Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org> wrote:

Hi Elena and team, thank you very much for sending this over! We are excited to dig and will follow-up shortly with some thoughts on next steps.

Best,

Sam

From: Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 7:02 PM
To: Whittemore, Sam
<Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org>; mariabianchibuck@gmail.com; acatella@pewtrusts.org
Cc: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>; Renee DiResta
<rdiresta@stanford.edu>; Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Julia Carter
<jccarter@uw.edu>
Subject: Re: Following up from Pew

Hi Sam,

I am attaching here a high level summary of the Election Integrity Partnership work that will be carried out by the UWCIP and SIO over the coming years. We have kept this concise while attempting to address your outlined questions below and indicating our more urgent versus longer term need. We look forward to any feedback you have on the proposal and are happy to pull together additional information for you. You have already connected directly with Kate, Alex and Renee and I am also available to discuss any questions or advice you may have. We appreciate your support as the work of this program is critically important to securing this year and future US elections.

Thank you,

—

Elena Cryst, MBA (she/her)

Associate Director

Stanford Internet Observatory

<https://io.stanford.edu>

Book an appointment

On Feb 17, 2022, at 11:57 AM, Whittemore, Sam
<Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org> wrote:

Hi Kate, Alex, and Renee,

Thank you again for making the time to meet last week. We were all energized by the conversation and are looking forward to continuing to collaborate with you on how potential funding could enable EIP to have even greater impact on the misinformation challenge.

As you are putting your thinking on paper, I thought it might be helpful to offer a bit more guidance:

- Possible Timing – The funder group is aiming to have the first set of grants disbursed by early June of this year which means the group is hoping to make a decision by end of March to allow time for the appropriate administrative steps to be taken. Our hope is that we could bring something to the funder group for an initial discussion in early March, so that we could share reactions back with you and iterate together as needed.
- Materials – As mentioned, we don't have a set process for the format or length of proposals, but our goal is to keep the process light touch so that you all can stay focused on the more important work. We'll leave it to you to decide the appropriate length, but erring on the side of concision is great. It would be helpful to understand a few main elements:
 - A brief diagnosis of the core problem and articulation of how EIP addresses that problem
 - What impact additional funding would allow you to have (e.g., in 2022, 2024, and beyond)
 - How much funding is needed and for roughly what (though we do not necessarily need a detailed line-by-line budget breakdown)
 - How we would ultimately know if that funding accomplished what was hoped for, e.g., potential performance milestones, indicators of impact, etc.
- Open questions –
 - This is offered strictly as input for you to discard of

not useful, but one reflection from our discussion is that might be helpful to think in-terms of a few different stages of work. For example, short-term funding for the 2022 cycle, post-election research dissemination and learning, and then laying groundwork for 2024.

○ Given some of the critical questions you all shared about the future role of EIP in the field and organizational structure (e.g., What parts of this work might CISA take on? What are the tradeoffs between academic affiliation vs. standing up an independent org?), you should not feel like you need to have firm answers to everything now. It would make sense that part of the post-2022 work would be taking a step back to reflect on some of these longer-term topics, and we would look forward to partnering with you on that.

For our reference, **when do you think you might be able to deliver your initial thoughts?** Our bias would be towards starting with something rough, rather than waiting for a formal deliverable, and we can work together to get things “funder-ready.”

Let me know if this raises any additional questions, happy to hop on a call anytime to discuss.

Best,

Sam

Sam Whittlemore
Manager

The Bridgespan Group
2 Copley Place, 7th Floor, Suite 3700B | Boston, MA 02116
Phone: 617.572.3060
Sam.Whittlemore@bridgespan.org
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To: Maria Bianchi Buck[mariabianchibuck@gmail.com]
Cc: Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]; Julia Carter Scanlan[jccarter@uw.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]; Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]; Angela Catella[acatella@pewtrusts.org]; Whittemore, Sam[Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 4/22/2022 6:16:41 PM
Subject: Re: Following up from Pew
Received: Fri 4/22/2022 6:16:41 PM

Kate

On Apr 22, 2022, at 6:37 AM, Maria Bianchi Buck <mariabianchibuck@gmail.com> wrote:

Happy Friday!

Thank you all for your help over the past week! I have one more thing I'd love your feedback on - I'm working on translating the information you've provided and the conversations we've had into more structured deliverables.

I have two requests: I'd love to schedule a meeting or meetings next week to really get down into the details of these with you. Because of the structure of the grants (where we'll be making individual grants to each institution) it might make sense to do that with each university team separately, or I'm happy to meet with everyone again if that works better!

Before that, I'd appreciate it if you could review what I've proposed here **by the end of the day**, if at all possible, and let me know if anything needs to be struck or changed before being included in our investment recommendation to give the partnership a sense of the work the grant will cover.

I apologize for the incredibly tight turnaround, and I really appreciate your help!

Maria

Implement Real Time Monitoring and Reporting on Misinformation

- Create software architecture allowing for the expansion of EIP's automated misinformation detection. This expanded coverage will allow the EIP to expand their scope to include streaming platforms, and will also allow the partnership to monitor content in additional languages.
- Expand human capacity for data monitoring, allowing the EIP team to better understand the context in which misinformation is arising and more rapidly and effectively quantify. Combined with the automated monitoring tools, this will lead to higher quality tickets reporting misinformation, allowing the EIP to update the elections field on developing trends in something close to real time.

Work with Platforms to Strengthen Sector Response to Misinformation

- Partner with social media companies, including Facebook/Meta, Twitter, Youtube, and TikTok, expanding scope of their work to cover additional platforms. These platforms will integrate with the EIP ticketing system, enabling smooth reporting pathways.
- Conduct a detailed comparative analysis of social media platforms' published elections-related speech policies. The EIP will additionally publish recommendations for best practices for platforms, helping to move the field toward a more responsive posture toward election disinformation.

Provide Analysis to Inform the Election Field's Response to Misinformation

- Provide 3 rapid response briefings for election administrators, platforms, journalists, and other partners in response to emerging trends. These briefings will occur on an as needed basis, and will heighten field awareness new forms that misinformation is taking in the 2022 cycle.
- Produce 5 real time reporting and analysis products. These products will explore and explain specific misinformation narratives and patterns, helping platforms, journalists, community partners and election officials better prepare for and combat emerging trends.
- The EIP will conduct a threat ideation exercise for partners entities. The activity will leverage the experience of the EIP team to help the partners explore potential outcomes over the course of the 2022 election process.
- Hold a webinar for election officials. The webinar will increase awareness of the partnership among election officials, and will highlight ways that election officials can engage with the partnership and benefit from its analysis.
- Produce an end of cycle analysis product. The EIP team will publish a peer-reviewed academic publication describing the tactics and dynamics of information spread in the 2022 cycle.

Increase Diversity in Coverage and Outreach across Geographic, Linguistic, and Social groups

- Expand the language capacity of the partnership to cover 6 languages. The partners will recruit core team members with native language proficiency in English, Spanish and Chinese, and will additionally build competency through recruitment or monitoring in Tagalog, Vietnamese, and Arabic.
- Create partnerships with 3 community organizations serving marginalized communities. Disinformation campaigns are often microtargeted towards specific demographic groups, so partnerships with groups serving these communities will help the partnership understand how they are receiving and processing information and how it spreads within communities.
- Hold a webinar for Community Partner organizations and other civil society groups. The webinar will be aimed at increasing awareness of the partnership, and will highlight ways that community groups can engage.
- Conduct 2 briefings focusing on the impact of emerging misinformation trends on marginalized or targeted communities.

On Wed, Apr 20, 2022 at 3:02 PM Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi Angela –

Here is that graphic.

—

Elena Cryst

Assistant Director

Stanford Internet Observatory

<https://io.stanford.edu>

From: Angela Catella <acatella@pewtrusts.org>
Date: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at 10:48 AM
To: Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>, mariabianchibuck <mariabianchibuck@gmail.com>, Julia Scanlan <jccarter@uw.edu>
Cc: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>, Whittemore, Sam <Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org>
Subject: RE: Following up from Pew

Thanks, Elena. I believe its actually this graphic we were hoping to have a better version of. Thanks!

<image001.png>

From: Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 1:36 PM
To: mariabianchibuck <mariabianchibuck@gmail.com>; Julia Scanlan <jccarter@uw.edu>
Cc: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Angela Catella <acatella@pewtrusts.org>; Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>; Whittemore, Sam <Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org>
Subject: Re: Following up from Pew

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]: This message is from an external sender. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Hi Maria –

Sure thing. I've attached the image here.

—
Elena Cryst

Assistant Director

Stanford Internet Observatory

<https://io.stanford.edu>

From: Maria Bianchi Buck <mariabianchibuck@gmail.com>
Date: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at 6:30 AM
To: Julia Scanlan <jccarter@uw.edu>, Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>
Cc: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>, acatella@pewtrusts.org <acatella@pewtrusts.org>, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>, Whittemore, Sam <Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org>

Subject: Re: Following up from Pew

Thank you so much, Julia! These were exactly what I needed.

I have one (hopefully simple!) more request. Would it be possible to send me a higher resolution version of the graphic on page two of your original project note? I thought that was a really helpful illustration of the model, and would like to include it in our investment recommendation.

Thank you!

Maria

On Fri, Apr 15, 2022 at 7:32 PM Julia Scanlan <jccarter@uw.edu> wrote:

Hi Maria,

Thank you for your patience as we've put together responses to your questions and some follow-up from our conversation on Monday. Attached is a document that provides additional detail on the requested areas. Let us know if there's anything that's unclear or about which you'd like to know more.

We also have attached our proposed budgets; these are for the 2022-2023 cycle. As we mentioned on the call, these should be considered preliminary and not final. The final versions require full review and approval from our sponsored research offices. Note that as these are grants the universities' sponsored research overhead rates are assessed (57.4% for Stanford, 55.5% for UW).

Thank you for your continued consideration!

Julia

JULIA SCANLAN (she/her)

Director for Strategy and Operations | Center for an Informed Public

University of Washington

206.897.1798 / Box 351205 / cip.uw.edu

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<image002.jpg>

From: Maria Bianchi Buck <mariabianchibuck@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2022 2:07 PM

To: Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>

Cc: Julia Scanlan <jccarter@uw.edu>; Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; acatella@pewtrusts.org; Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>; Whittemore, Sam <Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org>

Subject: Re: Following up from Pew

Thank you all again for your willingness to jump on a call with us on Monday! The information you provided was incredibly helpful. I have a few follow up questions after the call.

1. When you have a chance, Elena, can you send me the timeline you mentioned during our conversation on platform policy changes?
2. Another budget question which I didn't think to ask on our call: how does the amount requested for 2022 in the proposal you sent compare to the overall budget for EIP in 2022?
3. As part of our efforts to ensure we are incorporating diverse perspectives to inform the work, we would value any information you can provide on...
 - a.) how your work takes racial disparities and equity into account in program design
 - b.) how your project team (and leadership and advisory bodies, if relevant) are reflective of racial diversity
4. In your proposal and impact goals, you talk about working closely with community groups.
 - a.) Have you already identified any of these potential partners?
 - b.) Are you offering any financial support to enable these groups to play this role? Would such financial support be useful?
 - c.) Are there any specific research products you hope to produce, or hypothesis you hope to test based on this work in the 2022 cycle?

I'm happy to set up another call with some or all of the team, or to get responses by email as they are available. Thank you again!

Maria

On Thu, Apr 7, 2022 at 7:38 PM Maria Bianchi Buck <mariabianchibuck@gmail.com> wrote:

Yes, I can be available then! Thank you for your willingness to move so quickly!

Maria

On Thu, Apr 7, 2022 at 6:42 PM Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi Maria –

Thank you for sending through the budget template and questions. I think it might be helpful for us to go over all of them in a call and then we can follow up with more detailed responses in writing. Are you available next Monday from 1-2pm PT / 4-5pm ET? I believe that time will work for myself, Kate, Julia and Renee.

—
Elena Cryst, MBA (she/her)
Assistant Director
Stanford Internet Observatory

<https://io.stanford.edu>

Book an appointment

From: Maria Bianchi Buck <mariabianchibuck@gmail.com>
Date: Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at 6:54 PM
To: Julia Scanlan <jccarter@uw.edu>
Cc: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>, Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>, acatella@pewtrusts.org
<acatella@pewtrusts.org>, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>, Renee DiResta
<rdirresta@stanford.edu>, Whittemore, Sam <Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org>
Subject: Re: Following up from Pew

I'm so sorry about that! Here you go!

On Wed, Apr 6, 2022 at 8:21 PM Julia Scanlan <jccarter@uw.edu> wrote:

Hi Maria,

Thank you so much for this update, and that's great news about the initial write-up. We'll be happy to compile answers and send them as soon as we can. I didn't see a budget template attached to your email – could you resend?

More soon,

Julia

From: Maria Bianchi Buck <mariabianchibuck@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 6, 2022 3:47 PM
To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>
Cc: acatella@pewtrusts.org; Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>; Renee DiResta
<rdirresta@stanford.edu>; Julia Scanlan <jccarter@uw.edu>; Whittemore, Sam

<Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org>

Subject: Re: Following up from Pew

SIO & CIP Teams:

Thank you so much for your responsiveness and flexibility throughout! Our initial write-up was well received by the funding partners and we're currently working on getting our investment recommendation to them fully compiled. I have another round of clarifying questions that we've tried to prioritize in order of what's most time-sensitive to keep the grant process moving forward - I'd appreciate answers as soon as possible, and am happy to take partial responses as you're able to get them together. As ever, I'm incredibly appreciative of your time and effort in pulling this information together.

I'm also happy to jump on the phone, if you have any questions about what I've written here!

Best,

Maria

High priority questions on budget & funding sources

- 1.) Could you share any off-the-shelf information on the project's budget in 2020? (e.g., topline costs for each organization and major subcategories, sources of funding where that information is available.)
- 2.) Are there other funders currently supporting, or considering supporting, EIP? To the extent that you're able to share, who has funded the work at what level?
- 3.) Could you share a brief description of the Newmark gift and NSF grants (i.e., amount, duration, primary use)?
- 4.) Are you still pursuing funding from DHS/other federal sources? I think you mentioned some reasons why this funding might be undesirable - can you expand on those?
- 5.) In terms of absorbing the requested funding, do you anticipate any challenges to staffing up quickly (e.g., due to administrative hurdles on hiring)?
- 6.) One thing that will help us move forward is starting to assemble the budget information in a similar level of detail to that described in the attached budget template. This template is what we'll use for the grant itself, so if you're able to fill it out, that will save time on the backend, but if you have this information in a different format, we can wait to translate it over.

Clarifications on Impact Indicators (note: happy to set up a call to discuss live if that's easier for you than writing out answers here)

- 1.) Increased quality of cataloged tickets/incidents - Can you help me articulate what impact the higher quality of tickets will have for the projects' impact? What will this improved data help you do or assess?
- 2.) Diversity in coverage and outreach across geographic, linguistic, and social groups - Can you articulate what impact you hope this expanded outreach will have? What new learnings will it provide?
- 3.) Impact on technology company's policies - Could you give me an example of a policy change that happened in 2020 that illustrates the sort of potential change you're talking about? I know that this isn't an area where you can commit to anything specific, so this is a place where talking about previous efforts will be helpful!
- 4.) Impact of assessments and findings - I understand that it can be challenging to understand the impact of resources made publicly available, but are there any ways you can think about how stakeholders are using this information and how you know they are getting value out of it?
- 5.) Long-term: Building a redeploy-able system for monitoring information around critical societal events - Can you provide a little more detail about what this will look like?

Lower Priority Questions

- 1.) In your proposal, you mention “Our engagement with civil society organizations augments our social listening by allowing for high-quality tips from community partners who may be the targets of specific misinformation.” Is it possible to provide a little more detail on how this works? What makes tips received from these partners of higher quality?
- 2.) In the proposal, you state “35% of the URLs shared with Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube were either labeled, removed, or soft-blocked by the platforms.” Can you explain what soft-blocking means in this context?
- 3.) Are there additional advisory bodies at either institution that will govern or guide this work?
- 4.) Are there contacts at platforms you could put me in touch with to share additional context on how they're thinking about working with EIP in the upcoming cycle?

On Thu, Mar 31, 2022 at 10:45 AM Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

Hi Maria,

Echoing this answer, there are places where our workstreams will be separate (for example at the Tier 1 level, where we identify and do a first analysis of problematic content) and others that will be collaborative (for example at Tier 2 where we pull all the content we can about a particular “incident” of mis- or disinformation). We will share data and work collaboratively on analyses — and we will likely be co-authoring many of the outputs. And we’re working together to design all of the different aspects of the process to make sure that everything flows together.

Kate

On Mar 30, 2022, at 10:25 PM, Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi Maria,

There are separate workstreams/divisions of labor between the two university teams. We will be staffing up our own research associates to review separate first tier data ingests as this is more efficient operationally. Our collaboration will be at the analysis and outputs/deliverables stage. We maintain high-level visibility on both side’s first tier process (and are collaborating closely on the data ingest architecture) to ensure that they are compatible with each other.

Does that answer your question?

Thanks!

Elena Cryst

Assistant Director

Stanford Internet Observatory

<https://io.stanford.edu>

From: Maria Bianchi Buck <mariabianchibuck@gmail.com>

Date: Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at 10:47 AM

To: Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>

Cc: acatella@pewtrusts.org <acatella@pewtrusts.org>, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>, Julia Carter <jccarter@uw.edu>, Whittemore, Sam <Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org>

Subject: Re: Following up from Pew

Elena,

Thank you so much for sending this!

I have one hopefully quick question arising from our conversation last week: Are there separate work streams or divisions of labor between the two university teams? Because we're talking about structuring this as two separate grants, it would be useful to understand if there are pieces of the work or deliverables that are more relevant to one organization than the other.

Maria

On Wed, Mar 23, 2022 at 1:32 PM Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi Maria –

Thank you for your patience as we put together our responses to your questions from Friday's call. Below are some further details on how we're conceptualizing metrics and measurable outputs for the Election Integrity Partnership. I'm also attaching a budget breakdown for our two orgs.

The Election Integrity Partnership will measure its impact on the following key indicators:

- Quality of cataloged tickets or incidents

- For each ticket/incident that EIP reports, we are able to capture whether a platform partner responded to the ticket and whether or not they took action on reported content. We hope to see a high rate of response and action, however, as we do not have full transparency on platforms' decisions, we cannot rely solely on this metric to determine ticket quality.
 - To enhance our understanding of our ticket quality, we will want to further differentiate by platform to see if there is a significant difference in the response rate by platform. We anticipate that there will be based on platforms' staffing constraints and on different policy enforcement practices, and robust data collection will enable us to more accurately assess this.
- Diversity in coverage and outreach across geographic, linguistic, and social groups
 - We seek to engage with a range of civil society organizations that work closely with a diversity of groups. As with measuring the volume of tickets overall, measuring the volume of tickets relevant to specific target audiences may lead to biased data collection processes. We will measure impact in this space through the quality and diversity in our stakeholder engagement.
 - We will have core team members with native language proficiency for the top three languages in the United States (English, Spanish, Chinese), and will additionally have research analysts or partnerships with organizations that have language competency in Tagalog, Vietnamese, Arabic, and other target LEP groups. We previously engaged with a group of Ethnic Media Fellows affiliated with the National Conference on Citizenship who were formed to listen for misinformation around the 2020 census to support our work on vaccine hesitancy. We intend to expand this engagement and supplement with civil society organizations focused on these communities.
 - In addition to assessing the profile of our stakeholder engagement, we can measure the uptake of our outputs through tracking metrics on receipt and open rate for our email briefings.
- Impact on technology company's policies
 - In 2020, several Election Integrity Partnership analysts conducted a detailed comparative analysis of social media platforms' published elections-related speech policies. This post was updated several times as platforms changed their policies. While we cannot draw a causal link between our work and the policy changes, we can say that subsequent updates to platforms' policies directly addressed deficiencies identified by our analysts.
 - We intend to repeat this work in 2022 and 2024, expanding it to more platforms and making clear recommendations for best practices in election speech policies. We will measure this through published changes in the platforms' policies.
- Impact of assessments and findings
 - We are able to measure short-term impact of our outputs via metrics such as attendance at or readership of regular briefings, and web traffic and engagement with published content. These metrics tell us how many people our content reaches.
 - For direct policy impact, we consistently re-assess platform policies to see if policies have changed after the posting of our policy assessments. In 2020 we saw numerous changes that more tightly aligned policies to our assessment rubric and we anticipate further changes of this nature in response to our assessments.

- Long-term: Building a redeploy-able system for monitoring information around critical societal events
 - Part of our impact will be measured on whether this methodically built model can be smoothly redeployed after the 2022 election to focus on other critical societal events. This includes developing clear stakeholder relationship models and an adaptable technical infrastructure.

Additional questions

- Budget clarifications:
 - Is EIP seeking other philanthropic funding to support this work?
Yes. UWCIP has received a philanthropic gift that has enabled the hiring of a project lead for EIP. SIO has received a philanthropic gift that has enabled hiring a dedicating a portion of existing staff time to this project. Neither of these are sufficient to cover this project at scale.
 - How does EIP accept philanthropic funding? Will that look like separate grants to each institution, or is it possible to make one grant to Stanford and have it sub-granted to UW?
We prefer funding to be made to the two organizations independently. While it is possible to set up a grant with a sub-award from one institution to the other, our respective universities charge overhead on such a subaward that would significantly reduce the amount of useable funds it adds in addition to increasing administrative burden and delaying the process.
 - In your proposal, does the amount earmarked for 2022 also cover the post-election analysis period?
Yes, the 2022 budget covers the post-election period for 2022 but does not cover the time and effort that will go into expanding this for Election 2024
- Context to help interpret the statistics from your 2020 efforts:
 - Can you contextualize the numbers you shared to help our funding partners interpret them? These were:
 - 639 distinct “tickets” on election-related mis- and disinformation. This is the number of in-scope reports of election-related mis- and disinformation made by our analysts. Additional tickets were filed that were either deemed out of scope of the project or duplicate on this number. Some tickets contained just one unique piece of content while others contained a set of interrelated content pieces. For 2022 we have refined how we think about “incidents” or “tickets” to allow us to capture more nuanced data on both.
 - EIP platform stakeholders responded directly to 75% or more of the tickets reported to them
Of the tickets reported to the platform stakeholder, EIP tracked that platforms acknowledged receiving 75% of the tickets.
 - 35% of the URLs shared with Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube were either labeled, removed, or soft-blocked by the platforms
Of the incidents reported to these four platforms for violating their published election-related policies, the platforms actioned 35% by either labeling, removing, or soft-blocking the content.
 - Can we contextualize these numbers for the partnership?

- What was the time period over which the 639 tickets were reported?

Roughly September 1, 2020 to November 15, 2020

- Qualitatively, what is the impact? For example, did these allow for significant analytical work? What about impact on how voters or election officials experienced misinfo? (if that is knowable)

Yes, this did allow for significant analytical work. Highlights of that are in our EIP report, but further work is forthcoming in several academic journal articles that are currently under review.

Regarding impact on voters or election officials: We don't have sufficient data to say this for 2020 but these are questions we hope to answer for 2022. Part of our longer term work (and a supplemental grant we've received from the National Science Foundation) is designed to look at more of the societal impact. This will require controlled testing and surveys of relevant groups to scientifically assess impact.

- How would more tickets translate to expanded impact? Better research, etc?

Number of tickets is not the right metric to assess this. We do not want to be in a position where analysts are incentivized to create tickets unnecessarily, and our ultimate vision is a world where this project is not needed and tickets don't exist. What will be more important is understanding the narratives that underly the tickets and catalogue the recurring themes and tropes to provide better advanced information to the public.

- It seems like a 75% response rate is good. Could that be improved? What happened to the other ~25%?

We speculate that tickets that went unacknowledged were reported to platforms that did not have capacity to receive tickets or chose not to acknowledge receipt. We hope to see a higher response rate in the future but this is ultimately up to the platforms and not the partnership.

- Is the EIP team happy with the 35% action rate? Should it have been higher? If not, what context explains why 35% is appropriate? If so, what would a better rate look like?

The platforms did not share with us their rationale for each decision. We hope to see a higher number of reported incidents actioned upon as an indication that these incidents are violating or because the platforms have modified their enforcement policies.

There are many reasons a platform may have actioned or not actioned content, and in many cases inaction is an appropriate outcome.

Sometimes incidents were shared for visibility or because they related to a larger narrative.

Some of this action rate relates to different platforms' own policy thresholds. This number is not split out by platform so it can be challenging to compare, say, TikTok to Reddit in platform enforcement.

Elena Cryst

Assistant Director

Stanford Internet Observatory

<https://io.stanford.edu>

From: Maria Bianchi Buck <mariabianchibuck@gmail.com>
Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 11:25 AM
To: Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>
Cc: acatella@pewtrusts.org <acatella@pewtrusts.org>, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>, Julia Carter <jccarter@uw.edu>, Whittemore, Sam <Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org>
Subject: Re: Following up from Pew

Elena and team,

Thank you so much for sending over the proposal - that was immensely helpful. There are a few areas where some additional information would be helpful, which I've detailed below. If it would be useful to you, I'd be happy to set up a call for later this week or early next week to talk through our questions. Any of the following times would work for us:

Thursday, 3/17: 9am or 11am PT

Friday, 3/18: Anytime before 12pm PT

Tuesday, 3/22: 8-9am PT, 11:30am-1pm PT, or any time after 2pm PT

Thank you so much for your help with this!

Maria

Top priority questions

- What deliverables or impact goals for the 2022 work feel appropriate? Some examples of potential goals might be the following, but we would value your perspective on how to best define impact and what milestones or performance metrics should look like:
 - Additional platforms covered or volume of tickets served
 - Partnerships with organizations representing traditionally underrepresented groups, LEP communities, etc.
 - Outreach or awareness w/ election officials or collateral/analysis for election officials
 - Evidence base creation for future policy/efforts
- Is it possible to break the 2022 costs down into salaries & benefits, subcontractor fees, and other expenses (technology, etc)? Rough estimates for sub-categories are sufficient at this point.

Additional questions

- Budget clarifications:
 - Is EIP seeking other philanthropic funding to support this work?
 - How does EIP accept philanthropic funding? Will that look like separate grants to each institution, or is it possible to make one grant to Stanford and have it sub-granted to UW?
 - In your proposal, does the amount earmarked for 2022 also cover the post-election analysis period?
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 - 35% of the URLs shared with Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube were either labeled, removed, or soft-blocked by the platforms
 - Can we contextualize these numbers for the partnership?
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 - How would more tickets translate to expanded impact? Better research, etc?
 - It seems like a 75% response rate is good. Could that be improved? What happened to the other ~25%?
 - Is the EIP team happy with the 35% action rate? Should it have been higher? If not, what context explains why 35% is appropriate? If so, what would a better rate look like?

On Wed, Mar 9, 2022 at 10:55 AM Whittemore, Sam
<Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org> wrote:

Hi Elena and team, thank you very much for sending this over! We are excited to dig and will follow-up shortly with some thoughts on next steps.

Best,

Sam

From: Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 7:02 PM
To: Whittemore, Sam

<Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org>; mariabianchibuck@gmail.com; acatella@pe
wtrusts.org

Cc: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>; Renee DiResta
<rdiresta@stanford.edu>; Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Julia Carter
<jccarter@uw.edu>

Subject: Re: Following up from Pew

Hi Sam,

I am attaching here a high level summary of the Election Integrity Partnership work that will be carried out by the UWCIP and SIO over the coming years. We have kept this concise while attempting to address your outlined questions below and indicating our more urgent versus longer term need. We look forward to any feedback you have on the proposal and are happy to pull together additional information for you. You have already connected directly with Kate, Alex and Renee and I am also available to discuss any questions or advice you may have. We appreciate your support as the work of this program is critically important to securing this year and future US elections.

Thank you,

—

Elena Cryst, MBA (she/her)

Associate Director

Stanford Internet Observatory

<https://io.stanford.edu>

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On Feb 17, 2022, at 11:57 AM, Whittemore, Sam
<Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org> wrote:

Hi Kate, Alex, and Renee,

Thank you again for making the time to meet last week. We were all energized by the conversation and are looking forward to continuing to collaborate with you on how potential funding could enable EIP to

have even greater impact on the misinformation challenge.

As you are putting your thinking on paper, I thought it might be helpful to offer a bit more guidance:

- Possible Timing – The funder group is aiming to have the first set of grants disbursed by early June of this year which means the group is hoping to make a decision by end of March to allow time for the appropriate administrative steps to be taken. Our hope is that we could bring something to the funder group for an initial discussion in early March, so that we could share reactions back with you and iterate together as needed.
- Materials – As mentioned, we don't have a set process for the format or length of proposals, but our goal is to keep the process light touch so that you all can stay focused on the more important work. We'll leave it to you to decide the appropriate length, but erring on the side of concision is great. It would be helpful to understand a few main elements:
 - A brief diagnosis of the core problem and articulation of how EIP addresses that problem
 - What impact additional funding would allow you to have (e.g., in 2022, 2024, and beyond)
 - How much funding is needed and for roughly what (though we do not necessarily need a detailed line-by-line budget breakdown)
 - How we would ultimately know if that funding accomplished what was hoped for, e.g., potential performance milestones, indicators of impact, etc.
- Open questions –
 - This is offered strictly as input for you to discard of not useful, but one reflection from our discussion is that might be helpful to think in-terms of a few different stages of work. For example, short-term funding for the 2022 cycle, post-election research dissemination and learning, and then laying groundwork for 2024.
 - Given some of the critical questions you all shared about the future role of EIP in the field and organizational structure (e.g., What parts of this work might CISA take on? What are the tradeoffs between academic affiliation vs. standing up an independent org?), you should not feel like you need to have firm answers to everything now. It would make sense that part of the post-2022 work would be taking a step back to reflect on some of these longer-term topics, and we would look forward to partnering with you on

that.

For our reference, **when do you think you might be able to deliver your initial thoughts?** Our bias would be towards starting with something rough, rather than waiting for a formal deliverable, and we can work together to get things “funder-ready.”

Let me know if this raises any additional questions, happy to hop on a call anytime to discuss.

Best,

Sam

Sam Whittemore
Manager

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Phone: 617.572.3060
Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org
www.bridgespan.org

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To: Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]
Cc: Julia Carter Scanlan[jccarter@uw.edu]; Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 4/20/2022 5:28:16 PM
Subject: Re: Following up from Pew
Received: Wed 4/20/2022 5:28:19 PM

Elena, are you able to do this? Or is this graphic one of ours?

Kate

On Apr 20, 2022, at 6:29 AM, Maria Bianchi Buck <mariabianchibuck@gmail.com> wrote:

Thank you so much, Julia! These were exactly what I needed.

I have one (hopefully simple!) more request. Would it be possible to send me a higher resolution version of the graphic on page two of your original project note? I thought that was a really helpful illustration of the model, and would like to include it in our investment recommendation.

Thank you!

Maria

On Fri, Apr 15, 2022 at 7:32 PM Julia Scanlan <jccarter@uw.edu> wrote:

Hi Maria,

Thank you for your patience as we've put together responses to your questions and some follow-up from our conversation on Monday. Attached is a document that provides additional detail on the requested areas. Let us know if there's anything that's unclear or about which you'd like to know more.

We also have attached our proposed budgets; these are for the 2022-2023 cycle. As we mentioned on the call, these should be considered preliminary and not final. The final versions require full review and approval from our sponsored research offices. Note that as these are grants the universities' sponsored research overhead rates are assessed (57.4% for Stanford, 55.5% for UW).

Thank you for your continued consideration!

Julia

JULIA SCANLAN (she/her)

Director for Strategy and Operations | Center for an Informed Public

University of Washington

<image001.jpg>

From: Maria Bianchi Buck <mariabianchibuck@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2022 2:07 PM

To: Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>

Cc: Julia Scanlan <jccarter@uw.edu>; Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; acatella@pewtrusts.org; Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdirresta@stanford.edu>; Whittemore, Sam <Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org>

Subject: Re: Following up from Pew

Thank you all again for your willingness to jump on a call with us on Monday! The information you provided was incredibly helpful. I have a few follow up questions after the call.

1. When you have a chance, Elena, can you send me the timeline you mentioned during our conversation on platform policy changes?
2. Another budget question which I didn't think to ask on our call: how does the amount requested for 2022 in the proposal you sent compare to the overall budget for EIP in 2022?
3. As part of our efforts to ensure we are incorporating diverse perspectives to inform the work, we would value any information you can provide on...
 - a.) how your work takes racial disparities and equity into account in program design
 - b.) how your project team (and leadership and advisory bodies, if relevant) are reflective of racial diversity
4. In your proposal and impact goals, you talk about working closely with community groups.
 - a.) Have you already identified any of these potential partners?
 - b.) Are you offering any financial support to enable these groups to play this role? Would such financial support be useful?
 - c.) Are there any specific research products you hope to produce, or hypothesis you hope to test based on this work in the 2022 cycle?

I'm happy to set up another call with some or all of the team, or to get responses by email as they are available. Thank you again!

Maria

On Thu, Apr 7, 2022 at 7:38 PM Maria Bianchi Buck <mariabianchibuck@gmail.com> wrote:

Yes, I can be available then! Thank you for your willingness to move so quickly!

Maria

On Thu, Apr 7, 2022 at 6:42 PM Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi Maria –

Thank you for sending through the budget template and questions. I think it might be helpful for us to go over all of them in a call and then we can follow up with more detailed responses in writing. Are you available next Monday from 1-2pm PT / 4-5pm ET? I believe that time will work for myself, Kate, Julia and Renee.

—

Elena Cryst, MBA (she/her)

Assistant Director

Stanford Internet Observatory

<https://io.stanford.edu>

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From: Maria Bianchi Buck <mariabianchibuck@gmail.com>
Date: Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at 6:54 PM
To: Julia Scanlan <jccarter@uw.edu>
Cc: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>, Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>, acatella@pewtrusts.org <acatella@pewtrusts.org>, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>, Whittemore, Sam <Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org>
Subject: Re: Following up from Pew

I'm so sorry about that! Here you go!

On Wed, Apr 6, 2022 at 8:21 PM Julia Scanlan <jccarter@uw.edu> wrote:

Hi Maria,

Thank you so much for this update, and that's great news about the initial write-up. We'll be happy to compile answers and send them as soon as we can. I didn't see a budget template attached to your email – could you resend?

More soon,

Julia

From: Maria Bianchi Buck <mariabianchibuck@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 6, 2022 3:47 PM
To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>
Cc: acatella@pewtrusts.org; Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>; Julia Scanlan <jccarter@uw.edu>; Whittemore, Sam <Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org>
Subject: Re: Following up from Pew

SIO & CIP Teams:

Thank you so much for your responsiveness and flexibility throughout! Our initial write-up was well received by the funding partners and we're currently working on getting our investment recommendation to them fully compiled. I have another round of clarifying questions that we've tried to prioritize in order of what's most time-sensitive to keep the grant process moving forward - I'd appreciate answers as soon as possible, and am happy to take partial responses as you're able to get them together. As ever, I'm incredibly appreciative of your time and effort in pulling this information together.

I'm also happy to jump on the phone, if you have any questions about what I've written here!

Best,

Maria

High priority questions on budget & funding sources

- 1.) Could you share any off-the-shelf information on the project's budget in 2020? (e.g., topline costs for each organization and major subcategories, sources of funding where that information is available.)
- 2.) Are there other funders currently supporting, or considering supporting, EIP? To the extent that you're able to share, who has funded the work at what level?
- 3.) Could you share a brief description of the Newmark gift and NSF grants (i.e., amount, duration, primary use)?
- 4.) Are you still pursuing funding from DHS/other federal sources? I think you mentioned some reasons why this funding might be undesirable - can you expand on those?
- 5.) In terms of absorbing the requested funding, do you anticipate any challenges to staffing up quickly (e.g., due to administrative hurdles on hiring)?
- 6.) One thing that will help us more forward is starting to assemble the budget information in a similar level of detail to that described in the attached budget template. This template is what we'll use for the grant itself, so if you're able to fill it out, that will save time on the backend, but if you have this information in a different format, we can wait to translate it over.

Clarifications on Impact Indicators (note: happy to set up a call to discuss live if that's easier for you than writing out answers here)

- 1.) Increased quality of cataloged tickets/incidents - Can you help me articulate what impact the higher quality of tickets will have for the projects' impact? What will this improved data help you do or assess?
- 2.) Diversity in coverage and outreach across geographic, linguistic, and social groups - Can you articulate what impact you hope this expanded outreach will have? What new learnings will it provide?
- 3.) Impact on technology company's policies - Could you give me an example of a policy change that

happened in 2020 that illustrates the sort of potential change you're talking about? I know that this isn't an area where you can commit to anything specific, so this is a place where talking about previous efforts will be helpful!

4.) Impact of assessments and findings - I understand that it can be challenging to understand the impact of resources made publicly available, but are there any ways you can think about how stakeholders are using this information and how you know they are getting value out of it?

5.) Long-term: Building a redeploy-able system for monitoring information around critical societal events - Can you provide a little more detail about what this will look like?

Lower Priority Questions

1.) In your proposal, you mention "Our engagement with civil society organizations augments our social listening by allowing for high-quality tips from community partners who may be the targets of specific misinformation." Is it possible to provide a little more detail on how this works? What makes tips received from these partners of higher quality?

2.) In the proposal, you state "35% of the URLs shared with Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube were either labeled, removed, or soft-blocked by the platforms." Can you explain what soft-blocking means in this context?

3.) Are there additional advisory bodies at either institution that will govern or guide this work?

4.) Are there contacts at platforms you could put me in touch with to share additional context on how they're thinking about working with EIP in the upcoming cycle?

On Thu, Mar 31, 2022 at 10:45 AM Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

Hi Maria,

Echoing this answer, there are places where our workstreams will be separate (for example at the Tier 1 level, where we identify and do a first analysis of problematic content) and others that will be collaborative (for example at Tier 2 where we pull all the content we can about a particular "incident" of mis- or disinformation). We will share data and work collaboratively on analyses — and we will likely be co-authoring many of the outputs. And we're working together to design all of the different aspects of the process to make sure that everything flows together.

Kate

On Mar 30, 2022, at 10:25 PM, Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi Maria,

There are separate workstreams/divisions of labor between the two university teams. We will be staffing up our own research associates to review separate first tier data ingests as

this is more efficient operationally. Our collaboration will be at the analysis and outputs/deliverables stage. We maintain high-level visibility on both side's first tier process (and are collaborating closely on the data ingest architecture) to ensure that they are compatible with each other.

Does that answer your question?

Thanks!

—

Elena Cryst

Assistant Director

Stanford Internet Observatory

<https://io.stanford.edu>

From: Maria Bianchi Buck <mariabianchibuck@gmail.com>
Date: Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at 10:47 AM
To: Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>
Cc: acatella@pewtrusts.org <acatella@pewtrusts.org>, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>, Julia Carter <jccarter@uw.edu>, Whittemore, Sam <Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org>
Subject: Re: Following up from Pew

Elena,

Thank you so much for sending this!

I have one hopefully quick question arising from our conversation last week: Are there separate work streams or divisions of labor between the two university teams? Because we're talking about structuring this as two separate grants, it would be useful to understand if there are pieces of the work or deliverables that are more relevant to one organization than the other.

Maria

On Wed, Mar 23, 2022 at 1:32 PM Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi Maria –

Thank you for your patience as we put together our responses to your questions from Friday's call. Below are some further details on how we're conceptualizing metrics and measurable outputs for the Election Integrity Partnership. I'm also attaching a budget breakdown for our two orgs.

The Election Integrity Partnership will measure its impact on the following key indicators:

- Quality of cataloged tickets or incidents
 - For each ticket/incident that EIP reports, we are able to capture whether a platform partner responded to the ticket and whether or not they took action on reported content. We hope to see a high rate of response and action, however, as we do not have full transparency on platforms' decisions, we cannot rely solely on this metric to determine ticket quality.
 - To enhance our understanding of our ticket quality, we will want to further differentiate by platform to see if there is a significant difference in the response rate by platform. We anticipate that there will be based on platforms' staffing constraints and on different policy enforcement practices, and robust data collection will enable us to more accurately assess this.
- Diversity in coverage and outreach across geographic, linguistic, and social groups
 - We seek to engage with a range of civil society organizations that work closely with a diversity of groups. As with measuring the volume of tickets overall, measuring the volume of tickets relevant to specific target audiences may lead to biased data collection processes. We will measure impact in this space through the quality and diversity in our stakeholder engagement.
 - We will have core team members with native language proficiency for the top three languages in the United States (English, Spanish, Chinese), and will additionally have research analysts or partnerships with organizations that have language competency in Tagalog, Vietnamese, Arabic, and other target LEP groups. We previously engaged with a group of Ethnic Media Fellows affiliated with the National Conference on Citizenship who were formed to listen for misinformation around the 2020 census to support our work on vaccine hesitancy. We intend to expand this engagement and supplement with civil society organizations focused on these communities.
 - In addition to assessing the profile of our stakeholder engagement, we can measure the uptake of our outputs through tracking metrics on receipt and open rate for our email briefings.
- Impact on technology company's policies
 - In 2020, several Election Integrity Partnership analysts conducted a detailed comparative analysis of social media platforms' published elections-related speech policies. This post was updated several times as platforms changed their policies. While we cannot draw a causal link between our work and the policy changes, we can say that subsequent updates to platforms' policies directly addressed deficiencies identified by our analysts.
 - We intend to repeat this work in 2022 and 2024, expanding it to more platforms and making clear recommendations for best practices in election speech policies. We will measure this through published changes in the platforms' policies.

- Impact of assessments and findings
 - We are able to measure short-term impact of our outputs via metrics such as attendance at or readership of regular briefings, and web traffic and engagement with published content. These metrics tell us how many people our content reaches.
 - For direct policy impact, we consistently re-assess platform policies to see if policies have changed after the posting of our policy assessments. In 2020 we saw numerous changes that more tightly aligned policies to our assessment rubric and we anticipate further changes of this nature in response to our assessments.

- Long-term: Building a redeploy-able system for monitoring information around critical societal events
 - Part of our impact will be measured on whether this methodically built model can be smoothly redeployed after the 2022 election to focus on other critical societal events. This includes developing clear stakeholder relationship models and an adaptable technical infrastructure.

Additional questions

- Budget clarifications:
 - Is EIP seeking other philanthropic funding to support this work?
Yes. UWCIP has received a philanthropic gift that has enabled the hiring of a project lead for EIP. SIO has received a philanthropic gift that has enabled hiring a dedicating a portion of existing staff time to this project. Neither of these are sufficient to cover this project at scale.
 - How does EIP accept philanthropic funding? Will that look like separate grants to each institution, or is it possible to make one grant to Stanford and have it sub-granted to UW?
We prefer funding to be made to the two organizations independently. While it is possible to set up a grant with a sub-award from one institution to the other, our respective universities charge overhead on such a subaward that would significantly reduce the amount of useable funds it adds in addition to increasing administrative burden and delaying the process.
 - In your proposal, does the amount earmarked for 2022 also cover the post-election analysis period?
Yes, the 2022 budget covers the post-election period for 2022 but does not cover the time and effort that will go into expanding this for Election 2024

- Context to help interpret the statistics from your 2020 efforts:
 - Can you contextualize the numbers you shared to help our funding partners interpret them? These were:
 - 639 distinct “tickets” on election-related mis- and disinformation. This is the number of in-scope reports of election-related mis- and disinformation made by our analysts. Additional tickets were filed that were either deemed out of scope of the project or duplicate on this number. Some tickets contained just one unique piece of content while others contained a set of interrelated content pieces. For 2022 we have refined how we think about “incidents” or “tickets” to allow us to capture more nuanced data on both.

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Of the tickets reported to the platform stakeholder, EIP tracked that platforms acknowledged receiving 75% of the tickets.

- 35% of the URLs shared with Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube were either labeled, removed, or soft-blocked by the platforms
- Of the incidents reported to these four platforms for violating their published election-related policies, the platforms actioned 35% by either labeling, removing, or soft-blocking the content.

- Can we contextualize these numbers for the partnership?

- What was the time period over which the 639 tickets were reported?

Roughly September 1, 2020 to November 15, 2020

- Qualitatively, what is the impact? For example, did these allow for significant analytical work? What about impact on how voters or election officials experienced misinfo? (if that is knowable)

Yes, this did allow for significant analytical work. Highlights of that are in our EIP report, but further work is forthcoming in several academic journal articles that are currently under review.

Regarding impact on voters or election officials: We don't have sufficient data to say this for 2020 but these are questions we hope to answer for 2022. Part of our longer term work (and a supplemental grant we've received from the National Science Foundation) is designed to look at more of the societal impact. This will require controlled testing and surveys of relevant groups to scientifically assess impact.

- How would more tickets translate to expanded impact? Better research, etc?

Number of tickets is not the right metric to assess this. We do not want to be in a position where analysts are incentivized to create tickets unnecessarily, and our ultimate vision is a world where this project is not needed and tickets don't exist. What will be more important is understanding the narratives that underly the tickets and catalogue the recurring themes and tropes to provide better advanced information to the public.

- It seems like a 75% response rate is good. Could that be improved?

What happened to the other ~25%?

We speculate that tickets that went unacknowledged were reported to platforms that did not have capacity to receive tickets or chose not to acknowledge receipt. We hope to see a higher response rate in the future but this is ultimately up to the platforms and not the partnership.

- Is the EIP team happy with the 35% action rate? Should it have been higher? If not, what context explains why 35% is appropriate? If so, what would a better rate look like?

The platforms did not share with us their rationale for each decision. We hope to see a higher number of reported incidents actioned upon as an indication that these incidents are violating or because the platforms have modified their enforcement policies.

There are many reasons a platform may have actioned or not actioned content, and in many cases inaction is an appropriate outcome. Sometimes incidents were shared for visibility or because they related to a larger narrative.

Some of this action rate relates to different platforms' own policy thresholds. This number is not split out by platform so it can be challenging to compare, say, TikTok to Reddit in platform enforcement.

Elena Cryst

Assistant Director

Stanford Internet Observatory

<https://io.stanford.edu>

From: Maria Bianchi Buck <mariabianchibuck@gmail.com>

Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 11:25 AM

To: Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>

Cc: acatella@pewtrusts.org <acatella@pewtrusts.org>, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>, Julia Carter <jccarter@uw.edu>, Whittemore, Sam <Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org>

Subject: Re: Following up from Pew

Elena and team,

Thank you so much for sending over the proposal - that was immensely helpful. There are a few areas where some additional information would be helpful, which I've detailed below. If it would be useful to you, I'd be happy to set up a call for later this week or early next week to talk through our questions. Any of the following times would work for us:

Thursday, 3/17: 9am or 11am PT

Friday, 3/18: Anytime before 12pm PT

Tuesday, 3/22: 8-9am PT, 11:30am-1pm PT, or any time after 2pm PT

Thank you so much for your help with this!

Maria

Top priority questions

- What deliverables or impact goals for the 2022 work feel appropriate? Some examples of potential goals might be the following, but we would value your perspective on how to best define impact and what milestones or performance metrics should look like:

- Additional platforms covered or volume of tickets served

- Partnerships with organizations representing traditionally underrepresented groups, LEP communities, etc.
 - Outreach or awareness w/ election officials or collateral/analysis for election officials
 - Evidence base creation for future policy/efforts
- Is it possible to break the 2022 costs down into salaries & benefits, subcontractor fees, and other expenses (technology, etc)? Rough estimates for sub-categories are sufficient at this point.

Additional questions

- Budget clarifications:
 - Is EIP seeking other philanthropic funding to support this work?
 - How does EIP accept philanthropic funding? Will that look like separate grants to each institution, or is it possible to make one grant to Stanford and have it sub-granted to UW?
 - In your proposal, does the amount earmarked for 2022 also cover the post-election analysis period?
- Context to help interpret the statistics from your 2020 efforts:
 - Can you contextualize the numbers you shared to help our funding partners interpret them? These were:
 - 639 distinct “tickets” on election-related mis- and disinformation.
 - EIP platform stakeholders responded directly to 75% or more of the tickets reported to them
 - 35% of the URLs shared with Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube were either labeled, removed, or soft-blocked by the platforms
 - Can we contextualize these numbers for the partnership?
 - What was the time period over which the 639 tickets were reported?
 - Qualitatively, what is the impact? For example, did these allow for significant analytical work? What about impact on how voters or election officials experienced misinfo? (if that is knowable)
 - How would more tickets translate to expanded impact? Better research, etc?
 - It seems like a 75% response rate is good. Could that be improved? What happened to the other ~25%?
 - Is the EIP team happy with the 35% action rate? Should it have been higher? If not, what context explains why 35% is appropriate? If so, what would a better rate look like?

On Wed, Mar 9, 2022 at 10:55 AM Whittemore, Sam <Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org> wrote:

Hi Elena and team, thank you very much for sending this over! We are excited to dig and will follow-up shortly with some thoughts on next steps.

Best,

Sam

From: Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 7:02 PM
To: Whittemore, Sam
<Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org>; mariabianchibuck@gmail.com; acatella@pewtrusts.org
Cc: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>; Renee DiResta
<rdirresta@stanford.edu>; Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Julia Carter
<jccarter@uw.edu>
Subject: Re: Following up from Pew

Hi Sam,

I am attaching here a high level summary of the Election Integrity Partnership work that will be carried out by the UWCIP and SIO over the coming years. We have kept this concise while attempting to address your outlined questions below and indicating our more urgent versus longer term need. We look forward to any feedback you have on the proposal and are happy to pull together additional information for you. You have already connected directly with Kate, Alex and Renee and I am also available to discuss any questions or advice you may have. We appreciate your support as the work of this program is critically important to securing this year and future US elections.

Thank you,

—

Elena Cryst, MBA (she/her)

Associate Director

Stanford Internet Observatory

<https://io.stanford.edu>

[Book an appointment](#)

On Feb 17, 2022, at 11:57 AM, Whittemore, Sam

<Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org> wrote:

Hi Kate, Alex, and Renee,

Thank you again for making the time to meet last week. We were all energized by the conversation and are looking forward to continuing to collaborate with you on how potential funding could enable EIP to have even greater impact on the misinformation challenge.

As you are putting your thinking on paper, I thought it might be helpful to offer a bit more guidance:

- Possible Timing – The funder group is aiming to have the first set of grants disbursed by early June of this year which means the group is hoping to make a decision by end of March to allow time for the appropriate administrative steps to be taken. Our hope is that we could bring something to the funder group for an initial discussion in early March, so that we could share reactions back with you and iterate together as needed.
- Materials – As mentioned, we don't have a set process for the format or length of proposals, but our goal is to keep the process light touch so that you all can stay focused on the more important work. We'll leave it to you to decide the appropriate length, but erring on the side of concision is great. It would be helpful to understand a few main elements:
 - A brief diagnosis of the core problem and articulation of how EIP addresses that problem
 - What impact additional funding would allow you to have (e.g., in 2022, 2024, and beyond)
 - How much funding is needed and for roughly what (though we do not necessarily need a detailed line-by-line budget breakdown)
 - How we would ultimately know if that funding accomplished what was hoped for, e.g., potential performance milestones, indicators of impact, etc.
- Open questions –
 - This is offered strictly as input for you to discard of not useful, but one reflection from our discussion is that might be helpful to think in-terms of a few different stages of work. For example, short-term funding for the 2022 cycle, post-election research dissemination and learning, and then laying groundwork for 2024.

o Given some of the critical questions you all shared about the future role of EIP in the field and organizational structure (e.g., What parts of this work might CISA take on? What are the tradeoffs between academic affiliation vs. standing up an independent org?), you should not feel like you need to have firm answers to everything now. It would make sense that part of the post-2022 work would be taking a step back to reflect on some of these longer-term topics, and we would look forward to partnering with you on that.

For our reference, **when do you think you might be able to deliver your initial thoughts?** Our bias would be towards starting with something rough, rather than waiting for a formal deliverable, and we can work together to get things “funder-ready.”

Let me know if this raises any additional questions, happy to hop on a call anytime to discuss.

Best,

Sam

Sam Whittemore
Manager

The Bridgespan Group
2 Copley Place, 7th Floor, Suite 3700B | Boston, MA 02116
Phone: 617.572.3060
Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org
www.bridgespan.org

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To: Merrill, Jeremy[Jeremy.Merrill@washpost.com]
Cc: Dwoskin, Elizabeth[Elizabeth.Dwoskin@washpost.com]; Renee DiResta[renee.diresta@gmail.com]; Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 4/18/2022 8:04:56 PM
Subject: Re: EIP collab w/Wash Post
Received: Mon 4/18/2022 8:04:57 PM

I can do noon-1pm that day.

Kate

On Apr 18, 2022, at 12:30 PM, Merrill, Jeremy <Jeremy.Merrill@washpost.com> wrote:

Works for me.

--

Jeremy Merrill
Data Reporter
The Washington Post
919-724-1285 cell/signal

From: Dwoskin, Elizabeth <Elizabeth.Dwoskin@washpost.com>
Date: Monday, April 18, 2022 at 2:38 PM
To: Renee DiResta <renee.diresta@gmail.com>
Cc: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>, Merrill, Jeremy <Jeremy.Merrill@washpost.com>
Subject: RE: EIP collab w/Wash Post

Great. Kate, Jeremy, Alex?

From: Renee DiResta <renee.diresta@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2022 11:32 AM
To: Dwoskin, Elizabeth <Elizabeth.Dwoskin@washpost.com>
Cc: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>; Merrill, Jeremy <Jeremy.Merrill@washpost.com>
Subject: Re: EIP collab w/Wash Post

I'm clear.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 18, 2022, at 2:25 PM, Dwoskin, Elizabeth <Elizabeth.Dwoskin@washpost.com> wrote:

Let's look to next week then. Would Monday the 25th work in the early afternoon PT work for folks?
Anytime from 12-3pm PT?

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2022 10:26 AM
To: Dwoskin, Elizabeth <Elizabeth.Dwoskin@washpost.com>
Cc: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>; Renee DiResta <renee.diresta@gmail.com>; Merrill, Jeremy <Jeremy.Merrill@washpost.com>

Subject: Re: EIP collab w/Wash Post

Friday afternoon Pacific time... that's all I have left this week. :(

Kate

On Apr 18, 2022, at 8:08 AM, Dvoskin, Elizabeth <Elizabeth.Dvoskin@washpost.com> wrote:

Got it. What works for you this week Kate? Can you send out a few times?

Get [Outlook for iOS \[aka.ms\]](#)

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2022 7:14:11 AM
To: Dvoskin, Elizabeth <Elizabeth.Dvoskin@washpost.com>
Cc: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>; Renee DiResta <renee.diresta@gmail.com>; Merrill, Jeremy <Jeremy.Merrill@washpost.com>
Subject: Re: EIP collab w/Wash Post

This time no longer works for me... Sorry!

Kate

On Apr 17, 2022, at 10:46 PM, Dvoskin, Elizabeth <Elizabeth.Dvoskin@washpost.com> wrote:

Hi everyone,
I'm officially back from vacation tomorrow. I sent a note right before I left to lock in the 1:30PT time tomorrow. I'll confirm with folks in the morning and send out an invite
Thanks!
Lizza

Get [Outlook for iOS \[aka.ms\]](#)

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Saturday, April 9, 2022 10:17:16 AM
To: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>
Cc: Dvoskin, Elizabeth <Elizabeth.Dvoskin@washpost.com>; Renee DiResta <renee.diresta@gmail.com>; Merrill, Jeremy

<Jeremy.Merrill@washpost.com>
Subject: Re: EIP collab w/Wash Post

I'm available 1pm-2pm (4pm-5pm). I have a hard stop at 2pm/5pm.

Kate

On Apr 9, 2022, at 8:56 AM, Alex Stamos
<stamos@stanford.edu> wrote:

I can do 1:30/4:30, although I'm the least important attendee.

From: Dwoskin, Elizabeth
<Elizabeth.Dwoskin@washpost.com>
Date: Friday, April 8, 2022 at 4:48 PM
To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>, Renee DiResta
<renee.diresta@gmail.com>
Cc: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>, Merrill, Jeremy
<Jeremy.Merrill@washpost.com>
Subject: Re: EIP collab w/Wash Post

Hey! Does that time on the 18th work for everyone?
I'm going on vacation all next week btw.
Thanks

Get [Outlook for iOS \[aka.ms\]](#)

From: Dwoskin, Elizabeth <Elizabeth.Dwoskin@washpost.com>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 6:44:14 PM
To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Renee DiResta
<renee.diresta@gmail.com>
Cc: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>; Merrill, Jeremy
<Jeremy.Merrill@washpost.com>
Subject: Re: EIP collab w/Wash Post

Im on vacation the following week but could do the week of the
18th. That week is super-open. What time would be good for
y'all?

Perhaps Monday at 1pm/4pm?

Get [Outlook for iOS \[aka.ms\]](#)

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 6:15:06 PM
To: Renee DiResta <renee.diresta@gmail.com>
Cc: Dwoskin, Elizabeth <Elizabeth.Dwoskin@washpost.com>;

Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>; Merrill, Jeremy
<Jeremy.Merrill@washpost.com>

Subject: Re: EIP collab w/Wash Post

Next week is infinitely better for me as well.

Kate

On Apr 4, 2022, at 4:28 PM, Renee DiResta
<renee.diresta@gmail.com> wrote:

I would have to do late afternoon PT. Next week
I'm very clear but this week on the road.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 4, 2022, at 7:01 PM, Kate
Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

I might be able to make Thurs 1:30-
2pm (PT).

Kate

On Apr 4, 2022, at 1:35
PM, Dwoskin, Elizabeth
<Elizabeth.Dwoskin@washpost.com> wrote:

Thanks, this is exciting.
Would this Thursday at
1pm PT, Friday at 10am
PT, or Friday at 11am
PT work for everyone?
I'm also going to loop in
some of our editors.

From: Kate Starbird
<kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Saturday, April 2,
2022 7:55 AM
To: Renee DiResta
<renee.diresta@gmail.com>
Cc: Dwoskin, Elizabeth
<Elizabeth.Dwoskin@washpost.com>

ashpost.com>; stamos@stanford.edu; Merrill, Jeremy
<Jeremy.Merrill@washpost.com>

Subject: Re: EIP collab w/Wash Post

CAUTION: EXTERNAL SENDER

I'm happy to have a conversation about this as well. We have a pretty solid list of those repeat offenders from 2020/Twitter. And we are thinking about how to make that part of our monitoring and analysis for 2022. Happy to share the list as a starting place and think about ways to track across other platforms...

Kate

On Apr 2, 2022, at 7:41 AM, Renee DiResta <renee.dirresta@gmail.com> wrote:

Yup, happy to chat about this - I'm on the road the 6-8th but Monday and Tuesday I have availability . I'm east coast now so your afternoon

s/my early
evenings
may
actually
be
simplest
for
scheduling
.

On Fri,
Apr 1,
2022 at
5:49 PM
Dwoskin,
Elizabeth
<Elizabeth.Dwoskin@washpost.com>
wrote:

Hi Alex,
Renee,
and Kate
(aka my
fave
people :),
I spoke
to Alex
last week
about an
idea we
are on
working
on at The
Post that
we
thought
could
make for
a
potentiall
y
powerful
collabora
tion with
EIP. As
part of
our
disinfo in
the
midterms
coverage,
our data
scientist
Jeremy
Merrill

and I are
putting
together
a
spreadsh
eet that
I'm
tentativel
y calling
The
Megapho
ne
Project.
It
basically
tracks
where all
the
accounts
and
publisher
s who
spread
the Big
Lie in
2020 are
now.
What
platforms
are they
using?
Do they
still have
the
megapho
nes they
had in
2020?
What are
they
saying in
the
runup to
2022?
Of
course,
tracking
this
compreh
ensively
will take
some
effort
because
these
voices
are more
fractured

now and
also
because
many of
these
figures
have
multiple
accounts.
But the
result
could
offer
readers a
deeper
picture of
how
narrative
s are
starting
to
emerge
and who
is
spreadin
g them,
which
platforms
have
power to
springbo
ard
certain
narrative
s into the
public
domain
in 2022
and how
does that
differ
from
2020,
etc. We
could
even
envision
this as
somethin
g we
could put
together
with EIP
along
with our
excellent
graphics
team for

a special
section.
Alex said
the next
step
would be
to email
everyone
to set up
a
conversa
tion
about
what this
collabora
tion
might
look like.
It might
be early,
but the
midterms
are
coming
up
quickly
and we'd
love to
get the
ball
rolling.
Do you
all have
some
time next
week?
Thanks
much,
Lizza

~~

Elizabeth
Dvoskin
Silicon
Valley
Correspo
ndent
The
Washingt
on Post
F:
(917)453-
0480

(Signal)
@lizzadw
oskin

To: Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]
Cc: Maria Bianchi Buck[mariabianchibuck@gmail.com]; Julia Carter Scanlan[jccarter@uw.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]; Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]; Angela Catella[acatella@pewtrusts.org]; Whittemore, Sam[Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 5/11/2022 4:21:54 PM
Subject: Re: Draft Grant Proposals
Received: Wed 5/11/2022 4:21:54 PM

This IS great news. Thank you, Maria, for supporting us through this process!

Kate

On May 11, 2022, at 8:03 AM, Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu> wrote:

Thank you Maria -

This is fantastic news. We look forward to the follow-up information.

—
Elena Cryst, MBA
Assistant Director
Stanford Internet Observatory
<http://io.stanford.edu>

From: Maria Bianchi Buck <mariabianchibuck@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 8:00:05 AM
To: Julia Scanlan <jccarter@uw.edu>
Cc: Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>; Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>; Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>; Angela Catella <acatella@pewtrusts.org>; Whittemore, Sam <Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org>
Subject: Re: Draft Grant Proposals

Everyone,

Thank you so much for your help with this! The partners have voted to approve the investment in the EIP, and both proposals are in great shape. I'll get answers to your questions this afternoon, and then we should be ready to submit through the university offices!

I really appreciate your work on this!

Maria

On Tue, May 10, 2022 at 2:20 PM Julia Scanlan <jccarter@uw.edu> wrote:

Hi Maria,

The UW CIP has also finalized the proposal draft in the Google doc. Please let us know if you have any questions or if you'd like to chat through anything in the doc.

Similarly to SIO, we will also need to submit the proposal, budget, and budget justification to our Office of Sponsored Programs. The timeline is similar as well, and they'll have the same questions! Hopefully we'll be able to navigate these parallel processes relatively quickly.

Regarding the indirect cost rate, as long as Pew does not have any new written policies around indirect cost caps, then we should be fine to use the 10% rate.

Thank you so much for all of your help and support. We're grateful for your partnership.

Julia

From: Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2022 9:43 AM
To: Julia Scanlan <jccarter@uw.edu>; Maria Bianchi Buck <mariabianchibuck@gmail.com>; Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>; Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>
Cc: Angela Catella <acatella@pewtrusts.org>; Whittemore, Sam <Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org>
Subject: Re: Draft Grant Proposals

Hi Maria,

On the Stanford side, we've finished reviewing and adding to the proposal draft you sent out. I believe UW will be sending theirs later today or early tomorrow. Thank you so much for that. I believe I've responded to all the substantive questions, but please let me know if there are any other points of clarification or things we should discuss. Regarding dates, we are hoping to have the grant extend through August 2023 so that we can utilize the summer quarter when we are able to bring in more full-time support to work on the EIP operations for 2024 and the wrap up analysis for 2022. Please let me know if that is workable on your end.

I read your note regarding Pew's negotiated Indirect Cost Rate with Stanford. I consulted with our office of sponsored research and they informed me that they do not have a negotiated waiver with Pew, however, if you share with me either a program announcement or a letter from the program officer indicating that Pew has indirect cost guidelines and what those guidelines are, I will request that exception from our research compliance officer.

On our end, our next steps are submitting the full proposal, including the grant proposal document, the budget and budget justification, and any other supporting documentation, to our office of sponsored research. They require a minimum of 10 business days for review and approval once I submit (plus additional time for the waiver request), so I would love to get that process started as soon as possible. I have a few questions that they will ask:

- How is the final proposal to be submitted (ex: by email, by online portal)

- Is this proposal considered a response to an RFP or a direct solicitation? If the former, we are asked to submit a copy of the RFP
- What is the best point of contact between PCT and our Office of Sponsored Research

Please let me know the next steps on your end. Thank you for all you've done to support this project so far.

Elena Cryst

Assistant Director

Stanford Internet Observatory

<https://io.stanford.edu>

From: Julia Scanlan <jccarter@uw.edu>

Date: Monday, May 2, 2022 at 3:08 PM

To: Maria Bianchi Buck <mariabianchibuck@gmail.com>, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>, Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>

Cc: Angela Catella <acatella@pewtrusts.org>, Whittemore, Sam <Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org>

Subject: RE: Draft Grant Proposals

Thank you Maria! Kate is traveling today to DC but will be back later in the week. We'll aim to get edits and input into this doc asap.

I'll also confer with our grants specialist on the point of contact you mention. Will respond shortly on that front.

Many thanks!

Julia

From: Maria Bianchi Buck <mariabianchibuck@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, May 1, 2022 6:45 PM

To: Julia Scanlan <jccarter@uw.edu>; Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>; Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>

Cc: Angela Catella <acatella@pewtrusts.org>; Whittemore, Sam <Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org>

Subject: Draft Grant Proposals

Hello!

I hope everyone had a refreshing weekend and that everyone is feeling better!

As we talked about last week, I've created two Google Docs with skeletons of the two grant proposals: one for SIO and another for UW CIP. I struggled with how to organize this least chaotically, and this was my best effort. If anyone feels strongly about attacking it in another way, I'm very open to that, they just need to end up as two distinct proposals.

I'd particularly appreciate your assistance with the description of the work involved, timeline, and deliverables sections.

Besides these documents, I also need your help in identifying the right person at each institution for the Pew team to reach out to to start financial due diligence. (Stanford team - if the grantee will be Stanford, I don't actually need this, but if the grantee is a sub-entity like SIO, which I'm guessing it is, then I do need a point of contact.) For both institutions, I'd love your guidance on how to proceed - the Pew team is ready to go ASAP, but if it will cause a problem for this to start before the compliance office has the grant proposal, we can hold off - let me know if there's an order of operations we need to follow!

Thank you all so much for your help! We're almost there!

Maria

To: Dwoskin, Elizabeth[Elizabeth.Dwoskin@washpost.com]
Cc: Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]; Renee DiResta[renee.diresta@gmail.com]; Merrill, Jeremy[Jeremy.Merrill@washpost.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 4/18/2022 5:25:52 PM
Subject: Re: EIP collab w/Wash Post
Received: Mon 4/18/2022 5:25:54 PM

Friday afternoon Pacific time... that's all I have left this week. :(

Kate

On Apr 18, 2022, at 8:08 AM, Dwoskin, Elizabeth <Elizabeth.Dwoskin@washpost.com> wrote:

Got it. What works for you this week Kate? Can you send out a few times?

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2022 7:14:11 AM
To: Dwoskin, Elizabeth <Elizabeth.Dwoskin@washpost.com>
Cc: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>; Renee DiResta <renee.diresta@gmail.com>; Merrill, Jeremy <Jeremy.Merrill@washpost.com>
Subject: Re: EIP collab w/Wash Post

This time no longer works for me... Sorry!

Kate

On Apr 17, 2022, at 10:46 PM, Dwoskin, Elizabeth <Elizabeth.Dwoskin@washpost.com> wrote:

Hi everyone,

I'm officially back from vacation tomorrow. I sent a note right before I left to lock in the 1:30PT time tomorrow. I'll confirm with folks in the morning and send out an invite

Thanks!

Lizza

Get [Outlook for iOS \[aka.ms\]](#)

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Saturday, April 9, 2022 10:17:16 AM
To: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>
Cc: Dwoskin, Elizabeth <Elizabeth.Dwoskin@washpost.com>; Renee DiResta <renee.diresta@gmail.com>; Merrill, Jeremy <Jeremy.Merrill@washpost.com>
Subject: Re: EIP collab w/Wash Post

I'm available 1pm-2pm (4pm-5pm). I have a hard stop at 2pm/5pm.

Kate

On Apr 9, 2022, at 8:56 AM, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu> wrote:

I can do 1:30/4:30, although I'm the least important attendee.

From: Dvoskin, Elizabeth <Elizabeth.Dvoskin@washpost.com>

Date: Friday, April 8, 2022 at 4:48 PM

To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>, Renee DiResta <renee.diresta@gmail.com>

Cc: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>, Merrill, Jeremy <Jeremy.Merrill@washpost.com>

Subject: Re: EIP collab w/Wash Post

Hey! Does that time on the 18th work for everyone?

I'm going on vacation all next week btw.

Thanks

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To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Renee DiResta <renee.diresta@gmail.com>

Cc: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>; Merrill, Jeremy <Jeremy.Merrill@washpost.com>

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Cc: Dvoskin, Elizabeth <Elizabeth.Dvoskin@washpost.com>; Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>; Merrill, Jeremy <Jeremy.Merrill@washpost.com>

Subject: Re: EIP collab w/Wash Post

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Sent from my iPhone

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Lizza

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Elizabeth Dwoskin
Silicon Valley Correspondent
The Washington Post
F: (917)453-0480 (Signal)
@lizzadwoskin

To: stamos@stanford.edu[stamos@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Sat 4/9/2022 3:56:12 PM
Subject: Delayed Response | Media Contact Re: EIP collab w/Wash Post
Received: Sat 4/9/2022 3:56:12 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, 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: Renee DiResta[renee.diresta@gmail.com]
Cc: Dwoskin, Elizabeth[Elizabeth.Dwoskin@washpost.com]; Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]; Merrill, Jeremy[Jeremy.Merrill@washpost.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 4/5/2022 1:15:06 AM
Subject: Re: EIP collab w/Wash Post
Received: Tue 4/5/2022 1:15:07 AM

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Cc: Renee DiResta[renee.diresta@gmail.com]; stamos@stanford.edu[stamos@stanford.edu]; Merrill, Jeremy[Jeremy.Merrill@washpost.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 4/4/2022 11:01:08 PM
Subject: Re: EIP collab w/Wash Post
Received: Mon 4/4/2022 11:01:15 PM

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From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Sat 4/2/2022 2:55:04 PM
Subject: Re: EIP collab w/Wash Post
Received: Sat 4/2/2022 2:55:08 PM

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The Washington Post

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To: Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]
Cc: Maria Bianchi Buck[mariabianchibuck@gmail.com]; acatella@pewtrusts.org[acatella@pewtrusts.org]; Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]; Julia Carter Scanlan[jccarter@uw.edu]; Whittemore, Sam[Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 3/31/2022 2:45:18 PM
Subject: Re: Following up from Pew
Received: Thur 3/31/2022 2:45:19 PM

Hi Maria,

Echoing this answer, there are places where our workstreams will be separate (for example at the Tier 1 level, where we identify and do a first analysis of problematic content) and others that will be collaborative (for example at Tier 2 where we pull all the content we can about a particular “incident” of mis- or disinformation). We will share data and work collaboratively on analyses — and we will likely be co-authoring many of the outputs. And we’re working together to design all of the different aspects of the process to make sure that everything flows together.

Kate

On Mar 30, 2022, at 10:25 PM, Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi Maria,

There are separate workstreams/divisions of labor between the two university teams. We will be staffing up our own research associates to review separate first tier data ingests as this is more efficient operationally. Our collaboration will be at the analysis and outputs/deliverables stage. We maintain high-level visibility on both side’s first tier process (and are collaborating closely on the data ingest architecture) to ensure that they are compatible with each other.

Does that answer your question?

Thanks!

—

Elena Cryst
Assistant Director
Stanford Internet Observatory

<https://io.stanford.edu>

From: Maria Bianchi Buck <mariabianchibuck@gmail.com>
Date: Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at 10:47 AM
To: Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>
Cc: acatella@pewtrusts.org <acatella@pewtrusts.org>, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>, Renee DiResta <rdirresta@stanford.edu>, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>, Julia Carter <jccarter@uw.edu>, Whittemore, Sam <Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org>
Subject: Re: Following up from Pew

Elena,

Thank you so much for sending this!

I have one hopefully quick question arising from our conversation last week: Are there separate work streams or divisions of labor between the two university teams? Because we're talking about structuring this as two separate grants, it would be useful to understand if there are pieces of the work or deliverables that are more relevant to one organization than the other.

Maria

On Wed, Mar 23, 2022 at 1:32 PM Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi Maria –

Thank you for your patience as we put together our responses to your questions from Friday's call. Below are some further details on how we're conceptualizing metrics and measurable outputs for the Election Integrity Partnership. I'm also attaching a budget breakdown for our two orgs.

The Election Integrity Partnership will measure its impact on the following key indicators:

- Quality of cataloged tickets or incidents
 - For each ticket/incident that EIP reports, we are able to capture whether a platform partner responded to the ticket and whether or not they took action on reported content. We hope to see a high rate of response and action, however, as we do not have full transparency on platforms' decisions, we cannot rely solely on this metric to determine ticket quality.
 - To enhance our understanding of our ticket quality, we will want to further differentiate by platform to see if there is a significant difference in the response rate by platform. We anticipate that there will be based on platforms' staffing constraints and on different policy enforcement practices, and robust data collection will enable us to more accurately assess this.
- Diversity in coverage and outreach across geographic, linguistic, and social groups
 - We seek to engage with a range of civil society organizations that work closely with a diversity of groups. As with measuring the volume of tickets overall, measuring the volume of tickets relevant to specific target audiences may lead to biased data collection processes. We will measure impact in this space through the quality and diversity in our stakeholder engagement.
 - We will have core team members with native language proficiency for the top three languages in the United States (English, Spanish, Chinese), and will additionally have research analysts or partnerships with organizations that have language competency in Tagalog, Vietnamese, Arabic, and other target LEP groups. We previously engaged with a group of Ethnic Media Fellows affiliated with the National Conference on Citizenship who were formed to listen for misinformation around the 2020 census to support our work on vaccine hesitancy. We intend to expand this engagement and supplement with civil society organizations focused on these communities.
 - In addition to assessing the profile of our stakeholder engagement, we can measure the uptake of our outputs through tracking metrics on receipt and open rate for our email briefings.
- Impact on technology company's policies
 - In 2020, several Election Integrity Partnership analysts conducted a detailed comparative analysis of social media platforms' published elections-related speech policies. This post was updated several times as platforms changed their policies. While we cannot draw a causal link between our work and the policy changes, we can say that subsequent updates to platforms' policies directly addressed deficiencies identified by our analysts.
 - We intend to repeat this work in 2022 and 2024, expanding it to more platforms and making clear recommendations for best practices in election speech policies. We will measure this through published changes in the platforms' policies.
- Impact of assessments and findings
 - We are able to measure short-term impact of our outputs via metrics such as attendance at or readership of regular briefings, and web traffic and engagement with published content. These metrics tell us how many people our content reaches.
 - For direct policy impact, we consistently re-assess platform policies to see if policies have changed after the posting of our policy assessments. In 2020 we saw numerous changes that more tightly aligned policies to our assessment rubric and we anticipate further changes of this nature in response to our assessments.

- Long-term: Building a redeploy-able system for monitoring information around critical societal events
 - Part of our impact will be measured on whether this methodically built model can be smoothly redeployed after the 2022 election to focus on other critical societal events. This includes developing clear stakeholder relationship models and an adaptable technical infrastructure.

Additional questions

- Budget clarifications:
 - Is EIP seeking other philanthropic funding to support this work?
Yes. UWCIP has received a philanthropic gift that has enabled the hiring of a project lead for EIP. SIO has received a philanthropic gift that has enabled hiring a dedicating a portion of existing staff time to this project. Neither of these are sufficient to cover this project at scale.
 - How does EIP accept philanthropic funding? Will that look like separate grants to each institution, or is it possible to make one grant to Stanford and have it sub-granted to UW?
We prefer funding to be made to the two organizations independently. While it is possible to set up a grant with a sub-award from one institution to the other, our respective universities charge overhead on such a subaward that would significantly reduce the amount of useable funds it adds in addition to increasing administrative burden and delaying the process.
 - In your proposal, does the amount earmarked for 2022 also cover the post-election analysis period?
Yes, the 2022 budget covers the post-election period for 2022 but does not cover the time and effort that will go into expanding this for Election 2024
- Context to help interpret the statistics from your 2020 efforts:
 - Can you contextualize the numbers you shared to help our funding partners interpret them? These were:
 - 639 distinct “tickets” on election-related mis- and disinformation.
This is the number of in-scope reports of election-related mis- and disinformation made by our analysts. Additional tickets were filed that were either deemed out of scope of the project or duplicate on this number. Some tickets contained just one unique piece of content while others contained a set of interrelated content pieces. For 2022 we have refined how we think about “incidents” or “tickets” to allow us to capture more nuanced data on both.
 - EIP platform stakeholders responded directly to 75% or more of the tickets reported to them
Of the tickets reported to the platform stakeholder, EIP tracked that platforms acknowledged receiving 75% of the tickets.
 - 35% of the URLs shared with Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube were either labeled, removed, or soft-blocked by the platforms
Of the incidents reported to these four platforms for violating their published election-related policies, the platforms actioned 35% by either labeling, removing, or soft-blocking the content.
 - Can we contextualize these numbers for the partnership?
 - What was the time period over which the 639 tickets were reported?
Roughly September 1, 2020 to November 15, 2020
 - Qualitatively, what is the impact? For example, did these allow for significant analytical work? What about impact on how voters or election officials experienced misinfo? (if that is knowable)
Yes, this did allow for significant analytical work. Highlights of that are in our EIP report, but further work is forthcoming in several academic journal articles that are currently under review. Regarding impact on voters or election officials: We don’t have sufficient data to say this for 2020 but these are questions we hope to answer for 2022. Part of our longer term work (and a supplemental grant we’ve received from the National Science Foundation) is designed to look at more of the societal impact. This will require controlled testing and surveys of relevant groups to scientifically assess impact.
 - How would more tickets translate to expanded impact? Better research, etc?
Number of tickets is not the right metric to assess this. We do not want to be in a position where

analysts are incentivized to create tickets unnecessarily, and our ultimate vision is a world where this project is not needed and tickets don't exist. What will be more important is understanding the narratives that underly the tickets and catalogue the recurring themes and tropes to provide better advanced information to the public.

- It seems like a 75% response rate is good. Could that be improved? What happened to the other ~25%?

We speculate that tickets that went unacknowledged were reported to platforms that did not have capacity to receive tickets or chose not to acknowledge receipt. We hope to see a higher response rate in the future but this is ultimately up to the platforms and not the partnership.

- Is the EIP team happy with the 35% action rate? Should it have been higher? If not, what context explains why 35% is appropriate? If so, what would a better rate look like?

The platforms did not share with us their rationale for each decision. We hope to see a higher number of reported incidents actioned upon as an indication that these incidents are violating or because the platforms have modified their enforcement policies.

There are many reasons a platform may have actioned or not actioned content, and in many cases inaction is an appropriate outcome. Sometimes incidents were shared for visibility or because they related to a larger narrative.

Some of this action rate relates to different platforms' own policy thresholds. This number is not split out by platform so it can be challenging to compare, say, TikTok to Reddit in platform enforcement.

Elena Cryst
Assistant Director
Stanford Internet Observatory

<https://io.stanford.edu>

From: Maria Bianchi Buck <mariabianchibuck@gmail.com>

Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 11:25 AM

To: Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>

Cc: acatella@pewtrusts.org <acatella@pewtrusts.org>, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>, Julia Carter <jccarter@uw.edu>, Whittemore, Sam <Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org>

Subject: Re: Following up from Pew

Elena and team,

Thank you so much for sending over the proposal - that was immensely helpful. There are a few areas where some additional information would be helpful, which I've detailed below. If it would be useful to you, I'd be happy to set up a call for later this week or early next week to talk through our questions. Any of the following times would work for us:

Thursday, 3/17: 9am or 11am PT

Friday, 3/18: Anytime before 12pm PT

Tuesday, 3/22: 8-9am PT, 11:30am-1pm PT, or any time after 2pm PT

Thank you so much for your help with this!

Maria

Top priority questions

- What deliverables or impact goals for the 2022 work feel appropriate? Some examples of potential goals might be the following, but we would value your perspective on how to best define impact and what milestones or performance metrics should look like:

- Additional platforms covered or volume of tickets served
- Partnerships with organizations representing traditionally underrepresented groups, LEP communities, etc.
- Outreach or awareness w/ election officials or collateral/analysis for election officials
- Evidence base creation for future policy/efforts
- Is it possible to break the 2022 costs down into salaries & benefits, subcontractor fees, and other expenses (technology, etc)? Rough estimates for sub-categories are sufficient at this point.

Additional questions

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 - It seems like a 75% response rate is good. Could that be improved? What happened to the other ~25%?
 - Is the EIP team happy with the 35% action rate? Should it have been higher? If not, what context explains why 35% is appropriate? If so, what would a better rate look like?

On Wed, Mar 9, 2022 at 10:55 AM Whittemore, Sam <Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org> wrote:

Hi Elena and team, thank you very much for sending this over! We are excited to dig and will follow-up shortly with some thoughts on next steps.

Best,
Sam

From: Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 7:02 PM

To: Whittemore, Sam

<Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org>; mariabianchibuck@gmail.com; acatella@pewtrusts.org

Cc: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>; Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Julia Carter <jccarter@uw.edu>

Subject: Re: Following up from Pew

Hi Sam,

I am attaching here a high level summary of the Election Integrity Partnership work that will be carried out by the UWCIP and SIO over the coming years. We have kept this concise while attempting to address your outlined questions below and indicating our more urgent versus longer term need. We look forward to any feedback you have on the proposal and are happy to pull together additional information for you. You have already connected directly with Kate, Alex and Renee and I am also available to discuss any questions or advice you may have. We appreciate your support as the work of this program is critically important to securing this year and future US elections.

Thank you,

—

Elena Cryst, MBA (she/her)
Associate Director
Stanford Internet Observatory

<https://io.stanford.edu>

[Book an appointment](#)

On Feb 17, 2022, at 11:57 AM, Whittemore, Sam <Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org> wrote:

Hi Kate, Alex, and Renee,

Thank you again for making the time to meet last week. We were all energized by the conversation and are looking forward to continuing to collaborate with you on how potential funding could enable EIP to have even greater impact on the misinformation challenge.

As you are putting your thinking on paper, I thought it might be helpful to offer a bit more guidance:

- Possible Timing – The funder group is aiming to have the first set of grants disbursed by early June of this year which means the group is hoping to make a decision by end of March to allow time for the appropriate administrative steps to be taken. Our hope is that we could bring something to the funder group for an initial discussion in early March, so that we could share reactions back with you and iterate together as needed.
- Materials – As mentioned, we don't have a set process for the format or length of proposals, but our goal is to keep the process light touch so that you all can stay focused on the more important work. We'll leave it to you to decide the appropriate length, but erring on the side of concision is great. It would be helpful to understand a few main elements:
 - A brief diagnosis of the core problem and articulation of how EIP addresses that problem
 - What impact additional funding would allow you to have (e.g., in 2022, 2024, and beyond)
 - How much funding is needed and for roughly what (though we do not necessarily need a detailed line-by-line budget breakdown)
 - How we would ultimately know if that funding accomplished what was hoped for, e.g., potential performance milestones, indicators of impact, etc.
- Open questions –

- This is offered strictly as input for you to discard or not useful, but one reflection from our discussion is that might be helpful to think in-terms of a few different stages of work. For example, short-term funding for the 2022 cycle, post-election research dissemination and learning, and then laying groundwork for 2024.
- Given some of the critical questions you all shared about the future role of EIP in the field and organizational structure (e.g., What parts of this work might CISA take on? What are the tradeoffs between academic affiliation vs. standing up an independent org?), you should not feel like you need to have firm answers to everything now. It would make sense that part of the post-2022 work would be taking a step back to reflect on some of these longer-term topics, and we would look forward to partnering with you on that.

For our reference, **when do you think you might be able to deliver your initial thoughts?** Our bias would be towards starting with something rough, rather than waiting for a formal deliverable, and we can work together to get things “funder-ready.”

Let me know if this raises any additional questions, happy to hop on a call anytime to discuss.

Best,
Sam

Sam Whittmore
Manager

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Phone: 617.572.3060
Sam.Whittmore@bridgespan.org
www.bridgespan.org

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To: stamos@stanford.edu[stamos@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 3/16/2022 6:59:24 PM
Subject: Delayed Response | Media Contact RE: Following up from Pew
Received: Wed 3/16/2022 6:59:24 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, 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: Dwoskin, Elizabeth[Elizabeth.Dwoskin@washpost.com]
Cc: Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]; Renee DiResta[renee.diresta@gmail.com]; Merrill, Jeremy[Jeremy.Merrill@washpost.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 4/18/2022 2:14:11 PM
Subject: Re: EIP collab w/Wash Post
Received: Mon 4/18/2022 2:14:12 PM

This time no longer works for me... Sorry!

Kate

On Apr 17, 2022, at 10:46 PM, Dwoskin, Elizabeth <Elizabeth.Dwoskin@washpost.com> wrote:

Hi everyone,
I'm officially back from vacation tomorrow. I sent a note right before I left to lock in the 1:30PT time tomorrow. I'll confirm with folks in the morning and send out an invite
Thanks!
Lizza

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From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Saturday, April 9, 2022 10:17:16 AM
To: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>
Cc: Dwoskin, Elizabeth <Elizabeth.Dwoskin@washpost.com>; Renee DiResta <renee.diresta@gmail.com>; Merrill, Jeremy <Jeremy.Merrill@washpost.com>
Subject: Re: EIP collab w/Wash Post

I'm available 1pm-2pm (4pm-5pm). I have a hard stop at 2pm/5pm.

Kate

On Apr 9, 2022, at 8:56 AM, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu> wrote:

I can do 1:30/4:30, although I'm the least important attendee.

From: Dwoskin, Elizabeth <Elizabeth.Dwoskin@washpost.com>
Date: Friday, April 8, 2022 at 4:48 PM
To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>, Renee DiResta <renee.diresta@gmail.com>
Cc: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>, Merrill, Jeremy <Jeremy.Merrill@washpost.com>
Subject: Re: EIP collab w/Wash Post

Hey! Does that time on the 18th work for everyone?
I'm going on vacation all next week btw.
Thanks

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From: Dwoskin, Elizabeth <Elizabeth.Dwoskin@washpost.com>

Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 6:44:14 PM

To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Renee DiResta <renee.diresta@gmail.com>

Cc: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>; Merrill, Jeremy <Jeremy.Merrill@washpost.com>

Subject: Re: EIP collab w/Wash Post

Im on vacation the following week but could do the week of the 18th. That week is super-open. What time would be good for y'all?

Perhaps Monday at 1pm/4pm?

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From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>

Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 6:15:06 PM

To: Renee DiResta <renee.diresta@gmail.com>

Cc: Dvoskin, Elizabeth <Elizabeth.Dvoskin@washpost.com>; Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>;

Merrill, Jeremy <Jeremy.Merrill@washpost.com>

Subject: Re: EIP collab w/Wash Post

Next week is infinitely better for me as well.

Kate

On Apr 4, 2022, at 4:28 PM, Renee DiResta <renee.diresta@gmail.com> wrote:

I would have to do late afternoon PT. Next week I'm very clear but this week on the road.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 4, 2022, at 7:01 PM, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

I might be able to make Thurs 1:30-2pm (PT).

Kate

On Apr 4, 2022, at 1:35 PM, Dvoskin, Elizabeth <Elizabeth.Dvoskin@washpost.com> wrote:

Thanks, this is exciting. Would this Thursday at 1pm PT, Friday at 10am PT, or Friday at 11am PT work for everyone? I'm also going to loop in some of our editors.

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>

Sent: Saturday, April 2, 2022 7:55 AM

To: Renee DiResta <renee.diresta@gmail.com>

Cc: Dvoskin, Elizabeth

<Elizabeth.Dvoskin@washpost.com>; stamos@stanford.edu;

Merrill, Jeremy <Jeremy.Merrill@washpost.com>

Subject: Re: EIP collab w/Wash Post

CAUTION: EXTERNAL SENDER

I'm happy to have a conversation about this as well. We have a pretty solid list of those repeat offenders from 2020/Twitter. And we are thinking about how to make that part of our monitoring and analysis for 2022. Happy to share the list as a starting place and think about ways to track across other platforms...

Kate

On Apr 2, 2022, at 7:41 AM, Renee DiResta
<renee.diresta@gmail.com> wrote:

Yup, happy to chat about this - I'm on the road the 6-8th but Monday and Tuesday I have availability. I'm east coast now so your afternoons/my early evenings may actually be simplest for scheduling.

On Fri, Apr 1, 2022 at 5:49 PM Dwoskin, Elizabeth
<Elizabeth.Dwoskin@washpost.com> wrote:

Hi Alex, Renee, and Kate (aka my fave people :), I spoke to Alex last week about an idea we are on working on at The Post that we thought could make for a potentially powerful collaboration with EIP. As part of our disinfo in the midterms coverage, our data scientist Jeremy Merrill and I are putting together a spreadsheet that I'm tentatively calling The Megaphone Project. It basically tracks where all the accounts and publishers who spread the Big Lie in 2020 are now. What platforms are they using? Do they still have the megaphones they had in 2020? What are they saying in the runup to 2022? Of course, tracking this comprehensively will take some effort because these voices are more fractured now and also because many of these figures have multiple accounts. But the result could offer readers a deeper picture of how narratives are starting to emerge and who is spreading them, which platforms have power to springboard certain narratives into the public domain in 2022 and how does that differ from 2020, etc. We could even envision this as something we could put together with EIP along with our excellent graphics team for a special section. Alex said the next step would be to email everyone to set up a conversation about what this collaboration might look like. It might be early, but the midterms are coming up quickly

and we'd love to get the ball rolling. Do you all
have some time next week?

Thanks much,
Lizza

~

Elizabeth Dvoskin
Silicon Valley Correspondent
The Washington Post
F: (917)453-0480 (Signal)
@lizzadvoskin

To: Julia Carter Scanlan[jccarter@uw.edu]
Cc: Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]; Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]; Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 3/16/2022 6:57:29 PM
Subject: Re: Following up from Pew
Received: Wed 3/16/2022 6:57:30 PM

It's cutting into my March Madness viewing... but I'm good for 11am/11:30am (Pacific).

Kate

On Mar 16, 2022, at 11:55 AM, Julia Scanlan <jccarter@uw.edu> wrote:

Either 11am or 11:30am would work for the CIP.

From: Renee DiResta <rdirresta@stanford.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2022 11:40 AM
To: Julia Scanlan <jccarter@uw.edu>; Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>; Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>
Subject: RE: Following up from Pew

Friday is tough for me b/c I'm on a plane for part of the day. I could do 11:30am PT but not before. However, if everyone can make 11 work, Elena can represent us and I'll catch up with her after. 💎

From: Maria Bianchi Buck <mariabianchibuck@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2022 2:34 PM
To: Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>
Cc: acatella@pewtrusts.org; Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdirresta@stanford.edu>; Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Julia Carter <jccarter@uw.edu>; Whittemore, Sam <Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org>
Subject: Re: Following up from Pew

Elena,

Let's plan on meeting on Friday at 8am PT, if that will work for you! I can send a calendar invitation later today.

Maria

On Wed, Mar 16, 2022 at 2:29 PM Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi Maria –

Thank you for getting back to us. I can move things around to make the following times work:

- Thursday, 3/17: 11am PT
- Friday, 3/18: 8am-9:30am; 10am–12pm PT

I am also available next Tuesday, but as Stanford and UW have spring break next week, I believe that some people on this thread will be unavailable.

Elena Cryst, MBA (she/her)
Assistant Director
Stanford Internet Observatory

<https://io.stanford.edu>

[Book an appointment](#)

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Cc: acatella@pewtrusts.org <acatella@pewtrusts.org>, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>, Julia Carter <jccarter@uw.edu>, Whittemore, Sam <Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org>

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Thank you so much for your help with this!

Maria

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- What deliverables or impact goals for the 2022 work feel appropriate? Some examples of potential goals might be the following, but we would value your perspective on how to best define impact and what milestones or performance metrics should look like:

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Thank you,

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Associate Director
Stanford Internet Observatory

<https://io.stanford.edu>

Book an appointment

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As you are putting your thinking on paper, I thought it might be helpful to offer a bit more guidance:

- Possible Timing – The funder group is aiming to have the first set of grants disbursed by early June of this year which means the group is hoping to make a decision by end of March to allow time for the appropriate administrative steps to be taken. Our hope is that we could bring something to the funder group for an initial discussion in early March, so that we could share reactions back with you and iterate together as needed.
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 - A brief diagnosis of the core problem and articulation of how EIP addresses that problem
 - What impact additional funding would allow you to have (e.g., in 2022, 2024, and beyond)
 - How much funding is needed and for roughly what (though we do not necessarily need a detailed line-by-line budget breakdown)
 - How we would ultimately know if that funding accomplished what was hoped for, e.g., potential performance milestones, indicators of impact, etc.
- Open questions –
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Let me know if this raises any additional questions, happy to hop on a call anytime to discuss.

Best,
Sam

Sam Whittlemore
Manager

The Bridgespan Group
2 Copley Place, 7th Floor, Suite 3700B | Boston, MA 02116
Phone: 617.572.3060
Sam.Whittlemore@bridgespan.org
www.bridgespan.org

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To: Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]
Cc: Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 3/2/2022 4:00:12 PM
Subject: [Alex-Kate-Renee on EIP Membership] Proposed new time: Tomorrow at 8:00 am
Received: Wed 3/2/2022 4:00:12 PM

I would like to move this event from this Friday at 8:00 am to tomorrow at 8:00 am.

Kate

To: stamos@stanford.edu[stamos@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 3/1/2022 3:09:30 PM
Subject: Delayed Response | Media Contact Re: Alex-Kate-Renee on EIP Membership
Received: Tue 3/1/2022 3:09:30 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, 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: Craig Newmark[craig.newmark@gmail.com]
Cc: Donovan, Joan M[joan_donovan@hks.harvard.edu]; Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]; Renee DiResta[renee.diresta@gmail.com]; Vivian Schiller[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 2/28/2022 4:39:55 AM
Subject: Re: Eyes on Russia Project
Received: Mon 2/28/2022 4:39:57 AM

At UW, we're quietly assessing capacity to provide some lightweight analysis of narratives and grey propaganda networks. We'll be diverting some of our "rapid response" capacity (currently planning 2022 election efforts) towards Ukraine. But we're moving deliberately to make sure we have the right people, expertise, and can make sure that anything we do is supporting others and not causing damage. We're worried that if this goes on for an extended period of time, the information space may begin to more like what we studied regarding Syria... and the clarity that we have at this moment will be muddled and bent towards the strategic goals of Russia.

Joan, please pass on a message of support from me to Jane. And if there's anything we can do to support questions she has, let me know.

Kate

On Feb 27, 2022, at 8:11 PM, Craig Newmark <craig.newmark@gmail.com> wrote:

Much thanks!

Craig Newmark, craigslist founder
craignewmarkphilanthropies.org

On Sun, Feb 27, 2022, 10:32 PM Donovan, Joan M <joan_donovan@hks.harvard.edu> wrote:

Thanks Craig.

I have a meeting with Kate soon to talk about mid-term monitoring and election response. But, this past week has been a horror show. We suspect that twitter is starting to throttle images of deaths and gore.

As you know our fellow Jane is from Ukraine and this war hits very close to home for us. If there are people you think we should be talking to, let me know.

I'll take a closer look at this mapping system to see how they verify information. It looks like they map social media images? I wonder how it might be affected if twitter changes how it shows images.

Thanks for the head's up.

Best,

Joan

Joan Donovan, PhD

Research Director

Harvard Kennedy's Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics, and Public Policy

www.mediamanipulation.org

From: Craig Newmark <craig.newmark@gmail.com>

Date: Sunday, February 27, 2022 at 5:37 PM

To: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>, Renee DiResta <renee.diresta@gmail.com>, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>, "Donovan, Joan M" <joan_donovan@hks.harvard.edu>, Vivian Schiller <Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org>

Subject: Fwd: Eyes on Russia Project

FYI only.

Hi!

Craig Newmark, craigslist founder
craignewmarkphilanthropies.org

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Ross Burley <ross@info-res.org>

Date: Sun, Feb 27, 2022, 5:34 PM

Subject: Eyes on Russia Project

To: Craig Newmark <craig.newmark@gmail.com>

Hi Craig,

The [Centre for Information Resilience](#) (CIR) is an independent, non-profit social enterprise dedicated to countering disinformation, exposing human rights abuses, and combating harmful online behaviour. We're seeking financial support for our Eyes on Russia project - to verify, map, and archive Russian military operations, human rights incidents and information operations in Ukraine. In partnership with [Bellingcat](#), [Mnemonic](#) and [others](#), we have in a short time:

- Built a network of over 70 open-source investigators and organisations;
- Created a consolidated database and archive of over 1000 pieces of open-source data relating to military movements, human rights incidents and kinetic activity in and around Ukraine;
- Visualised this data on an [online map](#) to enable easy analysis. The map has been accessed over 900,000 times with The Times, AFP, the Financial Times, ITV News and NBC all requesting to embed it on their websites – with our [Twitter thread](#) accessed by over 2.1 million users.

- Produced compelling social media content and reporting providing both rapid-fire analysis and verification, and trend/impact analysis of the rapidly evolving situation;
- Entered into several media partnerships to help correspondents verify and report accurate information on the ground

The project has so far been self-funded, and we are urgently seeking financial support / a grant to continue this important work that is already proving invaluable to journalists and civil society.

Best wishes

Ross

Ross Burley

Co-Founder & Executive Director

Centre for Information Resilience

www.info-res.org

To: stamos@stanford.edu[stamos@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 2/23/2022 4:21:18 PM
Subject: Delayed Response | Media Contact Re: Finding time to discuss the Bridgespan/Pew proposal
Received: Wed 2/23/2022 4:21:18 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, 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: Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]
Cc: Julia Carter Scanlan[jccarter@uw.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]; Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 2/23/2022 12:02:37 AM
Subject: Re: Finding time to discuss the Bridgespan/Pew proposal
Received: Wed 2/23/2022 12:02:38 AM

I just gave away Friday at 8, but could do 8:30-9am (Pacific)?

Kate

On Feb 22, 2022, at 3:55 PM, Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi Julia –

I can do 8am any day this week with a preference for Friday.

—

Elena Cryst, MBA (she/her)
Assistant Director
Stanford Internet Observatory

<https://io.stanford.edu>

[Book an appointment](#)

From: Julia Scanlan <jccarter@uw.edu>
Date: Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 3:46 PM
To: Renee DiResta <rdirresta@stanford.edu>, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>, Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>
Cc: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Subject: RE: Finding time to discuss the Bridgespan/Pew proposal

Thanks, Renee! After chatting a little further with Kate, I think we'd like to try to meet sooner. Would 8am PT any morning this week work for this team?

I appreciate your flexibility!

From: Renee DiResta <rdirresta@stanford.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2022 3:32 PM
To: Julia Scanlan <jccarter@uw.edu>; Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>; Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>
Cc: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Subject: Re: Finding time to discuss the Bridgespan/Pew proposal

Wed March 2 before 9:30 works for me. So does the entire window on the 4th and 7th.

From: Julia Scanlan <jccarter@uw.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2022 3:27 PM
To: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdirresta@stanford.edu>; Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>
Cc: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Subject: Finding time to discuss the Bridgespan/Pew proposal

Alex, Renee, Elena:

I hope you all are doing well! Kate and I would like to find a 60-minute window when we might discuss the requested proposal for Bridgespan/Pew. I think we might be able to collaborate on it somewhat asynchronously, but it would be good to front-load that process with a discussion to align on priorities and messaging.

Could you let me know if you have availability during any of the following windows (all times PT)? Ideally we'd meet during one of the sooner windows, but I know calendaring might be challenging.

Wed Mar 2: before 9:30am

Fri Mar 4: 11am-1pm

Mon Mar 7: before 10:30am

Wed Mar 9: 10am-noon

Thank you!

Julia

JULIA SCANLAN (she/her)

Director for Strategy and Operations | Center for an Informed Public
University of Washington

206.897.1798 / Box 351205 / cip.uw.edu

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<image001.jpg>

To: Whittemore, Sam[Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org]
Cc: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]; Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]; Maria Bianchi Buck[mariabianchibuck@gmail.com]; Angela Catella[acatella@pewtrusts.org]
Bcc: jccarter@uw.edu[jccarter@uw.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Sat 2/19/2022 4:30:34 PM
Subject: Re: Following up from Pew
Received: Sat 2/19/2022 4:30:36 PM

Hi Sam,

Alex and I were able to touch base yesterday. We're hoping to have a proposal of sorts in place in 2-3 weeks. Will that work for your group?

Kate

On Feb 17, 2022, at 2:28 PM, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

Hi Sam,

Thanks for the follow up email, background information, and pointers on proposal structure here. Alex and I have a meeting tomorrow afternoon and I'll get back to you regarding a timeline either late tomorrow afternoon or early next week.

Thinking about this in stages aligns well with our own planning — and our experiences with the active period of 2020, followed by research, reflection, iteration, and redesign between 2020 and 2022. I imagine we'll have a similar period of reflection/redesign between 2022 and 2024. And we'll likely plan for some time after the 2024 election to conduct post-hoc analyses, publish our research, and think about how to translate our “collaborative frameworks for rapid response to mis/disinformation” for whatever comes next.

We'll loop back around soon.

Thanks!
Kate

On Feb 17, 2022, at 11:57 AM, Whittemore, Sam <Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org> wrote:

Hi Kate, Alex, and Renee,

Thank you again for making the time to meet last week. We were all energized by the conversation and are looking forward to continuing to collaborate with you on how potential funding could enable EIP to have even greater impact on the misinformation challenge.

As you are putting your thinking on paper, I thought it might be helpful to offer a bit more guidance:

- Possible Timing – The funder group is aiming to have the first set of grants disbursed by early June of this year which means the group is hoping to make a decision by end of March to allow time for the appropriate administrative steps to be taken. Our hope is that we could bring something to the funder group for an initial discussion in early March, so that we could share reactions back with you and iterate together as needed.
- Materials – As mentioned, we don't have a set process for the format or length of proposals, but our goal is to keep the process light touch so that you all can stay focused on the more important work. We'll leave it to you to decide the appropriate length, but erring on the side of concision is great. It would be helpful to understand a few main elements:
 - A brief diagnosis of the core problem and articulation of how EIP addresses that problem

- What impact additional funding would allow you to have (e.g., in 2022, 2024, and beyond)
- How much funding is needed and for roughly what (though we do not necessarily need a detailed line-by-line budget breakdown)
- How we would ultimately know if that funding accomplished what was hoped for, e.g., potential performance milestones, indicators of impact, etc.
- **Open questions –**
 - This is offered strictly as input for you to discard if not useful, but one reflection from our discussion is that might be helpful to think in-terms of a few different stages of work. For example, short-term funding for the 2022 cycle, post-election research dissemination and learning, and then laying groundwork for 2024.
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Let me know if this raises any additional questions, happy to hop on a call anytime to discuss.

Best,
Sam

Sam Whittemore
Manager

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Phone: 617.572.3060
Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org
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To: Whittemore, Sam[Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org]
Cc: Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]; Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]; Maria Bianchi Buck[mariabianchibuck@gmail.com]; Angela Catella[acatella@pewtrusts.org]
Bcc: jccarter@uw.edu[jccarter@uw.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 2/17/2022 10:28:42 PM
Subject: Re: Following up from Pew
Received: Thur 2/17/2022 10:28:44 PM

Hi Sam,

Thanks for the follow up email, background information, and pointers on proposal structure here. Alex and I have a meeting tomorrow afternoon and I'll get back to you regarding a timeline either late tomorrow afternoon or early next week.

Thinking about this in stages aligns well with our own planning — and our experiences with the active period of 2020, followed by research, reflection, iteration, and redesign between 2020 and 2022. I imagine we'll have a similar period of reflection/redesign between 2022 and 2024. And we'll likely plan for some time after the 2024 election to conduct post-hoc analyses, publish our research, and think about how to translate our “collaborative frameworks for rapid response to mis/disinformation” for whatever comes next.

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Best,
Sam

Sam Whittlemore
Manager

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To: stamos@stanford.edu[stamos@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 2/17/2022 3:30:04 AM
Subject: Delayed Response | Media Contact Re: Accepted: Alex | Kate chat
Received: Thur 2/17/2022 3:30:04 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.

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: Whittemore, Sam[Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org]
Cc: mastersonmv@gmail.com[mastersonmv@gmail.com]; Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]; Reiter, Aiden[Aiden.Reiter@bridgespan.org]; Catherine Vaughan[cvaughan@bluemeridian.org]; Angela Catella[acatella@pewtrusts.org]; Vanessa Tucker[VTucker@hewlett.org]; Fastow, Jeffrey[Jeffrey.Fastow@bridgespan.org]; mariabianchibuck@gmail.com[mariabianchibuck@gmail.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 2/10/2022 7:50:07 PM
Subject: Re: EIP plans and possible intersections with Pew
Received: Thur 2/10/2022 7:50:09 PM

Sounds great Sam. Thanks for the structure here.

Kate

On Feb 10, 2022, at 9:21 AM, Whittemore, Sam <Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org> wrote:

Hi All,

Looking forward to seeing everyone this afternoon and continuing our respective conversations all together.

Here's what I'd suggest for a high-level agenda, happy to adjust as needed:

- Quick introductions since we are connecting some disparate threads
- Updates from the EIP team on latest thinking with respect to timeline and plans for 2020 and beyond
- Share context from Pew and partners on potential funding opportunity and rough timelines
- Align on next steps

Talk soon,
Sam

-----Original Appointment-----

From: Brown, Anne **On Behalf Of** Whittemore, Sam
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2022 9:12 AM
To: Whittemore, Sam; 'mastersonmv@gmail.com'; 'Kate Starbird'; 'Alex Stamos'; 'Renee DiResta'; Reiter, Aiden
Cc: Catherine Vaughan; Angela Catella; 'Vanessa Tucker'; Fastow, Jeffrey; mariabianchibuck@gmail.com
Subject: EIP plans and possible intersections with Pew
When: Thursday, February 10, 2022 3:00 PM-4:00 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).
Where: Zoom details below

Sam Whittemore is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: EIP plans and possible intersections with Pew
Time: Feb 10, 2022 03:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97637424332?pwd=Z0RIRm95Wnp2ZnRMZWgyRW5MNHVUUT09>

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213.244.140.110 (Germany)
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103.122.167.55 (Australia Melbourne)
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64.211.144.160 (Brazil)
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149.137.24.110 (Japan Osaka)

Meeting ID: 976 3742 4332

Passcode: 31

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To: Brown, Anne[Anne.Brown@Bridgespan.org]
Cc: Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]; Reiter, Aiden[Aiden.Reiter@bridgespan.org]; Matthew Masterson[mastermv@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 2/3/2022 5:29:53 PM
Subject: Re: Connecting EIP with Bridgespan
Received: Thur 2/3/2022 5:29:56 PM

Sounds good. Looking forward to the conversation!

Kate

On Feb 3, 2022, at 8:48 AM, Brown, Anne <Anne.Brown@Bridgespan.org> wrote:

Hello everyone,
We are going with Feb. 10 at 3pm EST. I will send out a calendar invitation with a Zoom link.
Warm regards,
Anne

From: Brown, Anne
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2022 9:20 AM
To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>; Reiter, Aiden <Aiden.Reiter@bridgespan.org>; Matthew Masterson <mastermv@stanford.edu>
Subject: RE: Connecting EIP with Bridgespan

Hi everyone,
(moving Sam to bcc)

Could each of you let me know if you are available for any of the following dates/times. Please indicate all the dates you are available.

Mon., Feb. 7 at 3pm EST
Tues, Feb. 8 at 2pm EST
Wed., Feb. 9 at 4:30pm EST
Thur., Feb. 10 at 3pm EST
Fri., Feb. 11 at 1pm EST

If there are other times that work better for you, please do indicate those times.
Thanks so much for checking and helping me pull the call together.
Warm regards,
Anne

Anne Brown
Executive Assistant
Pronouns: She, Her, Hers

The Bridgespan Group
2 Copley Place, 7th Floor, Suite 3700B | Boston, MA 02116
Phone: 617.572.2439
anne.brown@bridgespan.org
www.bridgespan.org

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<image001.jpg>

From: Whittemore, Sam <Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org>
Sent: Friday, January 28, 2022 6:32 PM
To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Cc: Reiter, Aiden <Aiden.Reiter@bridgespan.org>; Matthew Masterson <mastermv@stanford.edu>; Brown, Anne <Anne.Brown@Bridgespan.org>
Subject: RE: Connecting EIP with Bridgespan

Hi All, good to have everyone on the same thread, looking forward to continuing our conversation. I'm looping in my colleague Anne Brown here who can help coordinate our respective calendars.

Happy weekend,
Sam

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Friday, January 28, 2022 5:21 PM
To: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>; Whittemore, Sam <Sam.Whittemore@bridgespan.org>
Cc: Reiter, Aiden <Aiden.Reiter@bridgespan.org>; Matthew Masterson <mastermv@stanford.edu>
Subject: Connecting EIP with Bridgespan

Hi Alex and Renee,

I'm writing to follow up on a thread from our last meeting and a conversation I had a few weeks ago with Sam Whittemore (cced) and other folks at Bridgespan. I think your team chatted with them as well (maybe with Matt as the lead?). In any case, they're hoping to have a joint conversation with our group about our EIP plans and possible intersections with work being planned by their colleagues at Pew.

I'm hoping we can set aside some time in the next few weeks to chat with them (now that we have a better idea of our timeline and plans for EIP 2022).

Cheers,
Kate

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To: stamos@stanford.edu[stamos@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 2/1/2022 5:39:41 AM
Subject: Delayed Response | Media Contact Re: Connecting EIP with Bridgespan
Received: Tue 2/1/2022 5:39:41 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.

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: Brown, Anne[Anne.Brown@Bridgespan.org]
Cc: Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]; Reiter, Aiden[Aiden.Reiter@bridgespan.org]; Matthew Masterson[mastermv@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 1/31/2022 3:32:59 PM
Subject: Re: Connecting EIP with Bridgespan
Received: Mon 1/31/2022 3:33:01 PM

Of those, I'm available:

Mon., Feb. 7 at 3pm EST
Tues, Feb. 8 at 2pm EST
Thur., Feb. 10 at 3pm EST

Kate

On Jan 31, 2022, at 6:19 AM, Brown, Anne <Anne.Brown@Bridgespan.org> wrote:

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Cc: Reiter, Aiden <Aiden.Reiter@bridgespan.org>; Matthew Masterson <mastermv@stanford.edu>

Subject: Connecting EIP with Bridgespan

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Cc: Reiter, Aiden[Aiden.Reiter@bridgespan.org]; Matthew Masterson[mastermv@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 1/28/2022 10:20:47 PM
Subject: Connecting EIP with Bridgespan
Received: Fri 1/28/2022 10:20:49 PM

Hi Alex and Renee,

I'm writing to follow up on a thread from our last meeting and a conversation I had a few weeks ago with Sam Whittemore (cced) and other folks at Bridgespan. I think your team chatted with them as well (maybe with Matt as the lead?). In any case, they're hoping to have a joint conversation with our group about our EIP plans and possible intersections with work being planned by their colleagues at Pew.

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Cheers,
Kate

To: Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]
Cc: Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]; Daniel Bateyko[dbateyko@stanford.edu]; Matthew Masterson[mastermv@stanford.edu]; Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]; John Perrino[perrino@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 1/24/2022 11:13:43 PM
Subject: Re: EIP 2.0
Received: Mon 1/24/2022 11:13:44 PM

Can you please invite Mike? He takes a vacation/writing day on Thursdays, but he might be willing to come in on his lunch.

Kate

On Jan 24, 2022, at 12:09 PM, Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi All –

Let's set Thursday 12:30-1:30. Do we need to include additional folks on the UW site? Mike? I'll send out an invite momentarily.

—

Elena Cryst, MBA (she/her)
Assistant Director
Stanford Internet Observatory

<https://io.stanford.edu>

[Book an appointment](#)

From: Renee DiResta <rdirresta@stanford.edu>
Date: Monday, January 24, 2022 at 12:07 PM
To: Daniel Bateyko <dbateyko@stanford.edu>, Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>, Matthew Masterson <mastermv@stanford.edu>, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>, kstarbi@uw.edu <kstarbi@uw.edu>, John Perrino <perrino@stanford.edu>
Subject: RE: EIP 2.0

Pref for the Thurs noon time, I have a media call on Wed at noon but will be done by 12:15 and can always hop on late.

From: Daniel Bateyko <dbateyko@stanford.edu>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 11:52 AM
To: Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>; Matthew Masterson <mastermv@stanford.edu>; Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdirresta@stanford.edu>; kstarbi@uw.edu <kstarbi@uw.edu>; John Perrino <perrino@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: EIP 2.0

Thanks Matt, the three noon times work for me as well.

From: Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>
Date: Monday, January 24, 2022 at 7:11 AM
To: Matthew Masterson <mastermv@stanford.edu>, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>, Renee DiResta <rdirresta@stanford.edu>, kstarbi@uw.edu <kstarbi@uw.edu>, Daniel Bateyko <dbateyko@stanford.edu>, John Perrino <perrino@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: EIP 2.0

Thanks Matt -

I can make the three noon times. I'm not free 3-4 on Wednesday.

-

Elena Cryst
Sent from my iPhone

From: Matthew Masterson <mastermv@stanford.edu>
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 6:48:50 AM
To: Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>; Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>; kstarbi@uw.edu <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Daniel Bateyko <dbateyko@stanford.edu>; John Perrino <perrino@stanford.edu>
Subject: EIP 2.0

All,

Figured it was easier to put everyone on the same email since I failed through slack. My bad.

Kate and I had been contacted by a contractor doing work for Pew. Pew is looking at getting back into the elections space and has asked Bridgespan their contractor to talk to some of us about how they can be most impactful long term. Naturally EIP came up with both Kate & I and now they want to follow up on that.

Kate suggested we coordinate first before anyone of us talks with Bridgespan and I offered to get some dates and times from SIO folks. Here are the dates and times for this week she suggested (assume times are PT):

- Monday 12-1:30
- Wed noon-1pm; 3-4pm
- Thurs noon-2pm

Happy to discuss further but wanted to start with all of us on same email.

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To: Scherer, William[William.Scherer@mail.house.gov]
Cc: Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 1/14/2022 7:11:44 PM
Subject: Re: January 6th
Received: Fri 1/14/2022 7:11:44 PM

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>

--

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

To: Scherer, William[William.Scherer@mail.house.gov]
Cc: Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]
From: Alex Stamos
Sent: Thur 1/13/2022 9:22:23 PM
Subject: Re: January 6th
Received: Thur 1/13/2022 9:27:37 PM

Hi, William-

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

-Alex

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Date: Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 1:20 PM
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Thanks- Bill

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

--

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

To: Matthew Masterson[mastermv@stanford.edu]
Cc: Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]; Graham Brookie[gbrookie@ATLANTICCOUNCIL.ORG]; Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 12/29/2021 1:28:57 AM
Subject: Re: Meeting w/ CIS
Received: Wed 12/29/2021 1:29:00 AM

Works for me. But I hate the time. ;)

Kate

On Dec 28, 2021, at 1:35 PM, Matthew Masterson <mastermv@stanford.edu> wrote:

All,

Just double checking before sending invites that the meeting on 1/5 is 9:30am (ET not PT) works?

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From: Matthew Masterson <mastermv@stanford.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 12:42:09 PM
To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Cc: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>; Graham Brookie <gbrookie@ATLANTICCOUNCIL.ORG>; Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: Meeting w/ CIS

Will do Kate. Thanks!

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From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 12:34:02 PM
To: Matthew Masterson <mastermv@stanford.edu>
Cc: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>; Graham Brookie <gbrookie@ATLANTICCOUNCIL.ORG>; Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: Meeting w/ CIS

I'm supposed to be traveling that day... but Omicron may stymie that trip... so I may be able to attend after all. Please keep me in the loop.

Kate

On Dec 21, 2021, at 8:58 AM, Matthew Masterson <mastermv@stanford.edu> wrote:

Thank you all. Based on responses I am forwarding an invite for the 5th. Kate I think you were the only one that was questionable that day so I apologize if that doesn't work for you.

I hope everyone has a happy holiday break.

Matt

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From: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 11:41:04 AM
To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Graham Brookie <gbrookie@ATLANTICCOUNCIL.ORG>
Cc: Matthew Masterson <mastermv@stanford.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: Meeting w/ CIS

I can do the 1/5 and 1/6 dates.

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Date: Friday, December 17, 2021 at 2:16 PM
To: Graham Brookie <gbrookie@ATLANTICCOUNCIL.ORG>
Cc: Matthew Masterson <mastermv@stanford.edu>, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: Meeting w/ CIS

Yikes! Those are EST. I read that wrong the first time.

The Jan 5 date won't work for me after all. The Jan 4 date/time WOULD WORK for me.

And I'm going to be in DC on the morning of January 6... and could likely do the 9:15am time that day, but it depends upon the conference I'm committed to (I think that runs through the afternoon).

Kate

On Dec 17, 2021, at 1:56 PM, Graham Brookie <gbrookie@ATLANTICCOUNCIL.ORG> wrote:

Thanks so much, Matt.

I am same as Kate. Can't do Dec27 and Jan4. Can do Jan5 and Jan6.

In the meantime, I hope everybody's grading and project wrap-up is going okay and that we all get some semblance of a break.

Graham

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Date: Thursday, December 16, 2021 at 2:50 PM
To: Matthew Masterson <mastermv@stanford.edu>
Cc: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>, Graham Brookie <gbrookie@ATLANTICCOUNCIL.ORG>
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Hi Matt,

I can't make the first two days, but I can make either 1/5 or 1/6 dates/times.

Kate

On Dec 16, 2021, at 7:30 AM, Matthew Masterson
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Thanks

Matt

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To: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
Cc: Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 12/2/2021 3:06:34 AM
Subject: Re: Scheduling an EIP "post-mortem" for mid-December
Received: Thur 12/2/2021 3:06:37 AM

That sounds like a great plan. I think Mike plans to circle back with you about co-running the meeting. I'll step out of the way!

Kate

On Dec 1, 2021, at 1:00 PM, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu> wrote:

Yup, Mike and I have a weekly and chatted about it earlier this week. One option could be for each team to prepare in advance a single slide with two columns, positives and things to change, which we can all read in advance (should only take ~20 min) and then use the meeting for discussion. I can present on VP, since I think I have the most in-the-weeds perspective there, specifically to what we tried to update and replace, what worked well and what failed, etc.

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 3:35 PM
To: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Cc: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: Scheduling an EIP "post-mortem" for mid-December

Excellent! Thanks!

Any ideas on how to structure the conversation? I'll be chatting with Mike C to help organize on our end, but want to make sure you have a chance to set the agenda. There are so many things to cover!

Kate

On Dec 1, 2021, at 11:18 AM, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu> wrote:

Filled it out; I've got the post-mortem prepped from our end.

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 2:01 PM
To: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>; Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>
Subject: Fwd: Scheduling an EIP "post-mortem" for mid-December

Hi Alex and Renee,

We're really hoping you two can attend the post EIP V1 chat. Any chance you can fill out the poll (for scheduling)?

Let me know if you have concerns or ideas for the agenda or others to invite.

Thanks!
Kate

Begin forwarded message:

From: Julia Scanlan <jccarter@uw.edu>
Subject: Scheduling an EIP "post-mortem" for mid-December
Date: November 30, 2021 at 11:07:01 AM PST
To: Jeff Hancock <hancockj@stanford.edu>, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>, Candace DeLeon <reneedirestapa@gmail.com>, Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>, Michael Grass <megrass@uw.edu>, "sunnyxliu@stanford.edu" <sunnyxliu@stanford.edu>, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>, Graham Brookie <gbrookie@ATLANTICCOUNCIL.ORG>, "etbrooking@gmail.com" <etbrooking@gmail.com>
Cc: Mike Caulfield <mica42@uw.edu>, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>

All,

As we begin to engage with issues around electoral misinformation in the coming midterms, we thought it would make sense to bring together those who had played a management or leadership role in the 2020 EIP work to have an informal conversation on what we learned from the last effort. I'm working to schedule a two-hour "post-mortem" session; we're aiming to try to get folks together (virtually) around mid-December. **Please visit this poll in the next few days and indicate your availability.** We'll do our best to secure a time when as many as possible can attend. And if others should be included, please feel free to let me know. [I don't yet have emails for Matt Masterson or Isabella Garcia-Camargo; please forward or let me know those and I will send!]

More information to follow. We are aiming to design the agenda collaboratively, to make sure everyone gets what they need out of the session. We'll send around more detail shortly.

Thank you!

Julia

JULIA SCANLAN (she/her)
Director for Strategy and Operations | Center for an Informed Public
University of Washington
206.897.1798 / Box 351205 / cip.uw.edu
News & Insights: [Sign up for the CIP's newsletter](#)
Follow the CIP on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)
<image001.jpg>

To: Matthew Masterson[mastermv@stanford.edu]
Cc: Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu];
gbrookie@atlanticcouncil.org[gbrookie@atlanticcouncil.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 12/16/2021 7:49:39 PM
Subject: Re: Meeting w/ CIS
Received: Thur 12/16/2021 7:49:42 PM

Hi Matt,

I can't make the first two days, but I can make either 1/5 or 1/6 dates/times.

Kate

On Dec 16, 2021, at 7:30 AM, Matthew Masterson <mastermv@stanford.edu> wrote:

All,

As discussed on the EIP call CIS has asked to meet to discuss the current state of play and their possible role. If you are able/willing to have a call with them do any of these dates work? Is there anyone else we should have on?

- 12/27 9:30-10:15am, 2-2:45pm, 3-3:45pm EST
- 1/4 4-4:45pm EST
- 1/5 9:15-10am EST
- 1/6 9:15-10am EST

Thanks

Matt

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

To: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]; Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 12/1/2021 7:01:27 PM
Subject: Fwd: Scheduling an EIP "post-mortem" for mid-December
Received: Wed 12/1/2021 7:01:32 PM

Hi Alex and Renee,

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Follow the CIP on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

 **CENTER FOR AN INFORMED PUBLIC**
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

To: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
Cc: Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 12/1/2021 8:34:47 PM
Subject: Re: Scheduling an EIP "post-mortem" for mid-December
Received: Wed 12/1/2021 8:34:52 PM

Excellent! Thanks!

Any ideas on how to structure the conversation? I'll be chatting with Mike C to help organize on our end, but want to make sure you have a chance to set the agenda. There are so many things to cover!

Kate

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Follow the CIP on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)
<image001.jpg>

To: stamos@stanford.edu[stamos@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 9/28/2021 5:32:04 PM
Subject: Delayed Response RE: Bravo Safiya!!!! MacArthur Genius!!
Received: Tue 9/28/2021 5:32:04 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 with you.

Warm regards,
Kate

To: Yasmin Green[yasmingreen@google.com]
Cc: Murdoch, Kathryn[kam@qdv.m.org]; Rashad Robinson[rashad@colorofchange.org]; Vivian Schiller[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]; katiemm1957@gmail.com[katiemm1957@gmail.com]; Michael Dale-Stein[michael@archewell.com]; Marla Blow[mblow@skoll.org]; Safiya Umoja Noble[snoble@g.ucla.edu]; Deb Roy[dkroy@media.mit.edu]; Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]; Jameel Jaffer[Jameel.Jaffer@knightrcolumbia.org]; William Hurd[williamhurd@gmail.com]; Aaron D. Ford[fordfornevada@gmail.com]; Herb Lin[herblin@stanford.edu]; Amanda Zamora[amandazamora@gmail.com]; Chris Krebs[krebsc@gmail.com]; Ryan Merkley (Consultant)[Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org]; Garrett Graff[Garrett.Graff@aspeninstitute.org]; Sara Sendek[sara.sendek@aspeninstitute.org]; Diara-Jepris Townes[Diara-Jepris.Townes@aspeninstitute.org]; Kristine Gloria[Kristine.Gloria@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 9/28/2021 5:10:01 PM
Subject: Re: Bravo Safiya!!!! MacArthur Genius!!
Received: Tue 9/28/2021 5:10:03 PM

Congratulations Safiya! So well-deserved. I hope you're basking in the glory of it. :)

Kate

On Sep 28, 2021, at 10:01 AM, Yasmin Green <yasmingreen@google.com> wrote:

Congratulations, Safiya!! Blazing trails and being recognized for it 🎉🎉🎉

On Tue, 28 Sept 2021 at 12:56, Murdoch, Kathryn <kam@qdv.m.org> wrote:

Amazing news! Well done Safiya!

From: Rashad Robinson <rashad@colorofchange.org>
Date: Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at 9:53 AM
To: Vivian Schiller <Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org>
Cc: katiemm1957@gmail.com <katiemm1957@gmail.com>, Michael Dale-Stein <michael@archewell.com>, Marla Blow <mblow@skoll.org>, Safiya Umoja Noble <snoble@g.ucla.edu>, Deb Roy <dkroy@media.mit.edu>, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>, Jameel Jaffer <Jameel.Jaffer@knightrcolumbia.org>, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>, William Hurd <williamhurd@gmail.com>, Aaron D. Ford <fordfornevada@gmail.com>, Herb Lin <herblin@stanford.edu>, yasmingreen@google.com <yasmingreen@google.com>, Murdoch, Kathryn <kam@qdv.m.org>, Amanda Zamora <amandazamora@gmail.com>, Chris Krebs <krebsc@gmail.com>, Ryan Merkley (Consultant) <Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org>, Garrett Graff <Garrett.Graff@aspeninstitute.org>, Sara Sendek <sara.sendek@aspeninstitute.org>, Diara-Jepris Townes <Diara-Jepris.Townes@aspeninstitute.org>, Kristine Gloria <Kristine.Gloria@aspeninstitute.org>
Subject: Bravo Safiya!!!! MacArthur Genius!!

What an incredible achievement and so well deserved. Bravo my friend and thank you for your incredible work.

<https://twitter.com/macfound/status/1442881801077329924?s=21>

--

To: stamos@stanford.edu[stamos@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 5/25/2021 5:43:37 PM
Subject: Delayed Response Re: Rapid peer review journal on internet trust and safety issues
Received: Tue 5/25/2021 5:43:37 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: Shelby Grossman[shelbygrossman@stanford.edu]
Cc: Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]; Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 5/25/2021 5:26:34 PM
Subject: Re: Rapid peer review journal on internet trust and safety issues
Received: Tue 5/25/2021 5:26:36 PM

Hi Shelby,

We've been talking about a similar idea internally as well (though weren't planning to make any rapid moves there). I could meet:

- Tues 11:30-noon
- Wed 3-3:30pm

On May 24, 2021, at 3:16 PM, Shelby Grossman <shelbygrossman@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi Kate,

We are thinking of starting a new rapid peer review journal for research on internet trust and safety issues, such as encryption, self-harm, harassment, and mis/disinformation. We wanted to see if you had time to discuss this with us before we reach out to a broader group of people. I believe the following are times that work for the three of us. Might any of these work? If not, we can come back to you with more times.

Tuesday 6/1: 11:30-2:30

Wednesday 6/2: 11-1; 1:30-3:30

Best,
Shelby

To: Isabella Garcia-Camargo[bellagc@stanford.edu]
Cc: zns202@nyu.edu[zns202@nyu.edu]; mccoy@nyu.edu[mccoy@nyu.edu]; lj992@nyu.edu[lj992@nyu.edu]; paul.poladstransparency@gmail.com[paul.poladstransparency@gmail.com]; Carly Maya Miller[carlym2@stanford.edu]; Chase Small[cpsmall@stanford.edu]; Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]; David Thiel[dthiel@stanford.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]; espiro@uw.edu[espiro@uw.edu]; jevinw@uw.edu[jevinw@uw.edu]; koltai@uw.edu[koltai@uw.edu]; Cameron Hickey[cameron@ncoc.org]; camille.francois@graphika.com[camille.francois@graphika.com]; melanie.smith@graphika.com[melanie.smith@graphika.com]; Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]; Matthew Masterson[mastermv@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 3/12/2021 3:28:19 AM
Subject: Re: Virality Project Weekly
Received: Fri 3/12/2021 3:28:21 AM

Perfect!

On Mar 11, 2021, at 3:12 PM, Isabella Garcia-Camargo <bellagc@stanford.edu> wrote:

Thanks Kate! Totally agree, looking forward to that meeting at 3-4PM Monday.

I want to make sure we get feedback on the rest of the goals: "create a dataset for longer-term study" is included as a goal, outlining all the details on how to do that best should be done in a separate document, and we will do a final update of that bullet then. I'd appreciate feedback on any of the other goals and outcomes, so we make sure everything is included and can get that set!

Looking forward to the discussion Monday!

Bella

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Date: Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 7:29 AM
To: Isabella Garcia-Camargo <bellagc@stanford.edu>
Cc: "zns202@nyu.edu" <zns202@nyu.edu>, "mccoy@nyu.edu" <mccoy@nyu.edu>, "lj992@nyu.edu" <lj992@nyu.edu>, "paul.poladstransparency@gmail.com" <paul.poladstransparency@gmail.com>, Carly Maya Miller <carlym2@stanford.edu>, Chase Small <cpsmall@stanford.edu>, Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>, David Thiel <dthiel@stanford.edu>, Renee DiResta <rdirresta@stanford.edu>, "espiro@uw.edu" <espiro@uw.edu>, "jevinw@uw.edu" <jevinw@uw.edu>, "koltai@uw.edu" <koltai@uw.edu>, Cameron Hickey <cameron@ncoc.org>, "camille.francois@graphika.com" <camille.francois@graphika.com>, "melanie.smith@graphika.com" <melanie.smith@graphika.com>, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>, Matthew Masterson <mastermv@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: Virality Project Weekly

Hi Bella,

Thank you for putting together this document. It's really helpful.

I think the questions about data and process might require a meeting to talk through the trade-offs, enumerate and prioritize potential research questions, surface potential strategies for collection/curation, and make some difficult decisions that balance across some of the trade-offs. My understanding is that a few of us are planning to meet Monday to talk through some of this. I imagine we won't be able to complete the data section of the document here until after that conversation.

Kate

Sent from my iPad

On Mar 10, 2021, at 5:52 PM, Isabella Garcia-Camargo <bellagc@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hello All:

Thank you very much for taking the time to meet today. As discussed, we need everyone to [please provide any final commentary or feedback to this document](#) by **Friday at 5PM**. Having alignment on our goals and desired outputs will allow us to move into discussions of how to achieve the goals, for example, how exactly to conduct our weekly research. Specific updates:

- Cameron, if you could add any language you'd like to see about impact
- Emma, if there are any updates to the language around creation of a dataset you'd like to see
- All, if we could **add any additional research questions under bullet 1** to guide the discussion of the dataset needed to answer these research questions

We are looking forward to getting the proposed methodology updates from the working group!

Bella

From: bellagc@stanford.edu

When: 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM March 10, 2021

Subject: Virality Project Weekly

Location: <https://stanford.zoom.us/j/91542213877?pwd=MjNlVk5hQXRCWFVvNUN3YmdRR3BxZz09&from=addon>

Hello All:

Taking this meeting off the calendars of the analysts for the week! We will be using the time to check in with team leads about final report plans.

Bella



Hi there,

isabella camargo is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

Password: 621362

Meeting URL: <https://stanford.zoom.us/j/91542213877?pwd=MjNlVk5hQXRCWFVvNUN3YmdRR3BxZz09&from=addon>

iPhone one-tap (US) +18333021536,,91542213877# or

Toll): +16507249799,,91542213877#

Or Telephone:

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

Meeting ID: 915 4221 3877

Password: 621362

International numbers

Join from a SIP room system

SIP: 91542213877@zoomcrc.com

Meeting ID: 915 4221 3877

Password: 621362

To: Isabella Garcia-Camargo[bellagc@stanford.edu]
Cc: zns202@nyu.edu[zns202@nyu.edu]; mccoy@nyu.edu[mccoy@nyu.edu]; lj992@nyu.edu[lj992@nyu.edu]; paul.poladstransparency@gmail.com[paul.poladstransparency@gmail.com]; Carly Maya Miller[carlym2@stanford.edu]; Chase Small[cpsmall@stanford.edu]; Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]; David Thiel[dthiel@stanford.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdirecta@stanford.edu]; espiro@uw.edu[espiro@uw.edu]; jevinw@uw.edu[jevinw@uw.edu]; koltai@uw.edu[koltai@uw.edu]; Cameron Hickey[cameron@ncoc.org]; camille.francois@graphika.com[camille.francois@graphika.com]; melanie.smith@graphika.com[melanie.smith@graphika.com]; Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]; Matthew Masterson[masterv@stanford.edu]
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When: 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM March 10, 2021

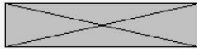
Subject: Virality Project Weekly

Location:

<https://stanford.zoom.us/j/91542213877?pwd=MjNlVjVhQXRCWFVhNUN3YmRRR3BxZz09&from=addon>

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iPhone one-tap (US Toll): +18333021536,,91542213877# or +16507249799,,91542213877#

Or Telephone:

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

Meeting ID: 915 4221 3877

Password: 31

International numbers

Join from a SIP room system

SIP: 91542213877@zoomcrc.com

Meeting ID: 915 4221 3877

Password: 31

To: Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 1/20/2021 12:18:46 AM
Subject: Re: Introduction and Interest in Disinfo Targeting People InWisconsin
Received: Wed 1/20/2021 12:18:47 AM

Got it.

Can you remind me of our estimated publication date? Feb 10?

On Jan 19, 2021, at 12:22 PM, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu> wrote:

While I think we should be helpful and perhaps can do some early pre-briefs, I would recommend that we not give anybody an early view of the work outside of a careful plan. We have a good opportunity to work with 1-2 media outlets over a week to land our main recommendations, powered by any newsworthy tidbits or conclusions (and every time I look at a draft I see more of those). Our ability to do that will really be reduced if a draft is being circulated in DC, and in my experience you absolutely cannot trust Congressional staff with anything that isn't stamped TS/SCI.

I would offer a verbal briefing of some conclusions, but a PDF with "SUPER CONFIDENTIAL, DO NOT LEAK FOR YOUR OWN PERSONAL POLITICAL BENEFIT" is catnip to these people unless there is a legal penalty involved.

Alex

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Date: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 11:49 AM
To: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>
Subject: Fwd: Introduction and Interest in Disinfo Targeting People In Wisconsin

Do we have any mechanism for giving an early view, perhaps on a draft, on some of our work? I feel confident that our content in Ch 4 is accurate (though overlong) and would be comfortable sharing it with a "not for redistribution" watermark. What do you all think?

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Poirier, Julia (Baldwin)" <Julia_Poirier@baldwin.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: Introduction and Interest in Disinfo Targeting People In Wisconsin
Date: January 19, 2021 at 11:09:39 AM PST
To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>

Hi Kate –

My apologies for the delay here – it has been a heck of a few weeks for Congress. I keep reading your name in articles and hearing your interviews on NPR's Morning Edition so I know all the current events have been keeping you crazy busy as well.

I wanted to reach out to ask if your final report has been released yet and if you wouldn't mind sharing it with me?

This work is more important than ever and hopefully the last few weeks have woken people up to start taking more serious action on the mis/disinformation front.

Take care,
Julia

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 1:05 PM
To: Poirier, Julia (Baldwin) <Julia_Poirier@baldwin.senate.gov>

Subject: Re: Introduction and Interest in Disinfo Targeting People In Wisconsin

Hi Julia,

Thank you for reaching out. We have stopped our living monitoring and are working to write up our final report about mis/disinformation and the 2020 election. That report should be out in 3-4 weeks.

I know we featured some Wisconsin-related cases early on (back in September around ballots in a ditch, if I remember correctly). Here's an interactive graph showing how that narrative spread through Twitter (featuring many of the "repeat offenders" — including Gateway Pundit — who helped spread and amplify election disinformation from August through December).
<http://faculty.washington.edu/kstarbi/DitchingMail-WI.html>

More recently, I think we've seen some of the narratives that torture statistics to claim fraud. If any of those rise to the surface for our report, I'll let you know.

Among other things, the report will feature a break-down of repeat offenders across platforms... including Twitter, Facebook, and Youtube. It might be a good resource for you all (once we get it out the door).

Kate

On Dec 2, 2020, at 8:25 AM, Poirier, Julia (Baldwin)
<Julia_Poirier@baldwin.senate.gov> wrote:

Hi Kate –

Greta Bedekovics from Senator Klobuchar's Rules Committee recommended that I reach out to you and introduce myself. My name is Julia Poirier and I work for Senator Baldwin from Wisconsin. I am very interested in tracking Wisconsin-specific dis/misinformation since it is a big target because of its swing state status. Additionally, following the civil unrest in Kenosha, Wisconsin, we saw the grave consequences of this post-truth era and all while false rumors spread online that murderous gangs from Milwaukee, Minneapolis and Chicago were coming to ransack the city. Attaching the open letter Senator Baldwin sent to Mark Zuckerberg on the issue.

I would greatly appreciate it if you kept me in mind if you come across any Wisconsin-specific disinfo or trends of conspiracy theories in the state.

Thanks again for your important work. As an aside, I am currently in graduate school at Georgetown for a mid-career program on Policy Management (like a MPA) and I am focusing my studies on these issues in tech. Although, I am very jealous I am not able to take any of your classes.

Take care,
Julia

Julia Poirier
Legislative Aide
Office of Senator Tammy Baldwin
709 Hart Senate Office Bldg.

<Baldwin Letter to Facebook Threat of Misinformation Translating to Violence.pdf>

To: Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Alex Stamos
Sent: Tue 1/19/2021 8:22:34 PM
Subject: Re: Introduction and Interest in Disinfo Targeting People InWisconsin
Received: Tue 1/19/2021 8:22:56 PM

While I think we should be helpful and perhaps can do some early pre-briefs, I would recommend that we not give anybody an early view of the work outside of a careful plan. We have a good opportunity to work with 1-2 media outlets over a week to land our main recommendations, powered by any newsworthy tidbits or conclusions (and every time I look at a draft I see more of those). Our ability to do that will really be reduced if a draft is being circulated in DC, and in my experience you absolutely cannot trust Congressional staff with anything that isn't stamped TS/SCI.

I would offer a verbal briefing of some conclusions, but a PDF with "SUPER CONFIDENTIAL, DO NOT LEAK FOR YOUR OWN PERSONAL POLITICAL BENEFIT" is catnip to these people unless there is a legal penalty involved.

Alex

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Date: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 11:49 AM
To: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>
Subject: Fwd: Introduction and Interest in Disinfo Targeting People In Wisconsin

Do we have any mechanism for giving an early view, perhaps on a draft, on some of our work? I feel confident that our content in Ch 4 is accurate (though overlong) and would be comfortable sharing it with a "not for redistribution" watermark. What do you all think?

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Poirier, Julia (Baldwin)" <Julia_Poirier@baldwin.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: Introduction and Interest in Disinfo Targeting People In Wisconsin
Date: January 19, 2021 at 11:09:39 AM PST
To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>

Hi Kate –

My apologies for the delay here – it has been a heck of a few weeks for Congress. I keep reading your name in articles and hearing your interviews on NPR's Morning Edition so I know all the current events have been keeping you crazy busy as well.

I wanted to reach out to ask if your final report has been released yet and if you wouldn't mind sharing it with me?

This work is more important than ever and hopefully the last few weeks have woken people up to start taking more serious action on the mis/disinformation front.

Take care,
Julia

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Julia Poirier
Legislative Aide
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709 Hart Senate Office Bldg.

<Baldwin Letter to Facebook Threat of Misinformation Translating to Violence.pdf>

To: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]; Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 1/19/2021 7:48:53 PM
Subject: Fwd: Introduction and Interest in Disinfo Targeting People In Wisconsin
Received: Tue 1/19/2021 7:48:54 PM

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Take care,
Julia

Julia Poirier
Legislative Aide
Office of Senator Tammy Baldwin
709 Hart Senate Office Bldg.

<[Baldwin Letter to Facebook Threat of Misinformation Translating to Violence.pdf](#)>

To: Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]
Cc: joebak@uw.edu[joebak@uw.edu]; Jevin West[jevinw@uw.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Sat 11/21/2020 9:10:59 PM
Subject: Re: [eip-info] Williams College press inquiry
Received: Sat 11/21/2020 9:11:01 PM

It's a bit outside my skillset, but I'm also ccing Jevin in case he has the cycles to take a look.

On Nov 21, 2020, at 11:44 AM, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hey, Joe and Kate. Are you interested in writing up a response to this professor?

From: Wolf, Samuel <stw5@williams.edu>
Sent: Saturday, November 21, 2020 11:14 AM
To: info@eipartnership.net
Subject: [eip-info] Williams College press inquiry

Hello,
My name is Sam Wolf, and I'm a student at Williams College and a managing editor of the college paper, The Williams Record.

I'm reaching out because a math professor at Williams, Steven Miller, has made a [sworn, public statement](#) alleging severe voter irregularities in Pennsylvania, which the chair of the FEC has responded to publicly. A few conservative outlets have picked it up, including [Just the News](#).

We want to write about this not in order to give a platform to rhetoric that casts doubt on the election, but because we believe our readers deserve to know that a professor has made such a statement. Would the Election Integrity Project be willing to contextualize or respond to this statement for our paper?

Thanks so much for your assistance, and please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,
Sam Wolf '21

--

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

To: Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 1/1/2021 8:58:21 PM
Subject: call today?
Received: Fri 1/1/2021 8:58:22 PM

Hi Alex,

I'm following up on our meeting plans for today. Are you still available? If so, can you send along your phone number? I seem to have failed to save it in my phone. And if you can't meet today, let's set up something for early next week if possible!

Kate

To: Kelsey Henquinet[KHenquinet@ATLANTICCOUNCIL.org]
Cc: Graham Brookie[gbrookie@ATLANTICCOUNCIL.ORG]; Emerson Brooking[EBrooking@ATLANTICCOUNCIL.org]; Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]; Camille Francois[camille.francois@graphika.com]; Anna Pellegatta[APellegatta@atlanticcouncil.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 11/10/2020 12:52:54 AM
Subject: Re: Speaker Logistics 11/10 - Initial Reactions: Disinformation in the 2020 Elections
Received: Tue 11/10/2020 12:52:55 AM

I'm teaching until 10pm tonight (Pacific), so you likely won't see me until ~10 minutes before the start. But I'll be there!

On Nov 9, 2020, at 2:40 PM, Kelsey Henquinet <KHenquinet@ATLANTICCOUNCIL.org> wrote:

Hi all,

We are looking forward to tomorrow's conversation, *Initial Reactions: Disinformation in the 2020 Elections*, at **11:00am ET**. In preparation for the event, please find a full speaker briefing with connection information and target questions, as well as additional logistical details below.

Zoom Details

To join the panel, please use the unique Zoom link hyperlinked to your name:

- [Graham Brookie](#)
- [Emerson Brooking](#)
- [Camille François](#)
- [Alex Stamos](#)
- [Kate Starbird](#)

Logistics

Tomorrow, please join the line 20-30 minutes before the start of the event. We will use this time to confirm the run of show and double check your audio and internet.

Communications

This public, on-the-record event will be hosted on Zoom and streamed on the Atlantic Council's YouTube, Twitter, and Facebook accounts and the DFRLab's Facebook and Twitter accounts. We also use periscope to livestream the event on multiple channels. If you would like to stream the event directly onto your organization's or personal Twitter account, please find the instructions in the speaker briefing.

This event currently has 280 RSVP's. If you would like to promote the event, please circulate [this registration page](#).

Please let me know if you have questions.

Best,

Kelsey

<11.10 Speaker Briefing.docx>

To: Michael Grass[megrass@uw.edu]
Cc: Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]; Camille Francois[camille.francois@graphika.com]; Graham Brookie[qbrookie@ATLANTICCOUNCIL.ORG]; bellagc@stanford.edu[bellagc@stanford.edu]; 51
51 @uw.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 11/4/2020 7:57:01 PM
Subject: Re: follow up #2 from morning briefing
Received: Wed 11/4/2020 7:57:03 PM

1. Kate, can you send the tracking you did showing the effectiveness of Twitter's label?

Can someone connect Lizza with the graphs 51 did last night for Twitter's label of Trump's tweet?

On Nov 4, 2020, at 11:30 AM, Dvoskin, Elizabeth <Elizabeth.Dvoskin@washpost.com> wrote:

Hi Michael, Alex, Camille, 51, Kate, Graham, and Isabella,
Thanks for another super-helpful briefing from the A-team.
A few quick follow up requests to help our reporting today:

1. Can you send the info about the sharpie anecdote, that was recycled from state to state?
2. Kate, can you send the tracking you did showing the effectiveness of Twitter's label?
3. Do you think it's fair to say that the narrative is shifting now from misinfo about voting process to misinfo about the tallying process? If so, what's the best example you have of that?
4. Reupping from the Q&A: Do you think the premature calling of victory is a bigger test for the platforms than Russian disinfo, in terms of protecting threats to democracy?

Cheers,
Lizza

--

Elizabeth Dvoskin
Silicon Valley Correspondent
The Washington Post
F: (917)453-0480 (Signal)
@lizzadvoskin

To: Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]
Cc: Weisz, Aaron[WeiszA@cbsnews.com]; Flickinger, Ian[FlickingerI@cbsnews.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 10/19/2020 5:33:09 PM
Subject: Re: CBS NEWS - ON DEADLINE: Election Disinformation Inquiry
Received: Mon 10/19/2020 5:33:10 PM

Hi Alex,

I'm reaching out to connect you with Ian Flickinger and Aaron Weisz at 60 Minutes. They may be interested in doing a story covering some of our analysis on the days after the election (if things go sideways). And I think they're looking to find someone in the Election Integrity Partnership who would be available for an interview in NYC or DC. (If Graham is in the area, he'd be my first choice, though last I saw him on Zoom he seemed to be out West somewhere).

I'll let you all take it from here.

Best,
Kate

On Oct 19, 2020, at 9:53 AM, Flickinger, Ian <FlickingerI@cbsnews.com> wrote:

Hi Kate,

Thanks again for taking our call -- we look forward to staying in touch as we get closer to Election Day.

If you wouldn't mind, we'd love to be added to the distribution list for your prediction piece that's set to be released soon and would be grateful for an introduction to your colleagues at Stanford.

Thanks very much for your time and guidance.

Best,

Ian Flickinger
60 Minutes
Cell: 330 506 2873
flickingeri@cbsnews.com

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2020 11:32 AM
To: Flickinger, Ian <FlickingerI@cbsnews.com>
Cc: Weisz, Aaron <WeiszA@cbsnews.com>; Michael Grass <megrass@uw.edu>
Subject: Re: CBS NEWS - ON DEADLINE: Election Disinformation Inquiry

External Email

12:30PM ET/9:30AM PT

Works for me. My phone number is 206 313 2766.

On Oct 16, 2020, at 8:28 AM, Flickinger, Ian <FlickingerI@cbsnews.com> wrote:

Thank you, Kate, for the speedy reply! Michael, it's nice to e-meet you.

Kate, would 12:30PM ET/9:30AM PT work for you on Monday? If not, what works best? And what's the best number to reach you?

Grateful for your guidance.

Ian Flickinger
60 Minutes
Cell: 330 506 2873
flickingeri@cbsnews.com

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2020 11:22 AM
To: Flickinger, Ian <FlickingerI@cbsnews.com>
Cc: Weisz, Aaron <[WeiszA@cbsnews.com](mailto>WeiszA@cbsnews.com)>; Michael Grass <megrass@uw.edu>
Subject: Re: CBS NEWS - ON DEADLINE: Election Disinformation Inquiry
Importance: High

External Email

Hello Ian,

Thank you for reaching out. I would be thrilled to chat with you all — ideally Monday, if that works for you. (Our sole motivation is to get the products of our analyses out into the world.)

I am located in Seattle, as are most of our team at UW. The Stanford folks are a little more spread out, but most are in the Bay Area. We have other partners in other parts of the world, but I'm not sure if we have any in NY or DC. I'm ccing Michael Grass, our communications director for the Election Integrity Partnership, hoping that he can help find someone in the area for you (if indeed anyone is in the area).

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 Oct 16, 2020, at 7:28 AM, Flickinger, Ian <FlickingerI@cbsnews.com> wrote:

Hello Kate,

I hope you and your family are safe and well. I work at CBS News – 60 Minutes. We're working on a report in the event the Presidential Election results are contested next month.

I came across a report referencing your work analyzing the online network set to amplify misinformation about the election's results.

Would you have a moment today or early next week to discuss your team's work identifying election disinformation? And, are any of your counterparts that monitor election disinformation located in NY or DC? If we proceed with this piece, we may be interested in speaking with someone on camera – it would help know if someone is within our proximity.

Thanks in advance for your help. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

Ian Flickinger
60 Minutes
Cell: 330 506 2873
flickingeri@cbsnews.com

To: Jevin West[jevinw@uw.edu]
Cc: Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]; Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]; David Havasy[dhavasy@stanford.edu]; Julia Carter[jccarter@uw.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 10/9/2020 2:43:37 AM
Subject: Re: Gates Ventures Funding for EIP
Received: Fri 10/9/2020 2:43:39 AM

Such great news! Thank you Elena (and your team) for sending this opportunity to us!

On Oct 8, 2020, at 3:48 PM, Jevin West <jevinw@uw.edu> wrote:

Dear Elena, Alex and David,

This is great news! Thanks so much for including us. The funds will be super helpful in continuing to scale our efforts.

Onward!

Best,
Jevin

On Oct 8, 2020, at 3:36 PM, Julia Carter <jccarter@uw.edu> wrote:

Wow, Elena, this is fantastic news! Thank you so much for securing these funds on our behalf. We're incredibly grateful. This is a wonderful lift to what's been a challenging few weeks!

Let's definitely hop on a call tomorrow. I'm out of the office starting at about 2, so if we could connect before that, that would be ideal. I'll likely ask one of my colleagues from Advancement to join, as she'll know better than I the mechanics of the transfer. Let me check her availability and I'll get back to you shortly.

Again, thank you. We're so appreciative.

Julia

From: Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2020 3:33 PM
To: Jevin West <jevinw@uw.edu>; kstarbi <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Julia Carter <jccarter@uw.edu>
Cc: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>; David Havasy <dhavasy@stanford.edu>
Subject: Gates Ventures Funding for EIP

Dear Jevin, Kate, and Julia –

SIO just secured a gift from Gates Ventures to support our work on EIP. As part of our ask to them, we asked to send \$150,000 from the gift to CIP to support "Students and Staff effort" for the project. We hope this funding will be helpful as your partnership has been tremendously valuable on this endeavor, and we wouldn't be where we are were it not for the countless hours spent by you and your team on the project. This is not sponsored research but rather a moderately restricted gift.

Julia – I assume you are the person I should talk to about the mechanisms through which we can transfer these funds? If so, I am free most of tomorrow to discuss. I think efforts like this are slightly trickier between public and private universities but I'm hopeful we can find a way! I've copied in David Havasy at the Stanford Cyber Policy Center who will also lend a hand on the administrative side.

Thank you all,

—

Elena Cryst
Assistant Director
Stanford Internet Observatory

<https://io.stanford.edu>

[Book an appointment](#)

To: Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]; Joe Bak-Coleman[joebak@uw.edu]
From: Alex Stamos
Sent: Mon 10/5/2020 8:55:08 PM
Subject: RE: Fox News inquiry
Received: Mon 10/5/2020 8:56:26 PM

I sent the message below for the same request. I don't think anybody else should respond and I would generally ignore any Veritas media inquiries (but send to me!).

Hi, Audrey-

I believe our post speaks for itself and we are going to decline further comment.

Thank you,
Alex

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2020 1:50 PM
To: Joe Bak-Coleman <joebak@uw.edu>
Cc: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: Fox News inquiry

I wouldn't respond. I'm curious as to why they reached out to you and not Alex or me. Something to chat about at our next meeting.

On Oct 5, 2020, at 1:45 PM, Joe Bak-Coleman <joebak@uw.edu> wrote:

Hi Kate/Alex,
Thoughts on how/if I should respond? My instinct is to just ignore it but I figured better to ask y'all.
Cheers,
-Joe

From: "Conklin, Audrey" <Audrey.Conklin@FOXNEWS.COM>
Date: Monday, October 5, 2020 at 12:19 PM
To: Joe Bak-Coleman <joebak@uw.edu>
Subject: Fox News inquiry

Hi, Dr. Bak-Coleman,

I'm a digital reporter for Fox News wondering if you have any time to chat next week about your rapid response analysis that found Project Veritas' voter fraud video was "a form of election disinformation."

Please let me know if you're available any time before 2 p.m. EST between Wed. and Sat. to share your findings and general thoughts on the video. Thank you!

Audrey Conklin
Digital Reporter
Fox Business
203-721-4193

This message and its attachments may contain legally privileged or confidential information. It is intended solely for the named addressee. If you are not the addressee indicated in this message (or responsible for delivery of the message to the addressee), you may not copy or deliver this message or its attachments to anyone. Rather, you should permanently delete this message and its attachments and kindly notify the sender by reply e-mail. Any content of this message and its attachments that does not relate to the official business of Fox News or Fox Business must not be taken to have been sent or endorsed by either of them. No representation is made that this email or its attachments are without defect.

To: Joe Bak-Coleman[joebak@uw.edu]
Cc: Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 10/5/2020 8:50:28 PM
Subject: Re: Fox News inquiry
Received: Mon 10/5/2020 8:50:31 PM

I wouldn't respond. I'm curious as to why they reached out to you and not Alex or me. Something to chat about at our next meeting.

On Oct 5, 2020, at 1:45 PM, Joe Bak-Coleman <joebak@uw.edu> wrote:

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To: Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]
Cc: Alex Chitty[alex.chitty@vice.com]; Kelsey Henquinet[KHenquinet@atlanticcouncil.org]; Shawn Killebrew[shawn.killebrew@vice.com]; Graham Brookie[gbrookie@atlanticcouncil.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 9/29/2020 5:25:49 PM
Subject: Re: Connecting <VICE / EIP>
Received: Tue 9/29/2020 5:25:50 PM

I could do noon on Tuesday (any Tuesday).

On Sep 29, 2020, at 10:17 AM, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu> wrote:

Yes, I can make something in 12-3pm ET work on Tuesday, but I have a hard stop at 3pm ET to teach.

From: Alex Chitty <alex.chitty@vice.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 10:13 AM
To: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>
Cc: Kelsey Henquinet <KHenquinet@atlanticcouncil.org>; Shawn Killebrew <shawn.killebrew@vice.com>; Graham Brookie <gbrookie@atlanticcouncil.org>; Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Subject: Re: Connecting <VICE / EIP>

That is very reasonable! At the risk of pushing too much, do you think we could make the Tuesday work?

Your voice is key to what we have in mind for the piece and if we can make it work with the other schedules I would love to keep you involved if we can.

On Tue, 29 Sep 2020 at 10:09, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu> wrote:

Monday is Columbus Day and my kids have it off, so I'm going to say no Zooms that day. You folks are welcome to go ahead without me.

From: Alex Chitty <alex.chitty@vice.com>
Date: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 at 10:07 AM
To: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>
Cc: Kelsey Henquinet <KHenquinet@atlanticcouncil.org>, Shawn Killebrew <shawn.killebrew@vice.com>, Graham Brookie <gbrookie@atlanticcouncil.org>, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Subject: Re: Connecting <VICE / EIP>

I am jealous!

We'd love to have you participate, though (and with a good connection). Could we perhaps look at the following Monday? I know there are multiple schedules here to work out.

On Tue, 29 Sep 2020 at 10:05, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu> wrote:

I'm going to be working from a cabin that day for the holiday weekend, so we can schedule something in that window but you might need to move ahead without me if the wifi isn't great.

From: Alex Chitty <alex.chitty@vice.com>
Date: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 at 9:46 AM
To: Kelsey Henquinet <KHenquinet@atlanticcouncil.org>
Cc: Shawn Killebrew <shawn.killebrew@vice.com>, Graham Brookie <gbrookie@atlanticcouncil.org>, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Subject: Re: Connecting <VICE / EIP>

Kelsey, that's great news. Thank you very much.

Katie and Alex, do you think we could find a slot in your calendars that might work with Graham's availability, below?

On Mon, 28 Sep 2020 at 19:39, Kelsey Henquinet <KHenquinet@atlanticcouncil.org> wrote:

Hi Alex,

Thank you for sending target dates and for following up! October 9th between 12-3pm ET works best with Graham's schedule.

Thank you,

Kelsey

From: Alex Chitty <alex.chitty@vice.com>

Date: Monday, September 28, 2020 at 10:32 AM

To: Shawn Killebrew <shawn.killebrew@vice.com>

Cc: Graham Brookie <gbrookie@ATLANTICCOUNCIL.ORG>, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>, Kelsey Henquinet <KHenquinet@ATLANTICCOUNCIL.org>

Subject: Re: Connecting <VICE / EIP>

Hello all! I hope you had a great weekend.

I thought I would check in on the viability of these dates below and also had a question.

Shawn told me about the visualization you might be able to show us during an interview. Do you have any form of that we could see ahead of time? It would be very useful for planning purposes, perhaps with making graphics, etc.

On Tue, 22 Sep 2020 at 13:17, Alex Chitty <alex.chitty@vice.com> wrote:

We chatted, and would absolutely love to do this a little later than originally planned - around 8 or 9 of October, ideally in the afternoon. Would that work? Otherwise we could look at early the following week.

We'd love about 40 minute if at all possible. But we could make do with less. We're happy to send through some topics ahead of the interview.

On Tue, 22 Sep 2020 at 07:49, Shawn Killebrew <shawn.killebrew@vice.com> wrote:

Graham, really appreciate you setting this up. We've already been filming with people in swing states where disinformation is a real factor. A lot to unpack in the upcoming interview, it feels extremely relevant, more so than even when we began talking about this. As soon as we have these options for interview times, we'll send your way.

On Mon, Sep 21, 2020 at 8:19 PM Alex Chitty <alex.chitty@vice.com> wrote:

Graham thank you so much for connecting us!

We're really grateful to be in touch and for your time on this.

We have a scheduling meeting tomorrow so we will look at ideal dates for us and report back. We want to try to look at some of what we have shot in the field and tailor the interview to work with it. But ultimately we will work around your schedules of course.

We're excited for this!

On Mon, 21 Sep 2020 at 17:04, Graham Brookie <gbrookie@atlanticcouncil.org> wrote:

Hi all –

Apologies for the late connection here. Based on conversations with everybody, connecting us all here to coordinate a potential sit-down about the work of the Election Integrity Partnership, the unique angles we bring to the partnership, and what we're seeing in the disinfo space in the context of election.

Alex S. and Kate meet Alex C. and Shawn, who are producing VICE NEWS' election special.

We need to coordinate a time.

Alex C. and Shawn, the below is the basic laydown I included to Alex S. and Kate, based on our conversation. Don't hesitate to fill in anything else:

"While foreign interference is continuing in similar fashion to 2016, the primary issue is domestic misinformation, what manifestations of it do you see the most, and kind of rounding off discussion with the biggest worries being the calling into question the validity of the voting process, especially as it will take days to tally the results. So the crucial period will be in the period from election day to when the actual numbers for who won are available. I'm just outlining the three major sections here as I remember from our discussion. And I believe the likely breakdown of who speaks to what was:

Graham - political

Stamos - tech companies and how they're responding

Kate - will talk most about how unprepared we are as a society

We want to see if it's possible to conduct this interview sooner than later."

Thanks,
Graham

--

SHAWN KILLEBREW

Producer, *Vice News Tonight* / *Hulu's VICE Investigates* / *Showtime's VICE*

VICE

cell # 917-370-7769

To: Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]
Cc: Graham Brookie[gbrookie@ATLANTICCOUNCIL.ORG]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 9/17/2020 8:12:40 PM
Subject: Re: VICE - Shane Smith Interview
Received: Thur 9/17/2020 8:12:41 PM

Same. Happy to do it if we can find a time.

On Sep 16, 2020, at 4:26 PM, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu> wrote:

Yeah, happy to participate if we can make the timing work.

From: Graham Brookie <gbrookie@ATLANTICCOUNCIL.ORG>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 4:10 PM
To: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>; Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Subject: VICE - Shane Smith Interview

Hey team --

I got a call from a producer at VICE, who is coordinating their big/special election documentary with HBO. They asked if the three of us would be willing to do a group skype interview with VICE's founder Shane Smith about the work of the EIP and where we are at. I think it would good to include Graphika, if useful. I am willing to do it, and think it would reach a different audience than usual and have more shelf life than more news cycle coverage because of VICE's distribution on HBO.

Their note is below:

"While foreign interference is continuing in similar fashion to 2016, the primary issue is domestic misinformation, what manifestations of it do you see the most, and kind of rounding off discussion with the biggest worries being the calling into question the validity of the voting process, especially as it will take days to tally the results. So the crucial period will be in the period from election day to when the actual numbers for who won are available. I'm just outlining the three major sections here as I remember from our discussion. And I believe the likely breakdown of who speaks to what was:

Graham - political
Stamos - tech companies and how they're responding
Kate - will talk most about how unprepared we are as a society

We want to see if it's possible to conduct this interview sooner than later."

To: Emerson Brooking[EBrooking@ATLANTICCOUNCIL.org]
Cc: stamos@stanford.edu[stamos@stanford.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu];
camille.francois@graphika.com[camille.francois@graphika.com]; ben.nimmo[ben.nimmo@graphika.com]; Julia
Carter[jccarter@uw.edu]; rcalo@uw.edu[rcalo@uw.edu]; Graham Brookie[gbrookie@ATLANTICCOUNCIL.ORG]; Kelsey
Henquinet[KHenquinet@ATLANTICCOUNCIL.org]; Isabella Garcia-Camargo[bellagc@stanford.edu]; Elena
Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]; Nicholas Yap[NYap@atlanticcouncil.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 9/18/2020 10:13:45 PM
Subject: Re: EIP Speaking Opportunity: 9/24 12pm PDT Congressional Briefing
Received: Fri 9/18/2020 10:13:47 PM

I can attend from UW.

On Sep 18, 2020, at 2:47 PM, Emerson Brooking <EBrooking@ATLANTICCOUNCIL.org> wrote:

Good afternoon,

We previewed this on EIP Slack, but DFRLab has locked down a time for our next congressional briefing: **September 24 at 12pm PDT/3pm EDT**. The briefing will last an hour and will be hosted by the offices of Senators Klobuchar and Reed (although attendance will be bipartisan and bicameral).

We would love to feature one representative from each EIP partner, to review early findings on voting-related disinformation as well as to be available more generally to discuss disinformation, foreign interference, and appropriate countermeasures. Our August engagement had nearly 60 office representatives and generated a lot of positive feedback.

It would be ideal if you could let us know who can attend from your organization by **Monday, 9/21, 9am PDT/12pm EDT**. This will enable us to get promotion started as quickly as possible.

On your calendars, please also mark Tuesday, 10/13 as the tentative date for the next briefing in this series. Although just three weeks later, that seems an aeon away...

Best,
Emerson

--

Emerson Brooking | Resident Fellow, Digital Forensic Research Lab
1030 15th Street, NW, 12th Floor | Washington, DC 20005
ebrooking@atlanticcouncil.org | +1 706.452.4558 | [@etbrooking](https://twitter.com/etbrooking)

To: SAFIYA NOBLE[snoble@g.ucla.edu]
Cc: Stacy E Wood[swood@c2i2.ucla.edu]; c2i2 Center Staff[centerstaff@c2i2.ucla.edu]; John Sands[sands@kf.org]; Sarah Roberts[sarah.roberts@ucla.edu]; stamos@stanford.edu[stamos@stanford.edu]; ecryst@stanford.edu[ecryst@stanford.edu]; bellagc@stanford.edu[bellagc@stanford.edu]; Vanessa Rhinesmith[vrhinesmith@c2i2.ucla.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 9/9/2020 7:17:19 PM
Subject: Re: Overdue intro
Received: Wed 9/9/2020 7:17:21 PM

The following week would work well for me, especially Wed-Fri somewhere.

On Sep 8, 2020, at 3:20 PM, SAFIYA NOBLE <snoble@g.ucla.edu> wrote:

Hi all,

I could make that happen this week. Next week I'm on a mini-break, but pretty wide open the following week.

Warmly,

Safiya

--

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 3:18 PM
To: Stacy Wood <swood@c2i2.ucla.edu>
Cc: c2i2 Center Staff <centerstaff@c2i2.ucla.edu>, John Sands <sands@kf.org>, Safiya Noble <snoble@g.ucla.edu>, Sarah Roberts <sarah.roberts@ucla.edu>, "stamos@stanford.edu" <stamos@stanford.edu>, "ecryst@stanford.edu" <ecryst@stanford.edu>, "bellagc@stanford.edu" <bellagc@stanford.edu>, Vanessa Rhinesmith <vrhinesmith@c2i2.ucla.edu>
Subject: Re: Overdue intro

I could do something Friday at 3pm (Pacific) if that works for others.

On Sep 8, 2020, at 11:58 AM, Stacy E Wood <swood@c2i2.ucla.edu> wrote:

Hi all!

I'm so sorry to be late to this email chain, but I'm just circling back to see if possibly this coming Friday still works?

We can do Friday afternoon (after 1:30PM) or we can try and find time next week.
Stacy

Stacy E. Wood MLIS, PhD
Director of Research
UCLA Center for Critical Internet Inquiry
www.c2i2.ucla.edu
www.stacyewood.com

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2020 10:32 AM
To: c2i2 Center Staff <centerstaff@c2i2.ucla.edu>
Cc: John Sands <sands@kf.org>; SAFIYA NOBLE <snoble@g.ucla.edu>; Sarah Roberts <sarah.roberts@ucla.edu>; stamos@stanford.edu<stamos@stanford.edu>; ecryst@stanford.edu <ecryst@stanford.edu>; bellagc@stanford.edu <bellagc@stanford.edu>; Vanessa Rhinesmith <vrhinesmith@c2i2.ucla.edu>; Stacy E Wood <swood@c2i2.ucla.edu>
Subject: Re: Overdue intro

Hello Vanessa,

(Thank you John for the introductions.)

We're excited to connect with you all! You all are doing such amazing and important work.

Early September sounds good. Would something on Friday the 11th work?
(My afternoon is still wide open that day. The rest of the week is a mess.)

Kate

On Aug 27, 2020, at 8:33 AM, c2i2 Center Staff <centerstaff@c2i2.ucla.edu> wrote:

Hi, all,

Thank you, John, for the kind words - and for the introductions!

A pleasure to connect with everyone.

We definitely have a few things going on at the moment.

Kate - would it be possible to schedule time in early September to connect (week of the 7th)?

I also added our Director of Research, Stacy Wood, to this thread.

cheers, all, and more soon, //vanessa

--

//vanessa rhinesmith

Director of Strategic Partnerships and Programs

[UCLA Center for Critical Internet Inquiry](#)

From: John Sands <sands@kf.org>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2020 7:33 PM
To: SAFIYA NOBLE <snoble@g.ucla.edu>; Sarah Roberts <sarah.roberts@ucla.edu>; c2i2 Center Staff <centerstaff@c2i2.ucla.edu>; Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Cc: stamos@stanford.edu <stamos@stanford.edu>; ecryst@stanford.edu <ecryst@stanford.edu>; bellagc@stanford.edu <bellagc@stanford.edu>
Subject: Overdue intro

Dear Safiya and Sarah,

Congratulations again on the grant you received from Minderoo Foundation last week--truly phenomenal recognition of the work you're engaged in. I've been meaning to reach out about the [Election Integrity Partnership](#), a new initiative being led by, among others, Knight research grantees at Stanford and the University of Washington. Given all the other plates you're spinning these days, I'm not sure what you're planning during the runup to

November, but given that the communities your work serves are among the most vulnerable targets of electoral interference, I did want to make an introduction to the team in case it would be helpful to compare notes. I've copied Kate Starbird on this message by way of introduction in case there are opportunities or alignments worth exploring.

Best wishes,
john

John Sands, PhD
Director | Learning & Impact
KNIGHT FOUNDATION
215-407-7186
kf.org | [@knightfdn](https://twitter.com/knightfdn)

To: Stacy E Wood[swood@c2i2.ucla.edu]
Cc: c2i2 Center Staff[centerstaff@c2i2.ucla.edu]; John Sands[sands@kf.org]; SAFIYA NOBLE[snoble@g.ucla.edu]; Sarah Roberts[sarah.roberts@ucla.edu]; stamos@stanford.edu[stamos@stanford.edu]; ecryst@stanford.edu[ecryst@stanford.edu]; bellagc@stanford.edu[bellagc@stanford.edu]; Vanessa Rhinesmith[vrhinesmith@c2i2.ucla.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 9/8/2020 10:17:24 PM
Subject: Re: Overdue intro
Received: Tue 9/8/2020 10:17:26 PM

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On Sep 8, 2020, at 11:58 AM, Stacy E Wood <swood@c2i2.ucla.edu> wrote:

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I'm so sorry to be late to this email chain, but I'm just circling back to see if possibly this coming Friday still works?

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To: c2i2 Center Staff <centerstaff@c2i2.ucla.edu>
Cc: John Sands <sands@kf.org>; SAFIYA NOBLE <snoble@g.ucla.edu>; Sarah Roberts <sarah.roberts@ucla.edu>; stamos@stanford.edu <stamos@stanford.edu>; ecryst@stanford.edu <ecryst@stanford.edu>; bellagc@stanford.edu <bellagc@stanford.edu>; Vanessa Rhinesmith <vrhinesmith@c2i2.ucla.edu>; Stacy E Wood <swood@c2i2.ucla.edu>
Subject: Re: Overdue intro

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cheers, all, and more soon, //vanessa

--

//vanessa rhinesmith

Director of Strategic Partnerships and Programs

[UCLA Center for Critical Internet Inquiry](#)

From: John Sands <sands@kf.org>

Sent: Monday, August 24, 2020 7:33 PM

To: SAFIYA NOBLE <snoble@g.ucla.edu>; Sarah Roberts <sarah.roberts@ucla.edu>; c2i2 Center Staff <centerstaff@c2i2.ucla.edu>; Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>

Cc: stamos@stanford.edu <stamos@stanford.edu>; ecryst@stanford.edu <ecryst@stanford.edu>; bellagc@stanford.edu <bellagc@stanford.edu>

Subject: Overdue intro

Dear Safiya and Sarah,

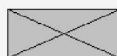
Congratulations again on the grant you received from Minderoo Foundation last week--truly phenomenal recognition of the work you're engaged in. I've been meaning to reach out about the [Election Integrity Partnership](#), a new initiative being led by, among others, Knight research grantees at Stanford and the University of Washington. Given all the other plates you're spinning these days, I'm not sure what you're planning during the runup to November, but given that the communities your work serves are among the most vulnerable targets of electoral interference, I did want to make an introduction to the team in case it would be helpful to compare notes. I've copied Kate Starbird on this message by way of introduction in case there are opportunities or alignments worth exploring.

Best wishes,
john

John Sands, PhD
Director | Learning & Impact
KNIGHT FOUNDATION
215-407-7186
kf.org | [@knightfdn](https://twitter.com/knightfdn)

To: Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]
From: Alex Stamos
Sent: Sun 10/20/2019 12:12:46 AM
Subject: Don't forget, Alex Stamos's event is tomorrow!


Received: Sun 10/20/2019 12:13:16 AM



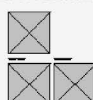
Tick Tock Til Party o'Clock

Friendly reminder, **Tech Policy Sunset Booze Cruise** is on Sunday, October 20, 2019 from 5:00 PM - 8:30 PM , and you RSVP'd Yes. Hope to see ya there!

[View Guest List](#) [View invitation](#)

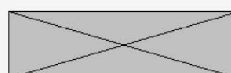
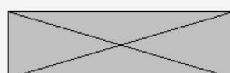
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.....

To: Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]
Cc: Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 9/6/2019 3:09:50 AM
Subject: Re: Sept 12?
Received: Fri 9/6/2019 3:10:06 AM

Sounds good. I can definitely facilitate the conversation. Guiding questions will be super helpful.

> On Sep 5, 2019, at 6:33 PM, Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu> wrote:

>
> Hi Kate,
>
> Thank you for your willingness to chair and given your background you are more than qualified to spearhead the conversation! Primarily, we need to keep the conversation productive and on time and moderate comments to keep the conversation moving. Alex is working on a few guiding questions to kick things off.

>
> —
> Elena Cryst
> Assistant Director
> Internet Observatory
>
> 650.723.0337
>
> <https://io.stanford.edu>

> On 9/3/19, 7:56 PM, "Kate Starbird" <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

>
> Hi Elena,
>
> I'd be happy to chair the technology track breakout session... though I have to warn you (and Alex) that I know next to nothing about the technical aspects of end-to-end encryption. So I might not be the right person to guide the conversation (I guess it depends on the role you're envisioning for the track chair).

>
> Kate
>
>> On Aug 28, 2019, at 4:56 PM, Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu> wrote:

>>
>> Hi Kate -
>>
>> We're working on the agenda for the September 12th workshop and were wondering if you would be interested in chairing the technology track breakout session in the afternoon? You indicated a preference to attend the Legal and Policy track on your RSVP so we can look for an alternate chair (or perhaps you would be interested in chairing the law track for a change of pace?). Please let us know. I'm attaching a (very rough) draft of how the day is shaping up.

>>
>> —
>> Elena Cryst
>> Assistant Director
>> Internet Observatory
>>
>> 650.723.0337
>>
>> <https://io.stanford.edu>

>> On 8/8/19, 11:55 AM, "Kate Starbird" <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

>>
>> Got it! I'll let the other group know that I'm not available on the 12th and I'll be there at the Trust and Safety workshop for the full day on the 12th.

>>
>>
>>
>>> On Aug 8, 2019, at 8:12 AM, Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu> wrote:

>>>
>>> Hi Kate,
>>>
>>> The workshop is definitely happening! I see you RSVP'd to the invitation I sent out on 7/10. We have participants from Facebook confirmed at our workshop. Our workshop will be structured in two parts: scene setters in the morning and two breakout tracks in the afternoon (policy and technology). I think if you were to come to half, the afternoon sessions would be more valuable to both you and us, but we would of course appreciate having you at any or all of the day.

>>>
>>> Thanks for the update and please let me know if you have any further questions.
>>>
>>> —
>>> Elena Cryst
>>> Assistant Director
>>> Internet Observatory
>>>
>>> 650.723.0337
>>>
>>> <https://io.stanford.edu>
>>>
>>> On 8/8/19, 7:38 AM, "Kate Starbird" <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:
>>>
>>> Hi Elena,
>>>
>>> I have a cryptic calendar item for a "Trust and Safety Workshop" on Sept 12. Is that something that you are organizing - and is it still in the works for Sept 12?
>>>
>>> I've just been invited to a day-long event at Facebook for Sept 12 (that I imagine would be a conflict for others). Just wondering if there's some flexibility in timing so we can attend both — and it's totally possible that I have invented a calendar item that shouldn't be there.
>>>
>>> Regards,
>>> Kate
>>>
>>
>>
>>
>> <Balancing Trust and Safety on End-to-End Encrypted Platforms (1).pdf>
>
>
>

To: Mr. Neil Penick[npenick@stanford.edu]
Cc: Nate Persily[npersily@law.stanford.edu]; Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu];
marietje.schaake@gmail.com[marietje.schaake@gmail.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 11/6/2019 6:35:40 PM
Subject: Re: Confirming you all for Cyber Policy Panel on Friday at FSI Council Meeting
Received: Wed 11/6/2019 6:35:44 PM

Hi Neil,
I am confirmed for 9:15 on Friday.

Thank you for the invitation, but I'm committed to another dinner tomorrow evening, so won't be able to join you all then.

Regards,
Kate

On Nov 6, 2019, at 10:08 AM, Mr. Neil Penick <npenick@stanford.edu> wrote:

Nate, Marietje, Kate and Alex,

I want to confirm you all for the Cyber Policy panel on Friday morning from 9:15 - 10:15 am in the Bechtel Conference Center in Encina Hall. Nate will moderate the session, and Alex is now stepping in for Renee, who can no longer join us.

Marietje and Kate, forgive me for the last minute invitation, but you would be welcome to join the council for dinner tomorrow night (for the dedication of Encina Commons as well) if you are free. I am attaching the invitation. Nate and Alex are able to attend dinner.

If you have any questions for me, please let me know.

Thank you again!

Neil

Senior Associate Director
for Development and External Relations
Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies
Stanford University
650/723-8681
fsi.stanford.edu

To: Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]
Cc: Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 9/4/2019 2:55:52 AM
Subject: Re: Sept 12?
Received: Wed 9/4/2019 2:56:06 AM

Hi Elena,

I'd be happy to chair the technology track breakout session... though I have to warn you (and Alex) that I know next to nothing about the technical aspects of end-to-end encryption. So I might not be the right person to guide the conversation (I guess it depends on the role you're envisioning for the track chair).

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>> Hi Kate,
>>
>> The workshop is definitely happening! I see you RSVP'd to the invitation I sent out on 7/10. We have participants from Facebook confirmed at our workshop. Our workshop will be structured in two parts: scene setters in the morning and two breakout tracks in the afternoon (policy and technology). I think if you were to come to half, the afternoon sessions would be more valuable to both you and us, but we would of course appreciate having you at any or all of the day.

>> Thanks for the update and please let me know if you have any further questions.

>> —
>> Elena Cryst
>> Assistant Director
>> Internet Observatory
>>
>> 650.723.0337
>>
>> <https://io.stanford.edu>

>> On 8/8/19, 7:38 AM, "Kate Starbird" <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

>> Hi Elena,

>> I have a cryptic calendar item for a "Trust and Safety Workshop" on Sept 12. Is that something that you are organizing - and is it still in the works for Sept 12?

>> I've just been invited to a day-long event at Facebook for Sept 12 (that I imagine would be a conflict for others). Just wondering if

there's some flexibility in timing so we can attend both — and it's totally possible that I have invented a calendar item that shouldn't be there.

>>

>> Regards,

>> Kate

>>

>

>

>

> <Balancing Trust and Safety on End-to-End Encrypted Platforms (1).pdf>

To: Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]
Cc: Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 6/24/2019 4:40:07 PM
Subject: Re: Trust and Safety Engineering Course Kickoff Call
Received: Mon 6/24/2019 4:40:28 PM

Hi Elena (and Alex),

I'm unfortunately unable to make the meeting this morning. I'm hoping to catch up afterwards to learn more about how I can contribute. Sorry!

Kate Starbird
Assistant Professor
Human Centered Design & Engineering (HCDE)
University of Washington
kstarbi@uw.edu

On Jun 21, 2019, at 5:48 PM, Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu> wrote:

Dear All,

Thank you for agreeing to join Alex Stamos and the Stanford Internet Observatory in developing the new course on "Trust and Safety Engineering." We look forward to speaking with all of you this coming **Monday, June 24th at 10am PT**. Attached please find a working agenda for the call. We will keep the call to under an hour and send a recap after we conclude for those who are unable to join.

Zoom meeting login information:

Meeting URL:	https://stanford.zoom.us/j/812215908
iPhone one-tap (US Toll):	+18333021536,,812215908# or +16507249799,,812215908#
Dial:	+1 650 724 9799 (US, Canada, Caribbean Toll) or +1 833 302 1536 (US, Canada, Caribbean Toll Free)
Meeting ID:	812 215 908

—
Elena Cryst
Assistant Director
Internet Observatory

650.723.0337

<https://io.stanford.edu>

<Trust and Safety Engineering Kickoff Call Agenda.pdf>

To: Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]
Cc: Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 6/7/2019 10:04:52 PM
Subject: Re: Trust and Safety Engineering Course - You can help!
Received: Fri 6/7/2019 10:05:04 PM

I arrive early Sept. But I'm happy to connect remotely beforehand if there are any specific projects that we want to lay some groundwork for.

Kate Starbird
Assistant Professor
Human Centered Design & Engineering (HCDE)
University of Washington
kstarbi@uw.edu

On Jun 7, 2019, at 10:31 AM, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu> wrote:

I'm sorry about your shoulder, and it's absolutely not a problem for you to miss most of the meeting. Elena will get you added to the invite.

When do you move down and start at Stanford?

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Friday, June 7, 2019 9:42 AM
To: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: Trust and Safety Engineering Course - You can help!

Hi Alex,

I'd be happy to be involved and help where I can (esp. around the misinfo/disinfo content). I can join the conversation June 24 for about 30 minutes. (I have to leave at 10:30 to get to *another* Physical Therapy appointment for my *****ing* shoulder). I'm happy to catch up another time.

Kate Starbird
Assistant Professor
Human Centered Design & Engineering (HCDE)
University of Washington
kstarbi@uw.edu

On May 31, 2019, at 9:47 AM, Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu> wrote:

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Like you, I am very concerned with the state of our industry and our ability to build products that live up to the trust, safety and privacy expectations the world is putting on us. There are many good people working on these issues, but during my time in industry it became clear that we are lacking a strong pipeline of engineers and product managers with background in the ways technology can be abused to cause harm. I think we can work together to change that!

I am preparing a course to educate computer science undergraduates on the broad set of internet harms that lie outside the scope of traditional information security. This course will be the first of its kind to push students through the complex issues of policing and regulating online platforms and thinking proactively about potential abuses. The goal is to start this course at Stanford, release all of the lectures and content for free and to serve as the seed for equivalent classes around the world. I have included the preliminary syllabus below.

I think it is essential to build a class like this from the experience of the people on the front lines, and that is why I am reaching out to you today. I would like your help creating this course and teaching the first couple of iterations.

Our plan is to workshop the course in the upcoming Fall quarter to a select group of no more than 18 students, and teach it in Winter quarter to a full enrollment of around 100. I personally will continually teach and update this course for years but, with respect for your busy schedules, we will capture the lecture material on video so that we can re-use it for future classes and package it as part of an online teaching module that we wish make available to a broad audience for free.

If you would like to participate, the ask is to:

- Look at the syllabus below and choose a topic or two of interest
- Join us for a kick-off Zoom meeting on June 24 at 10am Pacific
- Help create and curate content (slides, readings, homework) for your topic. This will require a handful of calls with the team working on your topics and whatever amount of participation you feel comfortable with
- Participate in two in-person lectures to our class, one in Fall, and one in Winter. The level of contribution could range from being available in class to answer questions to giving a large portion of the lecture yourself.

All of the work outside of the lectures can be done remotely using Google Docs and GitHub but I will also be hosting optional in-person summer workshops for anybody interested. All of our contributions will belong to the university, which will release them under a Creative Commons license to encourage further teaching. Stanford asks all speakers to sign a [release form](#) allowing us to video capture their presentations. Travel budget is available.

I really hope you are able to help us with this important educational mission. Take some time to think it over and confirm with your employer that this causes no objections. If your employer wants to give you work time to contribute, we would be happy to list them as a contributing sponsor in public announcements.

Please let Elena Cryst (ecryst@stanford.edu) and I know if you will be able to participate by June 14th and we will add you to the meeting invite and a mailing list. If you think of other people who might be interested in contributing, please let me know!

Thank you for your partnership,
Alex

- Lecture 1: Introduction to Trust and Safety Engineering
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- Lecture 3: Authentication, Phishing, and Account Takeovers
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- Lecture 14: Misinformation, Disinformation and Fake News
- Lecture 15: Case Study: The 2016 and 2018 Elections
- Lecture 16: Censorship, Surveillance, and Government Oppression
- Lecture 17: Private & Domestic Surveillance and Abuse
- **Project 2 Due**
- Lecture 18: Review and Emerging Issues
- **Final Exam**

--

Alex Stamos

stamos@stanford.edu

Adjunct Professor - [Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies](#)

William J. Perry Fellow - [Center for International Security and Cooperation](#)

Visiting Fellow - [Hoover Institution](#)

To: Kate Starbird[kstarbi@UW.EDU]
Cc: Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]
From: Alex Stamos
Sent: Fri 6/7/2019 5:31:55 PM
Subject: RE: Trust and Safety Engineering Course - You can help!
Received: Fri 6/7/2019 5:35:10 PM

I'm sorry about your shoulder, and it's absolutely not a problem for you to miss most of the meeting. Elena will get you added to the invite.

When do you move down and start at Stanford?

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Friday, June 7, 2019 9:42 AM
To: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: Trust and Safety Engineering Course - You can help!

Hi Alex,

I'd be happy to be involved and help where I can (esp. around the misinfo/disinfo content). I can join the conversation June 24 for about 30 minutes. (I have to leave at 10:30 to get to *another* Physical Therapy appointment for my *****ing* shoulder). I'm happy to catch up another time.

Kate Starbird
Assistant Professor
Human Centered Design & Engineering (HCDE)
University of Washington
kstarbi@uw.edu

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Our plan is to workshop the course in the upcoming Fall quarter to a select group of no more than 18 students, and teach it in Winter quarter to a full enrollment of around 100. I personally will continually teach and update this course for years but, with respect for your busy schedules, we will capture the lecture material on video so that we can re-use it for future classes and package it as part of an online teaching module that we wish make available to a broad audience for free.

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All of the work outside of the lectures can be done remotely using Google Docs and GitHub but I will also be hosting optional in-person summer workshops for anybody interested. All of our contributions will belong to the university, which will release them under a Creative Commons license to encourage further teaching. Stanford asks all speakers to sign a [release form](#) allowing us to video capture their presentations. Travel budget is available.

I really hope you are able to help us with this important educational mission. Take some time to think it over and confirm with your employer that this causes no objections. If your employer wants to give you work time to contribute, we would be happy to list them as a contributing sponsor in public announcements.

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Thank you for your partnership,
Alex

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--

Alex Stamos
stamos@stanford.edu

Adjunct Professor - Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies
William J. Perry Fellow - Center for International Security and Cooperation
Visiting Fellow - Hoover Institution

To: Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 6/7/2019 4:41:50 PM
Subject: Re: Trust and Safety Engineering Course - You can help!
Received: Fri 6/7/2019 4:42:01 PM

Hi Alex,

I'd be happy to be involved and help where I can (esp. around the misinfo/disinfo content). I can join the conversation June 24 for about 30 minutes. (I have to leave at 10:30 to get to *another* Physical Therapy appointment for my ****ing shoulder). I'm happy to catch up another time.

Kate Starbird
Assistant Professor
Human Centered Design & Engineering (HCDE)
University of Washington
kstarbi@uw.edu

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Thank you for your partnership,
Alex

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Alex Stamos
stamos@stanford.edu

Adjunct Professor - [Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies](#)
 William J. Perry Fellow - [Center for International Security and Cooperation](#)
 Visiting Fellow - [Hoover Institution](#)

To: Belinda M. Byrne[bbyrne@stanford.edu]
Cc: Michael A. McFaul[mcfaul@stanford.edu]; Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]; Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]; Nate Persily[npersily@law.stanford.edu]; Dan Boneh[dabo@cs.stanford.edu]; Julian Chen[jchen181@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Sat 6/1/2019 5:30:51 PM
Subject: Re: Visiting professor appointment letter
Received: Sat 6/1/2019 5:30:58 PM
[Starbird-FSI-visiting prof offer-signed.pdf](#)

Hi Belinda,
I'm returning the signed copy of the letter.

We were able to find housing down the street from where my wife grew up (in Los Altos Hills) — small, but at a decent price and on the property of old family friends of hers.

Thank you so much for helping to arrange this. I'm looking forward to collaborating with and learning from all of the great folks at FSI and the new Cyber Policy Center. (Good luck to everyone involved on the launch this week!)

Regards,

Kate Starbird
Assistant Professor
Human Centered Design & Engineering (HCDE)
University of Washington
kstarbi@uw.edu

On May 21, 2019, at 6:56 AM, Belinda M. Byrne <bbyrne@stanford.edu> wrote:

Dear Kate,

On behalf of Mike McFaul and the Cyber Policy Center leadership, I'm pleased send you this offer of appointment. Please review the accompanying terms and conditions and return a signed version to me.

Also, please note that your appointment as visiting faculty gives you special priority for Stanford housing. To review the options, please visit the Stanford Faculty Staff Housing website at:

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

Feel free to call me if I can answer any outstanding questions about your appointment.

Best, Belinda

Belinda Byrne
Faculty Affairs Officer
Freeman Spogli Institute
Stanford University

Mobile: 650.576.8290

<Starbird visiting prof offer.pdf>

May 21, 2019

sent via email: kstarbi@uw.edu

Kate Starbird
Assistant Professor of Human Centered Design and Engineering
413 Sieg Hall
Seattle, WA 98195

Dear Kate,

I am pleased to inform you that your appointment as Visiting Assistant Professor at Stanford University in the Cyber Policy Center at the Freeman Spogli Institute in the Dean of Research Office has been approved. The knowledge, experience and perspective of our Visiting Professors and their allotment of time and effort are highly valued in our academic programs. In your role as Visiting Assistant Professor your duties include guest teaching in the course, "Internet Trust and Safety," in Computer Science and cross-listed in the Master's in International Policy program during autumn quarter 2019, and collaborating with the faculty leadership and academic staff of the new Cyber Policy Center on research and policy engagement activities.

Your appointment is effective September 10, 2019, and has been approved for an initial term of 3 months with an expected end date no later than December 15, 2019. The Cyber Policy Center at the Freeman Spogli Institute will provide a lump-sum living stipend of \$13,500 during your Stanford residency.

Your appointment is subject to termination at any time for any cause, when satisfactory performance ceases, or for programmatic or budgetary reasons including lack of funding.

Your official title is "Visiting Assistant Professor" and may be used only during the appointment period noted previously. Your title must always be used in its entirety; it cannot be abbreviated or altered and may only be used in direct relation to your teaching, learning and research activities at Stanford.

Your service as "Visiting Assistant Professor" is voluntary. Either party may withdraw from this arrangement at any time and for any reason.

Your offer is subject to the attached Terms & Conditions. Your signature is our confirmation you have reviewed these Terms & Conditions and accepted our offer of appointment.

I look forward to your acceptance as soon as possible. Please sign and date this appointment letter and email it back to me.

Belinda Byrne and I are available to help you with any other questions you might have regarding your appointment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'McFaul', written in a cursive style.

Michael McFaul
Director and Senior Fellow
Freeman Spogli Insititute
Stanford University

cc: Julian Chen,
Personnel file

Terms & Conditions

- **Accommodation:** If you require an accommodation for a disability, please let the departmental contact listed above know.
- **Benefits:** This position is not eligible for medical, dental or retirement benefits.
- **Health and Safety:** Stanford University is committed to strong programs of accident and injury prevention and to complying with all environmental health and safety laws and regulations. Please visit <http://rph.stanford.edu/6-2.html> for information about Health and Safety at Stanford University: Principles, Responsibilities and Practices. Your departmental contact will advise you as to the specific training required. **If you will be working in a laboratory**, you will need to ensure that your research is conducted in accordance with health and safety standards, as presented to you in your health and safety training. Your specific training depends upon your research/lab and you will be notified by your PI or departmental contact as to the specific training required.
- **Required Training:** You must complete mandatory Stanford training that may include classes specific to your job function. You will receive enrollment information from your department manager if other classes are required.

Sexual Harassment and Sexual Misconduct Training:

- Stanford University requires new employees to take a course addressing Sexual Misconduct and Sexual Harassment Prevention.
- New academic staff employees must complete this course **within 30 days of being hired:**
 - Harassment Prevention at Stanford for Non-Supervisors (SHP-2000)
<https://harass.stanford.edu/training/course-non-supervisory-staff>

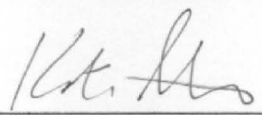
Note: you may be asked to take SHP-2000 even if you are not new to Stanford, at the discretion of your lab or department.

- **Stanford ID Card:** Please take this letter to the Stanford ID Card Office (a one-time fee may apply) to receive a Stanford ID Card that will allow you the benefits and privileges associated with your new appointment. For information on Card Office hours and location, please visit <http://www.stanford.edu/services/campuscard/cardoffice.html> or call (650) 498-2273. Following your start date, you will also receive instructions from [contact name] about how to obtain a SUNet ID.
- **SU-18A:** You are required to sign a Stanford University Patent and Copyright Agreement. This patent policy applies to all individuals who work at Stanford, or who come here to engage in research. A variation of the standard Stanford agreement has been created for visitors who are not being paid by Stanford, the SU-18A. This agreement will need to be

signed online at <http://otlportal.stanford.edu/su18a> . **Complete the department contact section of the SU18A with contact name of <contact name and email address> and department is <department name>, and a notification can be sent when this has been completed.** If you do not have a conflicting intellectual property agreement with another employer, Stanford's regular SU-18 agreement is applicable. This agreement may be signed online at <http://axess.stanford.edu>. A Stanford ID will be required to access this link.

- **University Equipment:** All equipment supplied by Stanford in order for you to perform your duties is owned by the university and is to be returned to Stanford in proper working order at the end of your appointment.
- **University Policies:** As a condition of your appointment, you are agreeing to abide by all Stanford University policies, including the University's Code of Conduct and applicable Conflict of Commitment and Conflict of Interest policies. Your appointment is governed by the applicable policies in the Stanford University Administrative Guide located at <https://adminguide.stanford.edu/> the University Faculty Handbook located at <http://facultyhandbook.stanford.edu> and the Research Policy Handbook located at <http://rph.stanford.edu>.

I accept the terms as set forth in this letter regarding my appointment at Stanford University.



Kate Starbird

6/1/19

Date

To: Michael A. McFaul[mcfaul@stanford.edu]
Cc: Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]; Belinda M. Byrne[bbyrne@stanford.edu]; Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]; Nate Persily[npersily@law.stanford.edu]; Dan Boneh[dabo@cs.stanford.edu]; Julian Chen[jchen181@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 5/23/2019 11:01:18 PM
Subject: Re: Visiting professor appointment letter
Received: Thur 5/23/2019 11:01:20 PM

Thanks everyone! I'm super excited about joining you all and getting acquainted (and hopefully helping out with) some of the work at the Cyber Policy Center. I'd love to touch base with you all over the next few weeks/months as I'm scoping out possible collaborations and projects for my time there. And congrats on the upcoming launch of the Center!

Kate Starbird
Assistant Professor
Human Centered Design & Engineering (HCDE)
University of Washington
kstarbi@uw.edu

On May 21, 2019, at 9:16 AM, Michael A. McFaul <mcfaul@stanford.edu> wrote:

+ 1 !

Michael McFaul
Director, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies
Ken Olivier and Angela Nomellini Professor of International Studies, Department of Political Science
Peter and Helen Bing Senior Fellow, Hoover Institution
Stanford University
work: 650-723-4734
cell: 650-799-4582
Twitter: @McFaul
<http://fsi.stanford.edu>
<https://michaelmcfaul.com/>
<https://www.amazon.com/Cold-War-Hot-Peace-Ambassador/dp/0544716248>

From: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 7:14 AM
To: Belinda M. Byrne; Kate Starbird
Cc: Michael A. McFaul; Elena Cryst; Nate Persily; Dan Boneh; Julian Chen
Subject: Re: Visiting professor appointment letter

Congratulations, Kate. I'm so very excited that you are joining us for a quarter and I am looking forward to seeing what you get up to back on the Farm!

Alex

From: Belinda M. Byrne <bbyrne@stanford.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 9:56 AM
To: Kate Starbird
Cc: Michael A. McFaul; Alex Stamos; Elena Cryst; Nate Persily; Dan Boneh; Julian Chen
Subject: Visiting professor appointment letter

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Feel free to call me if I can answer any outstanding questions about your appointment.

Best,
Belinda

Belinda Byrne
Faculty Affairs Officer
Freeman Spogli Institute
Stanford University

Mobile: 650.576.8290

To: Belinda M. Byrne[bbyrne@stanford.edu]; Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]
Cc: Michael A. McFaul[mcfaul@stanford.edu]; Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]; Nate Persily[npersily@law.stanford.edu]; Dan Boneh[dabo@cs.stanford.edu]; Julian Chen[jichen181@stanford.edu]
From: Alex Stamos
Sent: Tue 5/21/2019 2:14:49 PM
Subject: Re: Visiting professor appointment letter
Received: Tue 5/21/2019 2:15:45 PM

Congratulations, Kate. I'm so very excited that you are joining us for a quarter and I am looking forward to seeing what you get up to back on the Farm!

Alex

From: Belinda M. Byrne <bbyrne@stanford.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 9:56 AM
To: Kate Starbird
Cc: Michael A. McFaul; Alex Stamos; Elena Cryst; Nate Persily; Dan Boneh; Julian Chen
Subject: Visiting professor appointment letter

Dear Kate,

On behalf of Mike McFaul and the Cyber Policy Center leadership, I'm pleased send you this offer of appointment. Please review the accompanying terms and conditions and return a signed version to me.

Also, please note that your appointment as visiting faculty gives you special priority for Stanford housing. To review the options, please visit the Stanford Faculty Staff Housing website at:

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

Feel free to call me if I can answer any outstanding questions about your appointment.

Best, Belinda

Belinda Byrne

Faculty Affairs Officer

Freeman Spogli Institute

Stanford University

Mobile: 650.576.8290

To: Harold Trinkunas[antanas@stanford.edu]
Cc: Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 11/30/2018 10:14:47 PM
Subject: Re: New pre- and postdoc fellowship opportunity at Stanford FSI that might be of interest to your PhD students
Received: Fri 11/30/2018 10:14:48 PM

Hi Harold (and Alex!),

I'd love to connect about this. I'm already planning on being at Stanford next August through December (during my sabbatical). I'd be happy to chat about how that stay might coincide with your plans. Mike had mentioned that something like this might be coming down the line. Not sure if it needs to be a formal connection or not, but I'm definitely interested in spending time with you all. Currently, my stay there would be sponsored by CDDRL, I believe. That's still a loose commitment though, so reorganizing it would be a possibility (though it might not be needed).

I also have a [REDACTED] 51 student who I think would be a perfect fit for a longer-term stay: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 51 [REDACTED]

I'd love to chat further about your mission, my plans for next year, and [REDACTED] 51 s potential fit and timing there (e.g. if a Spring 2020 start is possible).

Regards,
Kate

On Nov 30, 2018, at 12:33 PM, Harold Trinkunas <antanas@stanford.edu> wrote:

Thanks, Alex! Completely agree (and sorry for the typo in my earlier email).

Best regards,

Harold

From: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>
Sent: Friday, November 30, 2018 12:20 PM
To: Harold Trinkunas <antanas@stanford.edu>; Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Subject: Re: New pre- and postdoc fellowship opportunity at Stanford FSI that might be of interest to your PhD students

Hi, Kate-

I'm a big fan of your work and I would love to find ways to work together next year. In the meantime, if you want to talk about some of the opportunities for fellows or hear about our plans I would love to chat.

-Alex

--

Alex Stamos
stamos@stanford.edu
Adjunct Professor - Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies
William J. Perry Fellow - Center for International Security and Cooperation
Visiting Fellow - Hoover Institution

From: Harold Trinkunas <antanas@stanford.edu>

Sent: Friday, November 30, 2018 12:16 PM

To: Kate Starbird

Cc: Alex Stamos

Subject: New pre- and postdoc fellowship opportunity at Stanford FSI that might be of interest to your PhD students

Hi Kate,

Hope all is well. It looks like the Freeman Spogli Institute will be rolling out a new cyber center next year, but in the meantime, we want to get a head start on recruiting pre- and postdoctoral fellows to work with one of the new programs, the Stanford Internet Observatory that Alex Stamos will be directing. Fellowship description and link follows, but if any of your Ph.D. students are wrapping up this year and are looking for postdocs, this might be a really exciting opportunity for them. We start considering applications January 15th.

Best regards,

Harold

Stanford Internet Observatory Research Fellowship

The inaugural Internet Observatory Fellows will pursue research on policy and technical issues related to Stanford's research into the misuse of new technologies to cause harm to individuals and societies. Research focus areas may include, among others, current geopolitical events such as information operations against elections, the use of communication platforms to cause harm to at-risk groups, design strategies to mitigate the harm of new technologies and regulatory and governance frameworks inside of tech companies and governments. Fellows will be an integral part of the larger [fellowship program](#) at the [Center for International Security and Cooperation \(CISAC\)](#) at Stanford University. This program provides faculty mentorship and requires fellows' participation in the CISAC Fellows' Policy Workshop, a biweekly meeting that takes place throughout the academic year and is designed to help fellows bridge the gap between academia and the policy community. All SIO fellows are expected to participate in CISAC research seminars and produce policy-relevant work, which could include media appearances, published articles, or briefings to or workshops for government or international organization officials, ideally in collaboration with researchers from other disciplines. Fellows with backgrounds in the natural sciences, engineering, data science, social sciences, history, and law are encouraged to apply. All fellows are expected to be in the final stages of or have recently completed a terminal degree in their discipline, ideally a Ph.D.

Link to CISAC fellowship program page: <https://cisac.fsi.stanford.edu/content/cisac-fellowship-program>

Harold A. Trinkunas

Deputy Director and Senior Research Scholar

Center for International Security and Cooperation

Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies

Stanford University

P: 650-725-8035 | F: 650-724-5683

To: chris@ks.group[chris@ks.group]
Cc: John Sands[sands@kf.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 8/3/2022 7:50:07 PM
Subject: E-introductions
Received: Wed 8/3/2022 7:50:09 PM

Hi Chris, I'm writing to e-introduce you to John Sands, Senior Director for Media and Democracy at the Knight Foundation. John is organizing an event at the end of the November to bring together key stakeholders in discussions at the intersection of technology, media, and democracy, and he's interested in chatting with you about a plenary panel on information integrity/election integrity.

John, meet Chris Krebs!

I'll let you two take it from here.

Best,
Kate

To: Chris Krebs[chris@ks.group]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 1/31/2022 5:32:47 PM
Subject: Re: Participatory disinfo
Received: Mon 1/31/2022 5:32:49 PM

Sounds great! I gave a talk there last year featuring some of our Election 2020 examples, but before I'd distilled them into the participatory disinformation model. Let me know how it goes! And thanks for the shout out.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 31, 2022, at 7:46 AM, Chris Krebs <chris@ks.group> wrote:

Hey kate, happy 2022. Hope you're doing great so far this year.

A quick heads up - I'm going to be presenting tomorrow morning at USENIX ENIGMA, a brief after action review of the 2020 election. I wanted to reference your research on participatory disinfo. Not a deep dive, just an example of innovative research, and more troubling evolution of actor techniques. It'll just be a call out more than anything, but didn't want to surprise you. Lmk if you have any concerns.

Thx

Chris Krebs
Partner, Krebs Stamos Group
202.361.2925

To: chris@ks.group[chris@ks.group]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 1/31/2022 3:46:56 PM
Subject: Delayed Response | Media Contact Re: Participatory disinfo
Received: Mon 1/31/2022 3:46:56 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: Vivian Schiller[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
Cc: Chris Krebs[krebsc@gmail.com]; Rashad Robinson[rashad@colorofchange.org]; katiemm1957@gmail.com[katiemm1957@gmail.com]; Ryan Merkley (Consultant)[Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 8/26/2021 6:58:36 PM
Subject: Re: Aspen Commission: Please Join us for a Briefing
Received: Thur 8/26/2021 6:58:37 PM

Hi Vivian,

I guess I was thinking that if we're going to talk about our recommendations then we should include the different subcommittee leads. But maybe this is something different — more parallel to the commission's work?

Kate

On Aug 25, 2021, at 4:23 PM, Vivian Schiller <Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org> wrote:

Great. I had not thought to invite Yasmin since this is a gathering of research institute and other not-for-profits. You think we should?

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Date: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 at 9:47 AM
To: Vivian Schiller <Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org>
Cc: Chris Krebs <krebsc@gmail.com>, Rashad Robinson <rashad@colorofchange.org>, katiemm1957@gmail.com <katiemm1957@gmail.com>, Ryan Merkley (Consultant) <Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org>
Subject: Re: Aspen Commission: Please Join us for a Briefing

Hi Vivian,

I think I can attend this. We likely want to include Yasmin as well (not sure I see her on this thread).

Kate

On Aug 25, 2021, at 7:19 AM, Vivian Schiller <Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org> wrote:

Hi Folks,

We're holding a briefing with other practitioners in the mis/disinformation space on September 10 at 1p. These are the core academic institutions and not-for-profits, many of which have developed the research and practices that inform our work. More below.

Since you all are in the same space, we wanted to invite you to join the meeting hear the discussion and help answer questions about the Commission's emerging recs (they will have more or less 'emerged' by then)

Let us know if you can make it. I think it will be interesting, and also important to hear what they have to sa...and hopefully gain their buy in.

CHAIRS: we would love to have to have you to if you can make it!

Vivian

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

Date: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 at 9:54 AM

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

Cc: Craig Newmark <craig.newmark@gmail.com>, Ryan Merkley (Consultant) <Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org>, Garrett Graff <Garrett.Graff@aspeninstitute.org>, Kristine Gloria <Kristine.Gloria@aspeninstitute.org>, Diara-Jepris Townes <Diara-Jepris.Townes@aspeninstitute.org>, Sara Sendek <sara.sendek@aspeninstitute.org>

Subject: Aspen Commission: Please Join us for a Briefing

Dear Colleagues,

We are hoping you will join us on Friday, September 10th at 1pET for a briefing on the Aspen Commission on Information Disorder draft recommendations. Our work is inspired by your amazing actions and scholarship, and as such we want to give you an early look and listen to your feedback before we finalize our recommendations for public release.

In case you missed it, we issued an interim report in early July. In late September we will launch our official recommendations, directed at government, private industry and civil society. You can learn more about our work here.

Many thanks to Craig Newmark whose support made this possible. I know he is eager for us to work together, and it is in that spirit that we look forward to seeing you.

Please let us know if you can make it. We'll send a calendar invite in short order.

Thanks.

Vivian, and the Commission Team

--

Vivian Schiller

Executive Director, Aspen Digital

The Aspen Institute

+1-240-463-0496

@vivian

<image001[83].png>

To: Vivian Schiller[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
Cc: Chris Krebs[krebsc@gmail.com]; Rashad Robinson[rashad@colorofchange.org]; katiemm1957@gmail.com[katiemm1957@gmail.com]; Ryan Merkley (Consultant)[Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 8/25/2021 3:45:47 PM
Subject: Re: Aspen Commission: Please Join us for a Briefing
Received: Wed 8/25/2021 3:45:48 PM

Hi Vivian,

I think I can attend this. We likely want to include Yasmin as well (not sure I see her on this thread).

Kate

On Aug 25, 2021, at 7:19 AM, Vivian Schiller <Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org> wrote:

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Date: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 at 9:54 AM
To: Vivian Schiller <Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org>
Cc: Craig Newmark <craig.newmark@gmail.com>, Ryan Merkley (Consultant) <Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org>, Garrett Graff <Garrett.Graff@aspeninstitute.org>, Kristine Gloria <Kristine.Gloria@aspeninstitute.org>, Diara-Jepris Townes <Diara-Jepris.Townes@aspeninstitute.org>, Sara Sendek <sara.sendek@aspeninstitute.org>
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Vivian, and the Commission Team

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Vivian Schiller

Executive Director, Aspen Digital

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+1-240-463-0496

@vivian

<image001[83].png>

To: Yasmin Green[yasmingreen@google.com]
Cc: Safiya Umoja Noble[snoble@g.ucla.edu]; Murdoch, Kathryn[kam@qdmv.org]; William Hurd[williamhurd@gmail.com]; Diara-Jepris Townes[Diara-Jepris.Townes@aspenscience.org]; Ryan Merkley (Consultant)[Ryan.Merkley@aspenscience.org]; Chris Krebs[krebsc@gmail.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 8/12/2021 5:00:42 PM
Subject: Re: ACID Draft Proposals -- pls help develop
Received: Thur 8/12/2021 5:00:46 PM

So sorry, but I'm leaving this morning and going "off the grid" until Monday... I was able to leave a few notes, but I won't be able to provide much more until we're in person next week. I did have a really productive conversation with Ryan Calo this week and I have some (loose) ideas for recommendations to government around superspreaders.
Kate

On Aug 12, 2021, at 7:22 AM, Yasmin Green <yasmingreen@google.com> wrote:

Gentle nudge to contribute to at least one proposal before Monday!



On Mon, Aug 9, 2021, 8:00 AM Yasmin Green <yasmingreen@google.com> wrote:

Hi team, here's our portfolio of *very draft* proposals for your all's review:

1. [ACID Harms WG: Public Restoration Fund](#)
2. [ACID Harms WG: Superspreader Accountability](#)
3. [ACID Harms WG: Measure what Matters](#)
4. [ACID Harms WG: Civic Resilience](#)
5. Space for adopted govt disinfo czar proposal from Chris

The current copy gets us off the starting block -- **please edit and comment directly in the docs and help us make solid progress before Aspen!**

In case you're inspired to develop other ideas into proposal, here's what I noted down: M&A (Clinical trial models to "prove no harm" for the tech sector); x-Platform Purview (promoting x-sector collaboration w/o becoming unregulated "content cartels"); the right to a fresh start / digital amnesty, a legislative conference to review the state of the law with respect to the velocity of information.

And thank you Kate for these instructive, thoughtful notes you emailed on Friday.

Looking fwd to seeing you all in person one week today!
Yasmin

On Fri, 6 Aug 2021 at 10:50, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

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:
>

--

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

To: Rashad Robinson[rashad@colorofchange.org]; katiemm1957@gmail.com[katiemm1957@gmail.com]; Michael Dale-Stein[michael@archewell.com]; MarlaBlow[mblow@skoll.org]; Safiya Umoja Noble[snoble@g.ucla.edu]; Deb Roy[dkroy@media.mit.edu]; Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]; Jameel Jaffer[Jameel.Jaffer@knightcolumbia.org]; Chris Krebs[krepsc@gmail.com]; KateStarbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]; William Hurd[williamhurd@gmail.com]; Aaron D.Ford[fordfornevada@gmail.com]; Herb Lin[herblin@stanford.edu]; yasmingreen@google.com[yasmingreen@google.com]; Murdoch, Kathryn[kam@qdv.com]; Amanda Zamora[amandazamora@gmail.com]
Cc: Ryan Merkley (Consultant)[Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org]; GarrettGraff[Garrett.Graff@aspeninstitute.org]; Sara Sendek[sara.sendek@aspeninstitute.org]; Diara-Jepris Townes[Diara-Jepris.Townes@aspeninstitute.org]; Kristine Gloria[Kristine.Gloria@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Vivian Schiller
Sent: Tue 10/5/2021 2:33:25 PM
Subject: Aspen Commission: New Drafts for your Review
Received: Tue 10/5/2021 2:36:47 PM

Hello everyone.

Hope you have enjoyed a little break from us! But now we're back to ask you to help us complete the report so we can ideally publish it later this month.

As discussed - and with your encouragement - we've tightened the report considerably. The opening [context essay](#) has been restructured to be more clear, simple, and direct, and is shorter by more than a third. [The recs](#) have each been edited to now be no more than two pages each, some less. We have addressed the concerns in previous docs and made changes and cuts to reflect them. We have also consulted with some outside experts on issues like the legality of the s230 recommendation. (The good news on that one is that Olivier Sylvain not only thinks it is viable, but that it is excellent and supportive of other work in this space.).

We're eager to keep moving forward, especially given [events](#) of recent weeks. As such, can we ask you to give us feedback by the **end of day Friday**? Please try to focus your edits on things that can be removed, or require correction. We recognize that we cut a lot of background and context – at your overwhelming suggestion. There will be an opportunity for you to provide additional reflections on any/all of the recs in the form blog posts to be published on the Commission website.

Finally – a reminder that we need you to look at BOTH Google docs. Please just use 'suggest'. We'll see where we are at the end of Friday, and name a pub date then.

Thanks again.

Vivian et al

--

Vivian Schiller

Executive Director, Aspen Digital

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+1-240-463-0496

@vivian



To: Rashad Robinson[rashad@colorofchange.org]; katiemm1957@gmail.com[katiemm1957@gmail.com]; Michael Dale-Stein[michael@archewell.com]; MarlaBlow[mblow@skoll.org]; Safiya Umoja Noble[snoble@g.ucla.edu]; Deb Roy[dkroy@media.mit.edu]; Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]; Jameel Jaffer[Jameel.Jaffer@knightcolumbia.org]; Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]; WilliamHurd[williamhurd@gmail.com]; Aaron D. Ford[fordfornevada@gmail.com]; HerbLin[herblin@stanford.edu]; yasmingreen@google.com[yasmingreen@google.com]; Murdoch, Kathryn[kam@qdv.com]; Amanda Zamora[amandazamora@gmail.com]
Cc: Chris Krebs[krebsc@gmail.com]; Garrett Graff[Garrett.Graff@aspeninstitute.org]; Ryan Merkley (Consultant)[Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org]; Diara-Jepris Townes[Diara-Jepris.Townes@aspeninstitute.org]; Sara Sendek[sara.sendek@aspeninstitute.org]; Kristine Gloria[Kristine.Gloria@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Vivian Schiller
Sent: Wed 9/15/2021 3:30:24 PM
Subject: FW: My letter to the Commissioners (for distribution)
Received: Wed 9/15/2021 3:31:23 PM

Dear Commissioners,

I'm forwarding below a note from Garry tendering his resignation from the Commission. I will let his words speak for themselves.

In the spirit of begging forgiveness instead of asking permission, I've openly cc'd you all in order to facilitate dialog. (Michael is standing in for Harry).

I would ask you PLEASE not to share either the letter or the news of the resignation. We're asking Garry whether he intends to go public and what he will say if asked – and will make a plan from there. We are also preparing holding statement in the event of press inquiries. Will share that and any other updates soonest.

Onward!

Vivian

--

Vivian Schiller

Executive Director, Aspen Digital

The Aspen Institute

+1-240-463-0496

@vivian



From: gk@kasparov.com (office) <gk@kasparov.com>

Date: Thursday, September 2, 2021 at 9:40 AM

To: Ryan Merkley (Consultant) <Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org>, Vivian Schiller <Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org>, Chris Krebs <krebsc@gmail.com>

Cc: kasparov.garry@gmail.com <kasparov.garry@gmail.com>

Subject: My letter to the Commissioners (for distribution)

Hello All,

As we move forward here, I just wanted to offer some thoughts on a few of the proposals that I had various degrees of concern about.

- **#4 Superspreader Accountability** - This makes sense and I'm willing to support it, but the recommendation should clearly indicate that all superspreaders should be treated the same way regardless of geographic

location, political views, and position of power.

- **#7 Recruit, hire, and support a diverse workforce, #20 Remaking media, & Newsroom Integrity and Structure** - It seems like some pretty significant mission creep for us to comment on the hiring practices of private companies when our mission is to combat misinformation. It also implies that information's trustworthiness depends in large part on the identity of its purveyor, which strikes me as the last thing we'd want to convey - facts should be either supported or disproven on their own merits. If I'm being honest, having a commission on disinformation determine acceptable levels of diversity reminds me of home... This type of approach was common practice in the USSR, where some commission or ministry would arbitrarily tell companies whom they should or should not hire. If we were to use this approach, would we also seek out ideological diversity? I think it's fair to assume that reporters in a newsroom are ideologically rather homogeneous as well. I'm not looking to be unnecessarily provocative here, but we should be careful to focus on our core mission and avoid expending political capital on proposals that don't directly address misinformation.
- **#21 Expand FCC Oversight** - While it would make sense to ensure a certain level of government oversight in the social media space, any increase in governmental power should have much more specific goals & tactics, which I don't think we've sufficiently delved into here.
- **#12 Truth & Reconciliation Initiative** - This is a red flag. If we offer this as a recommendation, it would stray so far from this commission's stated purpose, that it would likely discredit any other recommendations that we make. This is a political statement, reflecting the views of a rather radical ideological subset. It would immediately alienate wide swaths of the country and irreparably damage the commission's credibility.

Best regards,

Garry Kasparov

To: kstarbi@uw.edu[kstarbi@uw.edu]
Cc: amandazamora@gmail.com[amandazamora@gmail.com]; dkroy@media.mit.edu[dkroy@media.mit.edu]; fordfornevada@gmail.com[fordfornevada@gmail.com]; herblin@stanford.edu[herblin@stanford.edu]; jameel.jaffer@gmail.com[jameel.jaffer@gmail.com]; kam@qdv.org[kam@qdv.org]; kasparov.garry@gmail.com[kasparov.garry@gmail.com]; katiemm1957@gmail.com[katiemm1957@gmail.com]; krebsc@gmail.com[krebsc@gmail.com]; marla@marlablow.com[marla@marlablow.com]; michael@archewell.com[michael@archewell.com]; rashad@colorofchange.org[rashad@colorofchange.org]; safiyanoble@gmail.com[safiyanoble@gmail.com]; stamos@stanford.edu[stamos@stanford.edu]; williamhurd@gmail.com[williamhurd@gmail.com]; yasmingreen@google.com[yasmingreen@google.com]
From: Ryan Merkley (via Google Docs)
Sent: Wed 9/15/2021 1:59:17 AM
Subject: Document shared with you: "ACID - Report Recommendations - Master Doc (09.14)"
Received: Wed 9/15/2021 2:00:01 AM

ryan.merkley@aspeninstitute.org shared a document



ryan.merkley@aspeninstitute.org has invited you to **comment on** the following document:
Draft recommendation text for the Commission Report. Edits close on Sept 20. See your email for more info. Thanks - Ryan



ACID - Report Recommendations - Master Doc (09.14)



ryan.merkley@aspeninstitute.org 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 ryan.merkley@aspeninstitute.org shared a document with you from Google Docs.



To: Jameel Jaffer[Jameel.Jaffer@knightcolumbia.org]; Deb Roy[dkroy@media.mit.edu]; Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]; Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]; Safiya Umoja Noble[snoble@g.ucla.edu]; Herb Lin[herblin@stanford.edu]
Cc: Chris Krebs[krebsc@gmail.com]; Rashad Robinson[rashad@colorofchange.org]; katiemm1957@gmail.com[katiemm1957@gmail.com]; Ryan Merkley (Consultant)[Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Vivian Schiller
Sent: Wed 8/25/2021 2:19:42 PM
Subject: FW: Aspen Commission: Please Join us for a Briefing
Received: Wed 8/25/2021 2:20:02 PM

Hi Folks,

We're holding a briefing with other practitioners in the mis/disinformation space on September 10 at 1p. These are the core academic institutions and not-for-profits, many of which have developed the research and practices that inform our work. More below.

Since you all are in the same space, we wanted to invite you to join the meeting hear the discussion and help answer questions about the Commission's emerging recs (they will have more or less 'emerged' by then)

Let us know if you can make it. I think it will be interesting, and also important to hear what they have to sa...and hopefully gain their buy in.

CHAIRS: we would love to have you to if you can make it!

Vivian

From: Vivian Schiller <Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org>
Date: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 at 9:54 AM
To: Vivian Schiller <Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org>
Cc: Craig Newmark <craig.newmark@gmail.com>, Ryan Merkley (Consultant) <Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org>, Garrett Graff <Garrett.Graff@aspeninstitute.org>, Kristine Gloria <Kristine.Gloria@aspeninstitute.org>, Diara-Jepris Townes <Diara-Jepris.Townes@aspeninstitute.org>, Sara Sendek <sara.sendek@aspeninstitute.org>
Subject: Aspen Commission: Please Join us for a Briefing

Dear Colleagues,

We are hoping you will join us on Friday, September 10th at 1pET for a briefing on the Aspen Commission on Information Disorder draft recommendations. Our work is inspired by your amazing actions and scholarship, and as such we want to give you an early look and listen to your feedback before we finalize our recommendations for public release.

In case you missed it, we issued an interim report in early July. In late September we will launch our official recommendations, directed at government, private industry and civil society. You can learn more about our work here.

Many thanks to Craig Newmark whose support made this possible. I know he is eager for us to work together, and it is in that spirit that we look forward to seeing you.

Please let us know if you can make it. Well send a calendar invite in short order.

Thanks.

Vivian, and the Commission Team

--

Vivian Schiller

Executive Director, Aspen Digital

The Aspen Institute

+1-240-463-0496

@vivian



To: Yasmin Green[yasmingreen@google.com]
Cc: Safiya Umoja Noble[snoble@g.ucla.edu]; Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]; williamhurd@gmail.com[williamhurd@gmail.com]; kam@qdv.org[kam@qdv.org]; katiemm1957@gmail.com[katiemm1957@gmail.com]; RashadRobinson[rashad@colorofchange.org]; Chris Krebs (Fellow)[chris.krebs@aspeninstitute.org]; Diara-Jepris Townes[Diara-Jepris.Townes@aspeninstitute.org]; Vivian Schiller[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]; Sara Sendek[sara.sendek@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Ryan Merkley (Consultant)
Sent: Tue 7/20/2021 2:33:38 PM
Subject: Re: Working Group: Harms - seeking research and guest speakers
Received: Tue 7/20/2021 2:34:34 PM

Absolutely, we'll take those two things on. You'll see the cal invite shortly.

r.

From: Yasmin Green <yasmingreen@google.com>
Sent: Monday, July 19, 2021 11:04 PM
To: Ryan Merkley (Consultant) <Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org>
Cc: Safiya Umoja Noble <snoble@g.ucla.edu>; Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; williamhurd@gmail.com <williamhurd@gmail.com>; kam@qdv.org <kam@qdv.org>; katiemm1957@gmail.com <katiemm1957@gmail.com>; Rashad Robinson <rashad@colorofchange.org>; Chris Krebs (Fellow) <chris.krebs@aspeninstitute.org>; Diara-Jepris Townes <Diara-Jepris.Townes@aspeninstitute.org>; Vivian Schiller <Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org>; Sara Sendek <sara.sendek@aspeninstitute.org>
Subject: Re: Working Group: Harms - seeking research and guest speakers

Thanks, Ryan and Diara! Plan sounds great to me.

Will you send our three misinfo categories and research wish list to the expert panel you curated as part of the Commission? In particular, I'm thinking of danah, Renee, Claire Wardle and Joan on harms and Alicia -- as well as Emily Saltz and Claire Leibowicz from Partnership on AI -- on Interventions.

Will you also share a calendar meeting for this Friday at 10.30 ET? We can use that time to take stock of early themes coming through on the above harms baselining and advance our brainstorming of granular and global interventions. I'll do my best to rep our last convo in our plenary with the Commission on Thursday.

On Mon, 19 Jul 2021 at 10:58, Ryan Merkley (Consultant) <Ryan.Merkley@aspeninstitute.org> wrote:

'morning Harms working group members,

As a follow-up from last week's meeting, we want to invite you to share your insights on research and potential guests for the Harms working group.

The group refined its focus on harms, and settled on a draft frame of health (including science within it), democratic participation/elections (formerly 'democracy' - title tbd) and extremism. Our to-do from that is to identify relevant research on the harms, and also on successful (or unsuccessful) user-facing interventions. We're ask working group members to share relevant research that you might be aware of. The Aspen staff will also seek out research in this area.

We also want to invite you to share your recommendations for external expertise that the group might want to engage. In the meeting, the group suggested Karen Kornbluh, German Marshall Fund; and Sam Woolley, University of Texas. Please let us know, and we'll follow up to schedule.

The [working group doc is here](#), including draft summary notes from the discussion. Please review and let us know if we've missed anything.

Thanks, and looking forward to speaking with you again soon.

Ryan

Ryan Merkley

Director, Commission on Information Disorder

Aspen Institute

+1-416-802-0662

@ryanmerkley



--

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

To: Yasmin Green[yasmingreen@google.com]; Safiya Umoja Noble[snoble@g.ucla.edu]; Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]; williamhurd@gmail.com[williamhurd@gmail.com]; kam@qdv.org[kam@qdv.org]
Cc: katiemm1957@gmail.com[katiemm1957@gmail.com]; Rashad Robinson[rashad@colorofchange.org]; Chris Krebs (Fellow)[chris.krebs@aspeninstitute.org]; Diara-Jepris Townes[Diara-Jepris.Townes@aspeninstitute.org]; Vivian Schiller[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]; Sara Sendek[sara.sendek@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Ryan Merkley (Consultant)
Sent: Mon 7/19/2021 2:58:48 PM
Subject: Working Group: Harms - seeking research and guest speakers
Received: Mon 7/19/2021 2:59:08 PM

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Ryan Merkley

Director, Commission on Information Disorder

Aspen Institute

+1-416-802-0662

@ryanmerkley



To: Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]
Cc: Garrett Graff[Garrett.Graff@aspeninstitute.org]; Sara Sendek[sara.sendek@aspeninstitute.org]; Chris Krebs (Fellow)[chris.krebs@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Vivian Schiller
Sent: Wed 2/24/2021 3:24:49 PM
Subject: Aspen Commission on Information Disorder
Received: Wed 2/24/2021 3:25:22 PM
[Commission 1 Page.pdf](#)

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 months. These are subject to change by the Commission once it convenes.

We would be honored to have you join us as a Commissioner! Please feel free to contact myself, Vivian.schiller@aspeninstitute.org or Garrett Graff, garrett.graff@aspeninstitute.org, if you have any questions or to let us know whether you are willing to participate at your earliest convenience. We look forward to hearing from you.

Cheers,

Vivian

--

Vivian Schiller

Executive Director, Aspen Digital

The Aspen Institute

+1-240-463-0496

@vivian





The Aspen Commission on Information Disorder

The insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, fueled by months of disinformation about the validity and outcome of the 2020 presidential election, provides a stark example of the real-life dangers that disinformation campaigns pose when they penetrate public discourse. Conspiracy theories, information operations, and other forms of disinformation—both coordinated and independent—fragment our shared realities and are driving an immediate real-world crisis. While the insurrection is as a clarion call, the crisis we confront stretches far beyond electoral politics and democratic norms. Our nation is already wrestling with disinformation challenges from vaccine safety to emerging technologies like 5G. Information disorder, often infused with racism, misogyny and anti-Semitism, threatens not only our democracy but also our economy, our public health, and our future.

The **Aspen Commission on Information Disorder** aims to identify and prioritize the most dangerous sources and causes of information disorder and deliver a set of short-term actions and longer-term goals to help government, the private sector, and civil society respond to this modern-day crisis of faith in key institutions.

Disinformation is one of the largest, most complex problems the world faces today. The policy problems encompass deep, fundamental questions of the First Amendment, content moderation, Section 230, national security, and more. No single project could attempt to answer all of them at once; the root causes and ongoing public crisis in reliable and trustworthy information represents a vast field of study and includes factors running from our education system to the business incentives for tech companies. Similarly, there is no easy fix. Solutions will take generations to play out. However, this national crisis requires immediate, definable near-term steps, and the Commission will initially maintain its focus on quick, effective wins: What actions can government, media, civic groups and private industry take *now* to help secure reliability in our information ecosystems, with an emphasis on rebuilding public trust in the foundation of democracy?

The Commission's efforts will draw from the enormous amounts of thoughtful work that has already taken place in this arena; rather than reinventing ideas or starting from scratch, a key and explicit facet of the Commission's undertaking will be to elevate and amplify the excellent work already being done inside government, academia, research centers, and the private sector on these topics, as well as to convene and connect key voices across disciplines.



SCOPE: We are facing a national emergency as significant numbers of Americans turn to an alternate reality, not based in truth or facts. Through a series of expert briefings, structured conversations and roundtables, and surveys of existing research, this Commission will determine: (a) the most damaging near-term disinformation threats that policymakers should prioritize; (b) the lawful and ethical means by which the federal government can promote fact-based information to counter the most dangerous disinformation campaigns; and (c) how private industry, tech platforms, and government can work together in the short term to engage disaffected populations who have lost faith in evidence based reality? As interest and time allows, the Commission may also (d) lay out a longer-term research, study, or action agenda for the field to undertake in the years ahead. Throughout its work, the commission will also consider (e) issues of equity and community representation when it comes both to the negative effects of disinformation as well as efforts to counter such problems.

The Commission may choose to task a limited number of original research projects or convene small, industry-specific working groups to help answer questions, test hypotheses, and evaluate thinking as its work develops.

WHO: The Commission will consist of multiple co-chairs, representing key perspectives and a mix of experiences, alongside approximately 15 commissioners drawn from government, research and academia, civil society, and private industry. The composition of the commission is intended to represent a diversity of expertise, backgrounds and lived experience. We will also draw upon both formal and informal expert advisors, as well as commission additional research as needed.

WHEN: The commission will first convene in mid-March for two hours and twice monthly thereafter through August. All meetings will be virtual until such time it is safe to meet in person.

At the 45-day mark, approximately in late April or early May, the commission will publish a white paper that surveys and frames the “information disorder” problem and defines and prioritizes how the group sees the most dangerous and urgent issues that must be addressed first.

At the six-month mark, the group will convene in Aspen (if safe to do so) to announce and publish a set of immediately actionable solutions to the most pressing issues, as well as a set of recommendations for the longer term. The commission will also, potentially, recommend a longer path forward past August.

###

To: Claire Wardle[claire@firstdraftnews.com]
Cc: Renee DiResta[renee.diresta@gmail.com]; Mike Caulfield[mica42@uw.edu]; Cameron Hickey[cameron@ncoc.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 1/12/2022 11:28:51 PM
Subject: Re: Brennan Center and the mid-terms
Received: Wed 1/12/2022 11:28:52 PM

Perfect!

Kate

On Jan 12, 2022, at 2:35 PM, Claire Wardle <claire@firstdraftnews.com> wrote:

yes!. I'll change invite with the hope that Mike and Cam can make the hour later.

On Wed, Jan 12, 2022 at 5:19 PM Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

This is Jan 21, correct?

Kate

On Jan 12, 2022, at 1:55 PM, Renee DiResta <renee.diresta@gmail.com> wrote:

Works for me.

On Wed, Jan 12, 2022 at 4:29 PM Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

I'm happy to do the 3pm/6pm (ET) Friday time if others can make it!

Kate

On Jan 12, 2022, at 1:10 PM, Claire Wardle <claire@firstdraftnews.com> wrote:

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If it's too late for east coasters we can try a doodle!

On Wed, Jan 12, 2022 at 2:40 PM Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

Hi Claire!

I'd love to join this conversation. I'm currently triple booked at that time/day. :(

Could go later that day (3pm Pacific) or the next Friday (anytime after noon Pacific).

Kate

On Jan 12, 2022, at 7:55 AM, Claire Wardle
<claire@firstdraftnews.com> wrote:

Hi all

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I then had a chat with Cameron last night and considering the work EIP did and are probably planning for 2020, we thought it made a ton of sense for us to put our heads together to work on something collectively.

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Looking forward to talking soon.
Claire

--



Claire Wardle, PhD
US Director

firstdraftnews.org

+1 609 906 3377
[@cward1e](https://twitter.com/cward1e)

IMPORTANT: This message is intended for the addressee only and may contain private and confidential information or material which may be privileged. If this message has come to you in error you must delete it immediately and should not copy it or show it to any other person.

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Cc: Renee DiResta[renee.diresta@gmail.com]; Mike Caulfield[mica42@uw.edu]; Cameron Hickey[cameron@ncoc.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 1/21/2022 10:59:11 PM
Subject: Re: Brennan Center and the mid-terms
Received: Fri 1/21/2022 10:59:12 PM

Just realizing that I don't have a link/Zoom room for this?

Kate

On Jan 12, 2022, at 3:28 PM, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

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To: Renee DiResta[renee.diresta@gmail.com]
Cc: Claire Wardle[claire@firstdraftnews.com]; Mike Caulfield[mica42@uw.edu]; Cameron Hickey[cameron@ncoc.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 1/12/2022 10:18:44 PM
Subject: Re: Brennan Center and the mid-terms
Received: Wed 1/12/2022 10:18:45 PM

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From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 1/12/2022 9:29:26 PM
Subject: Re: Brennan Center and the mid-terms
Received: Wed 1/12/2022 9:29:28 PM

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Happy New Year! I wanted to check-in as the Brennan Center have been in touch and asked us to identify key 'data deficits' around elections to help them plan for the mid-terms.

I then had a chat with Cameron last night and considering the work EIP did and are probably planning for 2020, we thought it made a ton of sense for us to put our heads together to work on something collectively.

Rather than do a doodle I'm going to see if 4pm ET/1pm PT on Friday Jan 21 might work for everyone. I'll send a calendar invite now but if it's a disaster, shout!

Looking forward to talking soon.

Claire

--

 Claire Wardle, PhD
US Director

firstdraftnews.org

+1 609 906 3377
[@cward1e](https://twitter.com/cward1e)

IMPORTANT: This message is intended for the addressee only and may contain private and confidential information or material which may be privileged. If this message has come to you in error you must delete it immediately and should not copy it or show it to any other person.

--



Claire Wardle, PhD
US Director

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To: Claire Wardle[claire@firstdraftnews.com]
Cc: Renee DiResta[renee.diresta@gmail.com]; Mike Caulfield[mica42@uw.edu]; Cameron Hickey[cameron@ncoc.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 1/12/2022 7:37:59 PM
Subject: Re: Brennan Center and the mid-terms
Received: Wed 1/12/2022 7:38:02 PM

Hi Claire!

I'd love to join this conversation. I'm currently triple booked at that time/day. :(

Could go later that day (3pm Pacific) or the next Friday (anytime after noon Pacific).

Kate

On Jan 12, 2022, at 7:55 AM, Claire Wardle <claire@firstdraftnews.com> wrote:

Hi all

Happy New Year! I wanted to check-in as the Brennan Center have been in touch and asked us to identify key 'data deficits' around elections to help them plan for the mid-terms.

I then had a chat with Cameron last night and considering the work EIP did and are probably planning for 2020, we thought it made a ton of sense for us to put our heads together to work on something collectively.

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To: Buder, James K (ATG)[james.buder@atg.wa.gov]; Debra L Zumwalt[zumwalt@stanford.edu]
Cc: Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]
From: Alex Stamos
Sent: Sat 10/3/2020 12:20:52 AM
Subject: Thank You
Received: Sat 10/3/2020 12:21:39 AM

Thank you both for coming today. Your words and very presence were very reassuring for the team.

I'll let you know if we hear anything else, but thank you very much for reacting so quickly and professionally in support of our team. You both get coins too. *

Have a nice weekend,
Alex

--

Alex Stamos
Director, Stanford Internet Observatory
stamos@stanford.edu

To: Isabella Garcia-Camargo[bellagc@stanford.edu]; Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]; joebak@uw.edu[joebak@uw.edu];
51 @uw.edu]; Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]
From: Alex Stamos
Sent: Fri 10/2/2020 11:54:03 PM
Subject: Response Letter
Received: Fri 10/2/2020 11:54:24 PM
[Response to Project Veritas \(10-02-20\).pdf](#)

Hi, Friends-

With Debra's permission, I am sending the response letter our counsel sent to Project Veritas today to those of you who are also named in the initial Veritas letter.

Have a nice weekend,
Alex

--

Alex Stamos
Director, Stanford Internet Observatory
stamos@stanford.edu



Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP
Four Embarcadero Center, 22nd Floor | San Francisco, CA 94111-5998 | tel 415.983.1000 | fax 415.983.1200

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 2824, San Francisco, CA 94126-2824

Sarah G. Flanagan
tel: +1.415.983.1190
sarah.flanagan@pillsburylaw.com

October 2, 2020

Via Email and First Class Mail

Jered T. Ede
Project Veritas
1214 W. Boston Post Rd, No. 148
Mamaroneck, NY 10543
Email: jered@projectveritas.com

Re: Response to Letter re September 29, 2020 *Project Veritas*
#BallotHarvesting Amplification Post

Dear Mr. Ede:

Our firm represents The Board of Trustees of the Leland Stanford Junior University (“Stanford”). We write in response to your September 30, 2020 letter to Stanford and The University of Washington (“UW”) on behalf of Project Veritas demanding retraction of a September 29, 2020 article, entitled *Project Veritas #BallotHarvesting Amplification* and published by the Election Integrity Partnership (the “Article”), to provide you with Stanford’s assessment of your letter. UW joins in this response. This letter is without prejudice to either Stanford’s or UW’s rights and remedies, which are expressly reserved.

The Stanford Internet Observatory and the UW Center for an Informed Public are both highly respected and credible research institutions composed of experienced academic researchers who conduct original research on the misuse of the internet to cause harm, with a particular focus on online misinformation. The institutions, as members of the Election Integrity Partnership, conduct research and publish facts, analysis, and reactions to misinformation on the internet and the online platform policies around it, to enhance voting system resiliency by increasing digital literacy among policymakers and civil society. As part of their research, the Election Integrity Partnership receives reports of election misinformation from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, part of the Department of Homeland Security, and the Election Integrity ISAC, which is coordinating the security work of hundreds of local election officials. We provide this background to demonstrate that the articles published by the Election Integrity Partnership are

Jered T. Ede
October 2, 2020
Page 2

heavily researched, they are based on publicly available facts or official reports, and the conclusions they reach are based on those verifiable and objective sources.

With that in mind, we have carefully reviewed the assertions in your letter, and Stanford and UW strongly and respectfully disagree with your objections and demands. It is well-established that news reporting and journalism are entitled to the highest levels of free speech protection when the reporting or journalism concerns a public issue or an issue of public interest. Here, election misinformation is indisputably an issue of public interest, and the Election Integrity Partnership website is clearly a public forum for news reporting that qualifies for protection under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and various state statutes.

As you well know, truth is a complete defense to a defamation claim. You characterize the Article as relying on a “conspiracy theory style series of false and unevicenced assumptions based solely upon the timing and tagging of tweets and posts” to reach its conclusion that the virality of a Project Veritas video was the result of an orchestrated effort to promote the video, rather than organic sharing of the video. However, the timestamps and digital trail of the video are the objective, third party, and verifiable facts underlying the conclusions and opinions reached in the Article.

The vast majority of the Article provides a factual summary of the chain of events that led to the authors’ concluding takeaways. Those statements are based strictly on publicly available, time-stamped social media posts and their verifiable metadata, so they are indisputably truthful statements of fact. Any assertion otherwise is false. The comments that do not merely summarize the factual chain of events are either truthful statements or expressions of opinion, and thus not actionable. And, it is important to note that expressions of opinion, as opposed to statements of fact, are not actionable under claims for defamation. Moreover, public figures, like Project Veritas, have a high standard to prove defamation, requiring clear and convincing evidence that an allegedly defamatory statement was made with “actual malice,” i.e., with knowledge of its falsity or with reckless disregard for the truth.

As such, contrary to your assertions, the Article was carefully researched and it contains only truthful statements, based on publicly available facts, or expressions of opinion, based on the authors’ analysis of those facts. The statements made in the Article are clearly not “unsubstantiated,” nor are any “misleading” or “wholly fabricated,” as you claim. To the extent any statement in the Article could be proven wrong, which we very much doubt, such statements were certainly not published with any knowledge of falsity or with reckless disregard for the truth. As such, Project Veritas’s claim of defamation based on the Article is meritless.

Jered T. Ede
October 2, 2020
Page 3

The real gravamen of your concern seems to revolve around the Article's use of the term "coordinated", which it does in the ordinary English language usage of the word to demonstrate that seeming virality of a social media post can be orchestrated, rather than organic, and that virality does not necessarily reflect a collective judgment on the part of a large number of individuals that the post's contents are worthy of belief. You raise the issue that the word "coordination" has a specific meaning under the FEC's rules, which could apparently be problematic for Project Veritas. However, its use in the Article does not incorporate or imply that the three-pronged test for coordination under FEC regulations is satisfied. We leave it to Project Veritas to assess and assure its compliance with whatever laws it may be subject to.

More importantly, though, that comment is obviously an expression of opinion, as demonstrated by the authors' cautious use of the terms "suggest" and "possibility." The authors do not say there was coordination, but instead they opine that the facts suggest a possibility of coordination. There is no way a reader could reasonably interpret that comment as being a statement of fact. It is clearly an expression of opinion, and thus not actionable for defamation.

For the foregoing reasons, the Article is well substantiated, it is composed entirely of truthful statements or expressions of opinion, and it is therefore not actionable for defamation. As a result, we would seek attorneys' fees and costs against Project Veritas for bringing such a meritless claim for defamation under anti-SLAPP and other laws.

In sum, as Project Veritas has no claim for defamation against Stanford or UW, neither sees any reason to, and will not ask the Election Integrity Partnership to, retract the Article. Stanford and UW are prepared to vigorously defend themselves, their students and their researchers against your baseless claim should you decide to press the matter.

We trust this resolves the matter.

Very truly yours,



Sarah G. Flanagan

To: Tune, Cydney A.[cydney.tune@pillsburylaw.com]
Cc: Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]; Debra L Zumwalt[zumwalt@stanford.edu]; Buder, James K (ATG)[james.buder@atg.wa.gov]; Jevin West[jevinw@uw.edu]; Julia Carter[jccarter@uw.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 10/1/2020 8:33:31 PM
Subject: Re: UW-Stanford Intro on Project Veritas
Received: Thur 10/1/2020 8:33:33 PM

If you're able to connect with James Buder this afternoon, I'd also like to invite Jevin West and Julia Carter (Director and Director of Strategy and Operations at the Center for an Informed Public) to attend.

Thank you,
Kate

On Oct 1, 2020, at 1:12 PM, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

Hello Cydney,

I'm writing to introduce you to James Buder, our representative from the Attorney General's office here in Washington. He has some availability this afternoon (3-4:30) and he is willing to connect.

Unfortunately, I'm not available at that time, but I can follow up with folks afterwards or sometime tomorrow morning.

Best,
Kate

On Oct 1, 2020, at 7:50 AM, Tune, Cydney A. <cydney.tune@pillsburylaw.com> wrote:

Hi Alex - Thank you for the introduction.

Hi Professor Starbird - It is very nice to meet you, even though it's not under the best of circumstances.

Best regards,

Cydney

Cydney A. Tune | Senior Counsel
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP
Four Embarcadero Center, 22nd Floor | San Francisco, CA 94111-5998

t +1.415.983.6443 | f +1.415.983.1200

cydney.tune@pillsburylaw.com | [website bio](#)

From: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 9:49 PM
To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Tune, Cydney A. <cydney.tune@pillsburylaw.com>; Debra L Zumwalt <zumwalt@stanford.edu>
Subject: UW-Stanford Intro on Project Veritas

* EXTERNAL EMAIL *

Kate,

Debra, the general counsel of Stanford, and Cydney from Pillsbury will be handling the Veritas matter on our side. Please let us know when you have a legal contact at UW for them to work with.

Debra and Cydney, this is Professor Kate Starbird, our excellent counterpart at UW.

-Alex

—

Alex Stamos

Director, Stanford Internet Observatory
stamos@stanford.edu

The contents of this message, together with any attachments, are intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which they are addressed and may contain information that is legally privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, or copying of this message, or any attachment, is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please notify the original sender or the Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman Service Desk at Tel: 800-477-0770, Option 1, immediately by telephone and delete this message, along with any attachments, from your computer. Nothing in this message may be construed as a digital or electronic signature of any employee of Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman. Thank you.

To: Tune, Cydney A.[cydney.tune@pillsburylaw.com]
Cc: Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]; Debra L Zumwalt[zumwalt@stanford.edu]; Buder, James K (ATG)[james.buder@atg.wa.gov]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 10/1/2020 8:12:06 PM
Subject: Re: UW-Stanford Intro on Project Veritas
Received: Thur 10/1/2020 8:12:08 PM

Hello Cydney,

I'm writing to introduce you to James Buder, our representative from the Attorney General's office here in Washington. He has some availability this afternoon (3-4:30) and he is willing to connect.

Unfortunately, I'm not available at that time, but I can follow up with folks afterwards or sometime tomorrow morning.

Best,
Kate

On Oct 1, 2020, at 7:50 AM, Tune, Cydney A. <cydney.tune@pillsburylaw.com> wrote:

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cydney.tune@pillsburylaw.com | [website bio](#)

From: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>

Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 9:49 PM

To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Tune, Cydney A. <cydney.tune@pillsburylaw.com>; Debra L Zumwalt <zumwalt@stanford.edu>

Subject: UW-Stanford Intro on Project Veritas

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To: Tune, Cydney A.[cydney.tune@pillsburylaw.com]
Cc: Alex Stamos[stamos@stanford.edu]; Debra L Zumwalt[zumwalt@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 10/1/2020 4:30:00 PM
Subject: Re: UW-Stanford Intro on Project Veritas
Received: Thur 10/1/2020 4:30:01 PM

Hi Cydney,
Thanks for reaching out.

We have connected with one attorney at the UW AG's office and have our Office of Research engaged. However, we still haven't been assigned a lawyer (or spoken to one). As soon as we do, we'll loop back.

Sorry for the delay. We're try to escalate and get this moving.

Kate

On Oct 1, 2020, at 7:50 AM, Tune, Cydney A. <cydney.tune@pillsburylaw.com> wrote:

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Hi Professor Starbird - It is very nice to meet you, even though it's not under the best of circumstances.

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From: Alex Stamos <stamos@stanford.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 9:49 PM
To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Tune, Cydney A. <cydney.tune@pillsburylaw.com>; Debra L Zumwalt <zumwalt@stanford.edu>
Subject: UW-Stanford Intro on Project Veritas

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Director, Stanford Internet Observatory
stamos@stanford.edu

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To: Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]; cydney.tune@pillsburylaw.com[cydney.tune@pillsburylaw.com]; Debra L Zumwalt[zumwalt@stanford.edu]
From: Alex Stamos
Sent: Thur 10/1/2020 4:49:28 AM
Subject: UW-Stanford Intro on Project Veritas
Received: Thur 10/1/2020 4:49:46 AM

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Debra, the general counsel of Stanford, and Cydney from Pillsbury will be handling the Veritas matter on our side. Please let us know when you have a legal contact at UW for them to work with.

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-Alex

--

Alex Stamos

Director, Stanford Internet Observatory

stamos@stanford.edu

To: Matthew Masterson[mmasterson@microsoft.com]
Cc: Ginny Badanes (CELA)[ginnyb@microsoft.com]; Amy Larsen[amylarsen@microsoft.com]; Sue Glueck (CELA)[Sue.Glueck@microsoft.com]; Julia Carter Scanlan[jccarter@uw.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 8/19/2022 3:17:34 PM
Subject: Re: Time to connect
Received: Fri 8/19/2022 3:17:36 PM

Hi Matt,

Things are beginning to fall into place — though there are SO MANY moving parts. Our technical lead (a postdoctoral scholar) arrived in early July and has been helping redesign the Jira system to better support our work. We're currently training our first cohort of students (8 undergraduates) for our real-time monitoring and have another cohort (7) reporting on September 1. And we've been developing a team of ~15 (mostly graduate student) analysts. Today at 9:30, we're mapping out all of the tropes we expect to see and putting an annotation scheme into place. And at 11, we're having a meeting with all of our analysis partners (Stanford, DFRLab, Graphika, NCOC/Junkipedia) to make sure we're on the same page regarding process, flow, and division of labor.

We'd be thrilled to chat. We seem to have a similar meeting on the books with you and some section of your team at noon on August 30. Would this be an additional meeting?

Best,
Kate

On Aug 19, 2022, at 7:55 AM, Matthew Masterson <mmasterson@microsoft.com> wrote:

Hey Kate! I hope you had a chance to get away for a bit this summer. With students coming back and the EIP ramping up and the mid-terms basically upon us, I am wondering if you have 30 min or so to connect on how Microsoft can support your work with data and other resources? Happy to work around your schedule. Thanks in advance for your time.

Matt

Matt Masterson
Director of Information Integrity
Democracy Forward Team (CELA)
mmasterson@microsoft.com

To: mmasterson@microsoft.com[mmasterson@microsoft.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 8/19/2022 2:57:12 PM
Subject: Delayed Response | Media Contact Re: Time to connect
Received: Fri 8/19/2022 2:57:12 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, I apologize that I may not be able to get back to you in a timely manner.

If this is an urgent request about the Center for an Informed Public, please contact our Director of Strategy and Operations, Julia Scanlan (jccarter@uw.edu). 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: Matthew Masterson[mmasterson@microsoft.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 6/22/2022 10:10:42 PM
Subject: Re: Ukraine Special Report
Received: Wed 6/22/2022 10:10:45 PM

It was great chatting with you. Thanks for sending the report. I'll read it on my way back from Austin.

Kate

On Jun 22, 2022, at 8:05 AM, Matthew Masterson <mmasterson@microsoft.com> wrote:

Kate,

Thanks again for your time the other day. I really appreciate it.

As you are aware, we have been working on several initiatives focused on protecting and strengthening a healthy information ecosystem, including efforts to counter foreign cyber influence operations.

We wanted to let you know that this morning Microsoft published a report titled "Defending Ukraine: Early Lessons from the Cyber War" and is focused on lessons learned 100 days into Russia's comprehensive war with Ukraine.

The report offers five conclusions that we've identified over the past four months –

1. Defense against a military invasion now requires for most countries the ability to disburse and distribute digital operations and data assets across borders and into other countries.
2. Recent advances in cyber threat intelligence and end-point protection have helped Ukraine withstand a high percentage of destructive Russian cyberattacks.
3. As a coalition of countries has come together to defend Ukraine, Russian intelligence agencies have stepped up network penetration and espionage activities targeting allied governments outside Ukraine.
4. In coordination with these other cyber activities, Russian agencies are conducting global cyber influence operations to support their war efforts.
5. The lessons from Ukraine call for a coordinated and comprehensive strategy to strengthen defenses against the full range of cyber destructive, espionage, and influence operations

A high-level overview of the report, as well as access to the report itself, can be found [here](#).

If you have any questions about the report, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Matt

Matt Masterson
Director of Information Integrity
Democracy Forward Team (CELA)
mmasterson@microsoft.com

To: Matthew Masterson[mmasterson@microsoft.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 6/20/2022 5:37:01 PM
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Quick Call
Received: Mon 6/20/2022 5:37:01 PM

No worries!

Kate

On Jun 20, 2022, at 10:29 AM, Matthew Masterson <mmasterson@microsoft.com> wrote:

Works great! Will call you at 2pm ET/11 am PT. Sorry to bother you on the holiday. Promise to make it quick.

Matt Masterson
Director of Information Integrity
Democracy Forward Team (CELA)
mmasterson@microsoft.com

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2022 1:28 PM
To: Matthew Masterson <mmasterson@microsoft.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Quick Call

Sure. How about today at 11am? My schedule is clear for the holiday. 206 313 2766.

Kate

On Jun 20, 2022, at 9:34 AM, Matthew Masterson <mmasterson@microsoft.com> wrote:

Kate,

Do you have time for a 15 min call sometime today or tomorrow for a heads up on a report that we are releasing on Wednesday? I will work around your schedule.

Thanks

Matt

Matt Masterson
Director of Information Integrity
Democracy Forward Team (CELA)
mmasterson@microsoft.com

To: Matthew Masterson[mmasterson@microsoft.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 6/20/2022 5:28:01 PM
Subject: Re: Quick Call
Received: Mon 6/20/2022 5:28:02 PM

Sure. How about today at 11am? My schedule is clear for the holiday. 206 313 2766.

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Matt Masterson
Director of Information Integrity
Democracy Forward Team (CELA)
mmasterson@microsoft.com

To: Ginny Badanes[ginnyb@microsoft.com]; mmasterson@microsoft.com[mmasterson@microsoft.com]; sue.glueck@microsoft.com[sue.glueck@microsoft.com]; Kent Foster (CELA)[jkfoster@microsoft.com]
Cc: Julia Carter Scanlan[jccarter@uw.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Sat 6/4/2022 5:28:28 PM
Subject: Thank you for your support of the UW Center for an Informed Public!
Received: Sat 6/4/2022 5:28:29 PM
[CIP TY Microsoft-ks.pdf](#)

Dear Ginny, Matt, Sue, and Kent:

On behalf of the Center for an Informed Public at the University of Washington, thank you for Microsoft's generous gift to support our election-related rapid response research efforts and MisinfoDay 2023. We are thrilled to continue our collaboration with Microsoft and your teams, and we are so grateful for your ongoing support for our work and mission to resist misinformation and create a more informed public.

We will reach out soon to get some additional planning and strategy calls on the schedule, as we're eager to continue the great conversations we've had with you already. We are starting to think about planning for MisinfoDay 2023 and would love to start talks early with you. And on the elections front, we are starting to spin up small trial groups to test our rapid response model and help us refine scope. Our first test run was quite successful, leading to [an analysis of the rise of a deceptive term](#), and [a story in the Washington Post](#) based on our report. We are also currently talking with former team members from Data & Society's Disinformation Action Lab to learn from their experiences managing a collaborative, networked response to census-specific mis- and disinformation and seeing where they can inform our own rapid-response efforts. They shared with us their method of "working back from harms" and will be providing us with a draft report with details on threat modeling and varieties of response. These insights will help us better target our efforts over the election period.

We are incredibly grateful for your support, and we look forward to working with you and your team on these efforts over the coming months. Thank you again.

Thank you,

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

June 2, 2022

VIA EMAIL

Dear Ginny, Matt, Sue, and Kent:

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We are incredibly grateful for your support, and we look forward to working with you and your team on these efforts over the coming months. Thank you again.

Sincerely,



Kate Starbird
Director and Co-Founder, Center for an Informed Public
Associate Professor, Department of Human Centered Design and Engineering
University of Washington

To: mmasterson@microsoft.com[mmasterson@microsoft.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 3/11/2022 6:42:15 PM
Subject: Delayed Response | Media Contact RE: Research Partnership, UW | MS Democracy Forward
Received: Fri 3/11/2022 6:42:15 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, 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: Melissa Spatz[mspatz@trusted-elections.org]; Jenny Flanagan[jflanagan@trusted-elections.org]
Cc: Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]; Ashley Quarcoo[aquarcoo@electioninitiative.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 5/4/2023 10:12:46 PM
Subject: Re: Connecting you re: crisis comms
Received: Thur 5/4/2023 10:12:57 PM

Thank you, Ashley, for so quickly connecting us.

Jenny and Melissa, I'd love to chat with you all about what we're experiencing and the kind support we're trying to locate. (And I think I'm speaking for Renee here as well.) Let us know what your availability might be and we'll try to find a time that works for the two of us.

Best,
Kate

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

On May 4, 2023, at 2:35 PM, Ashley Quarcoo <aquarcoo@electioninitiative.org> wrote:

Kate and Renee,

I'm connecting you with Jenny Flanagan and Melissa Spatz, co-executive directors of the [Trusted Elections Fund](#). They are trusted philanthropic partners in this space, and I've shared a bit about your short-term crisis comms need. They are willing to have a more detailed conversation with you about this.

I'll let the four of you take it from here.

Best,

Ashley

Ashley Quarcoo
Executive Director

901 E Street, NW, 10th Floor
Washington, DC 20004
aquarcoo@electioninitiative.org
www.electioninitiative.org

<image001.png>

To: Ashley Quarcoo[aquarcoo@electioninitiative.org]
Cc: Julia Carter Scanlan[jccarter@uw.edu]; Michael Grass[megrass@uw.edu]; Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]; dbateyko@stanford.edu[dbateyko@stanford.edu]; perrino@stanford.edu[perrino@stanford.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]; Matt Mulkey[mmulkey@pewtrusts.org]; Maria Bianchi Buck[mbianchibuck@electioninitiative.org]; Olivia Mathews[omathews@electioninitiative.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Sat 4/29/2023 5:35:25 PM
Subject: Re: Restoration of America blog post
Received: Sat 4/29/2023 5:35:37 PM

Hi Ashley,

I'd be happy to carve out some time (5-10 minutes) next Friday to discuss. This is such a critical dimension for all of our work.

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

On Apr 28, 2023, at 8:47 AM, Ashley Quarcoo <aquarcoo@electioninitiative.org> wrote:

Hi Kate ,

Thanks for your note. We'd welcome any learnings you have about the best responses to these kind of attacks.

Your point about crisis comms is also apt - I was just in a funder-practitioner convening earlier this week where this came up as a discussion for the broader democracy support community, including academic partners therein. I need to follow up with the organizers to learn more.

I believe we have a meeting scheduled next week to catch up on the programming side, and perhaps we can use some portion of our time to discuss these issues as well.

Best,

Ashley

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Thursday, April 27, 2023 4:05:10 PM
To: Ashley Quarcoo <aquarcoo@electioninitiative.org>
Cc: Julia Carter Scanlan <jccarter@uw.edu>; Michael Grass <megrass@uw.edu>; Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>; dbateyko@stanford.edu<dbateyko@stanford.edu>; perrino@stanford.edu <perrino@stanford.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdirresta@stanford.edu>; Matt Mulkey <mmulkey@pewtrusts.org>; Maria Bianchi Buck <mbianchibuck@electioninitiative.org>; Olivia Mathews <omathews@electioninitiative.org>
Subject: Re: Restoration of America blog post

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]: This message is from an external sender. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Hi Ashley,

We have been dealing with similar articles and social media posts — and are increasingly questioning the old playbook that encouraged folks in our position to not respond to these kinds of attacks. Recently, we've had some success in countering some of these efforts through careful responses. I'd be happy to chat about a more proactive strategy, as I believe it's going to be an important dimension of this initiative (and many others) going forward.

A few of us are considering the possibility of bringing on a crisis communications firm that may support researchers working in this space... though funding and coordinating is still an open question. I think several of us would be happy to discuss this further if you're interested.

Best,

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Dear Julia, Michael, Kate, Elena, Daniel, John, and Renée,

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My team has done an initial assessment of risks posed by the piece, and we plan no public response to it. We continue to monitor for online discussion related to this post and any other content about our work and grantees. We're committed to informing you when such material appears, keeping you apprised of the initiative's responses, if any, and working with grantees to mitigate related risks they may face.

Please let us know if you have questions or comments regarding this matter, and we'll gladly arrange a phone call. As always, we remain deeply appreciative of your work and partnership.

Best regards,

Ashley

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Executive Director

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www.electioninitiative.org

<image001.png>

<https://www.restorationofamerica.com/restoration-news/the-election-trust-initiative-is-a-100-million-leftist-plot-in-disguise/>

THE ELECTION TRUST INITIATIVE IS A \$100 MILLION LEFTIST PLOT IN DISGUISE
BY [HAYDEN LUDWIG](#) | APR 24, 2023

More election "reforms" from the leftists at Pew Charitable Trusts.

The Left's solution to every policy problem is to create a new activist front, many of them disguised as "nonpartisan" good government projects. So it is with the latest election "reform" group: The Election Trust Initiative, a [Pew Charitable Trusts](#) project launched in September with a staggering \$100 million budget over the next five years.

The initiative wants to ensure elections are “accessible and trustworthy” by “increase[ing] capacity and innovation in America’s election administration systems.” In other words, the same people who’ve done so much to *damage* Americans’ confidence in elections now claim they’re hard at work *repairing* it.

Recall that Pew gave us some of the worst “reform” groups active in politics. This mega-funder almost single-handedly gave us the ugly 2005 campaign finance bill McCain-Feingold by running an astroturf campaign designed to fool Congress into believing there was a national demand for more First Amendment spending restrictions. One Pew vice president later admitted on tape that “The idea was to create an impression that a mass movement was afoot . . . [that] everywhere people were talking about reform.”

And Pew’s responsible—with funding from George Soros—for spawning the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), the supposed voter roll maintenance organization hailed by its founder as “the single most effective voter registration drive in the history of the United States.”

Election Mistrust Initiative

The initiative is headed by Ashley Quarcoo, a former scholar and fellow for the left-wing Carnegie Endowment and Aspen Institute. From 2021 to 2022, she was a senior official for the Partnership for American Democracy (now “More Perfect”) which advocates against “toxic polarization” and election disinformation. More Perfect couches its causes in unity and patriotism—yet all of them are supported exclusively by “progressive” or left-leaning groups, such as the Center for Tech and Civic Life (CTCL), RepresentUs, and Brennan Center for Justice.

Besides Pew, the project is supported by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, Klarman Family Foundation, and Peter G. Peterson Foundation—each of which has pledged \$25 million over the next five years to the Election Trust Initiative to see that agenda through.

Hewlett’s money comes from the late co-founder of the PC manufacturer Hewlett-Packard (HP), himself a liberal Republican. Today the Hewlett Foundation is one of the leading funders of global warming alarmism and abortion advocacy, and is perhaps the top donor to NeverTrump “conservative” groups, including Bill Kristol’s Defending Democracy Together (whose acronym is, appropriately, DDT).

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The Peterson Foundation is the most moderate of the three, created by Nixon administration Commerce Secretary Peter G. Peterson and now run by his son, Michael. The foundation supports some center-right causes like deficit reduction, but is best described as a Rockefeller Republican group—lax or liberal on abortion and other social issues.

Put simply, these are not middle-of-the-road charitable groups, but funders with an agenda.

Pushing Policy

Functionally, the Election Trust Initiative pools money from its donors and redirects it to policy shops pushing vote-by-mail, opposition to voter ID laws, and ways to fetter conservative speech by casting it as “disinformation.”

The Elections Group is one such grant recipient. This private consultancy is run by Noah Praetz, a former elections official from that bastion of election security, Chicago, and Jennifer Morrell, an advisor to eBay founder Pierre Omidyar’s Democracy Fund.

The Elections Group is a CTCL ally closely involved in the latter’s ongoing Zuck Bucks 2.0 scheme to buy influence in counties. The firm offers “guidance” on mail-in and absentee ballot processing, drop boxes, ballot-curing procedures, and “communications strategies” for election officials to combat conservative critics.

R Street, another recipient, is a moderate libertarian group that unfortunately serves as a conduit for leftist schemes to undermine conservative organizations in Washington. As the initiative [explains](#), “the R Street Institute . . . will convene ideologically diverse thought leaders to identify shared principles for nonpartisan election administration as well as leaders, institutions, and policies that instill trust in elections.”

While R Street often supports excellent causes (such as [defending free speech rights](#)), this isn’t the first time that I’ve documented R Street’s mercenary work for the Left. George Soros’ Open Society Foundations provided 26 percent of R Street’s contributions between 2012 and 2017. The institute has also received oodles of cash from the Hewlett Foundation and others to promote policies such as a [carbon tax](#) to combat global warming and [vote-by-mail policies](#) in the lead-up to the 2020 election.

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There’s also MIT’s Election Data and Security Lab, which uses its academic clout to cloak attacks on Republican election integrity bills. The lab claims Georgia’s SB 202 law, passed in early 2021, may “[suppress voter turnout](#).” It also “tests . . . best practices to combat misinformation.”

The Long View

Conservatives must understand that in the battle over how our elections are run, the Left will *always* try to steal the moral high ground and robe itself in authority. But this sophistication masks ideologues’ contempt for anyone who doesn’t share their extreme views about the country’s past and future. They only have authority if we cede it to them.

Before 2016, the Democratic Party was comfortable with voting on Election Day, keeping absentee ballots the exception, and blocking private money from our election offices—norms we’ve enjoyed for centuries. That only changed when Democrats decided they could no longer reliably win a majority of Americans’ votes. So they changed the rules.

We know that 2020 was the most corrupt election in modern American history, unworthy of our trust or respect. It got that way because partisans changed laws last-minute and ignored procedures when it suited their candidates... while too many obsequious Republicans complied.

The time for groveling is over. This is a fight that patriots can win, but only if they first win it in their hearts.

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<image001.png>

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BY [HAYDEN LUDWIG](#) | APR 24, 2023

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The time for groveling is over. This is a fight that patriots can win, but only if they first win it in their hearts.

To: Erin McAweeney[erin.mcaweeney@graphika.com]
Cc: Nicole MacPherson[NMacPherson@atlanticcouncil.org]; Cameron Hickey[cameron@ncoc.org]; Daniel Bateyko[dbateyko@stanford.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]; Mike Caulfield[mica42@uw.edu]; Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 8/16/2022 5:58:08 PM
Subject: Re: Availability for an EIP call next Friday (8/19)?
Received: Tue 8/16/2022 5:58:11 PM

2pm ET works for me.

Kate

On Aug 16, 2022, at 7:18 AM, Erin McAweeney <erin.mcaweeney@graphika.com> wrote:

Hi all, I'm able to join any time before 3pm ET on Friday. Looking forward to it!

On Tue, Aug 16, 2022 at 8:18 AM Nicole MacPherson <NMacPherson@atlanticcouncil.org> wrote:

Hello -

I am confirming that 2pm EST or later will work for Graham and Andy's calendars.

Kindly,
Nicole

From: Cameron Hickey <cameron@ncoc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 12:05 PM
To: Nicole MacPherson <NMacPherson@ATLANTICCOUNCIL.ORG>
Cc: Daniel Bateyko <dbateyko@stanford.edu>; Erin McAweeney <erin.mcaweeney@graphika.com>; Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdirresta@stanford.edu>; Mike Caulfield <mica42@uw.edu>; Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: Availability for an EIP call next Friday (8/19)?

Hi all,
Given that, is it possible to push this to 2pm ET or later?

Thank you

On Aug 16, 2022, at 5:11 AM, Nicole MacPherson
<NMacPherson@ATLANTICCOUNCIL.ORG> wrote:

Hello -

I am happy to be connected to help find alignment in both Graham and Andy's schedule. They are flexible in their availability starting at 11:10am EST until the end of the day.

Kindly,
Nicole

From: Graham Brookie <gbrookie@ATLANTICCOUNCIL.ORG>
Sent: Monday, August 15, 2022 10:28 PM

To: Cameron Hickey <cameron@ncoc.org>; Daniel Bateyko <dbateyko@stanford.edu>; Nicole MacPherson <NMacPherson@ATLANTICCOUNCIL.ORG>
Cc: Erin McAweeney <erin.mcaweeney@graphika.com>; Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>; Mike Caulfield <mica42@uw.edu>; Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: Availability for an EIP call next Friday (8/19)?

Likewise. Happy to join.

I will be in Colorado, so would be useful for Andy Carvin to join, as well.

Adding Nicole, who can mark it on both calendars.

Looking forward to it.
Graham

From: Cameron Hickey <cameron@ncoc.org>
Date: Friday, August 12, 2022 at 7:35 PM
To: Daniel Bateyko <dbateyko@stanford.edu>
Cc: Erin McAweeney <erin.mcaweeney@graphika.com>, Graham Brookie <gbrookie@ATLANTICCOUNCIL.ORG>, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>, Mike Caulfield <mica42@uw.edu>, Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: Availability for an EIP call next Friday (8/19)?

Sure!

Should be available any time except 9-10ET

Looking forward to it!

Best,

Cam

Cameron Hickey
+1 312-208-7084
ATL.io

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 12, 2022, at 6:54 PM, Daniel Bateyko <dbateyko@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi Cameron, Erin, and Graham,

Thanks again for helping us get the EIP 2022 announcement out the door. We're planning a meeting next Friday (8/19) between leadership at UW and SIO to come to a decision on how analysts will work on tickets in the Jira system and to determine how many analysts we will need to hire (and at what level). We'd love if you could join for this meeting.

Are you available Friday for a 45-minute Zoom call? If so, please pass along your availability that day to me and I can circulate a calendar invite.

Best,

Dan

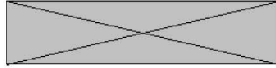
--

Dan Bateyko (he/him)
Special Projects Manager, Stanford Internet Observatory
dbateyko@stanford.edu

--

Erin McAweeney

Director of Analysis



m: 734.604.0055

e: erin.mcaweeney@graphika.com

w: www.graphika.com

To: Jeff Hancock[hancockj@stanford.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 8/12/2022 9:32:45 PM
Subject: Mike and I are having a tropes meeting on Zoom now
Received: Fri 8/12/2022 9:32:47 PM

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

Kate

To: mike Caulfield[mica42@uw.edu]; Jeff Hancock[hancockj@stanford.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 8/19/2022 8:45:39 PM
Subject: Trope conversation continued
Received: Fri 8/19/2022 8:45:41 PM

Hi folks,

It looks like we failed to connect the dots on our follow-up trope meeting today. Renee and I touched base briefly. It seems that we have two proposed approaches for coding tropes. One would be the one-dimensional scheme at the “narrative-trope” level outlined by Mike:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1RiO-Th8qZM0xeH67ysI7z5xR6ZDxd7ejSyxIMj1znt8/edit>

Renee has suggested a potentially multi-dimensional scheme that captures scene, actor, and high-level narrative. I think she’s volunteered to try to articulate that in a table or document of some sort. (Though I know she’s over-taxed these days.)

I’m honestly not sure which approach will work better and think we’ll likely have to test it, perhaps among multiple groups of coders (experts vs our student novices). One thing we think we need to do first is see if WE can use the coding scheme. I’d like to suggest that we start by trying to code some number of incidents from 2020. Here’s a spreadsheet of incidents from 2020 that we determined to have some Twitter spread, be “sowing doubt” (or delegitimization), and not mostly correction. We’re included some of the ticket descriptions that were wrapped into those incidents and some notes from the Jira. (Sorry that makes the document really messy). We’ve also included 10 of the most retweeted tweets in that incident.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1FamayJZJytEbV9bhLtkg3cH_3_kXCj2lXZneVGM6RUE/edit#gid=0

We’ll have to come up with a way to “code” ... maybe using the letter and short label in the “code” column (highlighted)? Or if someone is a better Google spreadsheeter than I, we could embed a dropdown in each of those cells that draws from a table with the code options.

Kate

To: Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]
Cc: Daniel Bateyko[dbateyko@stanford.edu]; Mike Caulfield[mica42@uw.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 8/4/2022 6:38:30 PM
Subject: Re: EIP applying to MIT Election Funding by next Friday or early August
Received: Thur 8/4/2022 6:38:34 PM

Ah yes. I agree that connecting with this network is more important than the money involved. I'm supportive of you all submitting a grant (and can offer some support in terms of ideating and writing up a proposal), but it would have to be different enough from the larger mission — with some kind of specific research/practical aim. Do you have one in mind?

Kate

On Aug 4, 2022, at 9:12 AM, Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu> wrote:

I agree that I don't think we need to prioritize this funding with the Pew grant. On our side the grant agreement is still winding through our sponsored research office after weeks of delays from Stanford (insert frustrated Elena face) but fingers crossed is coming in.

What I do think could be valuable is getting plugged in with the network of researchers they're building in this space, who could be potential down the road users of our data and collaborators in some capacity in future years.

—

Elena Cryst, MBA (she/her)
Assistant Director
Stanford Internet Observatory

<https://io.stanford.edu>

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Date: Thursday, August 4, 2022 at 9:09 AM
To: Daniel Bateyko <dbateyko@stanford.edu>
Cc: Mike Caulfield <mica42@uw.edu>, Renee DiResta <rdirresta@stanford.edu>, Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: EIP applying to MIT Election Funding by next Friday or early August

Hi Dan,

With the Pew funds coming through and other funds in the bank (currently), I'm wondering what we think this additional grant would fund? IMO, we would need to have a specific need that isn't already scoped out in our Pew grant. What are you all thinking?

Kate

On Aug 3, 2022, at 3:28 PM, Daniel Bateyko <dbateyko@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi all,

Bumping this back up to the top of peoples' inboxes. The next deadline to apply for MIT funding is August 12th. I'll start a group Slack DM after our weekly meeting tomorrow so we can coordinate on next steps. To preview those steps briefly, we will need to repurpose our existing grant proposal language and prepare a new section on EIP research questions and methods.

Best,
Dan

--

Dan Bateyko (he/him)
Special Projects Manager, Stanford Internet Observatory
dbateyko@stanford.edu

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Date: Tuesday, July 19, 2022 at 2:15 PM
To: Mike Caulfield <mica42@uw.edu>
Cc: Daniel Bateyko <dbateyko@stanford.edu>, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: EIP applying to MIT Election Funding by next Friday or early August

I'm happy to chat about this and yes, it'll have to be the August deadline for us.

Kate

On Jul 15, 2022, at 12:39 PM, Mike Caulfield <mica42@uw.edu> wrote:

I'd be in favor of shooting for the 12th, I think we could put together a better application. The PI on our end would have to be Kate, and she's coming back next week.

From: Daniel Bateyko <dbateyko@stanford.edu>
Sent: Friday, July 15, 2022 9:32 AM
To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Mike Caulfield <mica42@uw.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Subject: EIP applying to MIT Election Funding by next Friday or early August

Hi Kate, Mike, and Renee,

Elena flagged an RFP from the MIT Election Data and Science Lab that funds projects in the \$50,000-\$200,000 range that track the effects of the 2020 election and provide practical guidance to election administration and science. The first round is due next Friday (July 22) and the second round is August 12th. One of the focus areas includes combatting misinformation, so it seems a natural fit to apply.

The proposal should be 10 pages and we have most of what we need in the PEW Grant proposal. What I need help on is where the proposal asks for a statement of our research questions, those questions' importance, and a description of our methodology. I believe UW would be more equipped to handle this section. For that reason I wanted to check in with you and ask:

- * Are we interested in applying to this RFP?
- * If so, would you have time in the coming week to help prepare a section on research

questions and methods? If not, we can shoot for the August 12th second round deadline.

I can repurpose the PEW proposal to prepare a draft of the MIT proposal by EOD Tuesday and share it – those requirements are an abstract, workplan, staffing plan, statement of engagement with election officials, and budget.

I am including a link to the application page and RFP below:

<https://electionlab.mit.edu/research/projects/learning-from-elections/apply>

<https://electionlab.mit.edu/sites/default/files/2022-06/RFP-LearningfromElections.pdf>

Best,
Dan

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Dan Bateyko (he/him)
Special Projects Manager, Stanford Internet Observatory
dbateyko@stanford.edu

To: Daniel Bateyko[dbateyko@stanford.edu]
Cc: Mike Caulfield[mica42@uw.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]; Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 8/4/2022 4:08:44 PM
Subject: Re: EIP applying to MIT Election Funding by next Friday or early August
Received: Thur 8/4/2022 4:08:58 PM

Hi Dan,

With the Pew funds coming through and other funds in the bank (currently), I'm wondering what we think this additional grant would fund? IMO, we would need to have a specific need that isn't already scoped out in our Pew grant. What are you all thinking?

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Special Projects Manager, Stanford Internet Observatory
dbateyko@stanford.edu

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
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To: Mike Caulfield <mica42@uw.edu>
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Sent: Friday, July 15, 2022 9:32 AM
To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Mike Caulfield <mica42@uw.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdirresta@stanford.edu>

Subject: EIP applying to MIT Election Funding by next Friday or early August

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Best,
Dan

--

Dan Bateyko (he/him)
Special Projects Manager, Stanford Internet Observatory
dbateyko@stanford.edu

To: Mike Caulfield[mica42@uw.edu]
Cc: Daniel Bateyko[dbateyko@stanford.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 7/19/2022 9:15:15 PM
Subject: Re: EIP applying to MIT Election Funding by next Friday or early August
Received: Tue 7/19/2022 9:15:17 PM

I'm happy to chat about this and yes, it'll have to be the August deadline for us.

Kate

On Jul 15, 2022, at 12:39 PM, Mike Caulfield <mica42@uw.edu> wrote:

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From: Daniel Bateyko <dbateyko@stanford.edu>
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Dan

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Dan Bateyko (he/him)
Special Projects Manager, Stanford Internet Observatory
dbateyko@stanford.edu

To: Sunny Xun Liu[sunnyxliu@stanford.edu]
Cc: Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]; Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]; Daniel Bateyko[dbateyko@stanford.edu]; Jeffrey T. Hancock[hancockj@stanford.edu]; Emma Spiro[espiro@uw.edu]; Jevin West[jevinw@uw.edu]; Rachel Moran[remoran@uw.edu]; Mike Caulfield[mica42@uw.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 8/3/2022 7:06:42 PM
Subject: Re: NSF annual report
Received: Wed 8/3/2022 7:06:44 PM

Also, we should invite Rachel Moran and Mike Caulfield. (Cced above).

Kate

On Aug 3, 2022, at 11:53 AM, Sunny Xun Liu <sunnyxliu@stanford.edu> wrote:

Great! Thanks Kate!

@Emma and @Jevin, you should be able to edit the document. If you have issues, please let me know.

Sunny

--

Sunny Xun Liu, Ph.D.
Associate Director
Social Media Lab
Department of Communication
Stanford
liuxun@stanford.edu
650-723-4439

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Date: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 at 11:45 AM
To: Sunny Xun Liu <sunnyxliu@stanford.edu>
Cc: Renee DiResta <rdirresta@stanford.edu>, Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>, Daniel Bateyko <dbateyko@stanford.edu>, Jeffrey T. Hancock <hancockj@stanford.edu>, Emma Spiro <espiro@uw.edu>, Jevin West <jevinw@uw.edu>
Subject: Re: NSF annual report

Hi Sunny,

Thanks for starting this document. This approach is perfect. I had another one started, but it's less complete, so I'll move our notes in from there. Jeff and I had a first discussion about this last week. I'm happy to have another meeting if that would be helpful, but for now I think it might be useful for folks to add notes for the pieces they're familiar with.

It's a good reminder that we should be adding an acknowledgement to this grant on any papers that are related. And since we don't have a lot of publications yet, it'll be good to highlight speaking events (like Renee's talk at the SaTC meeting) as well as our work to get EIP 2022 in place.

Can we also add Emma Spiro (espiro@uw.edu) and Jevin West (jevinw@uw.edu) to the document (and communications)? Jevin has done a lot of work related to our broadening participation commitments.

Best,
Kate

On Aug 3, 2022, at 11:37 AM, Sunny Xun Liu <sunnyxliu@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi Kate, Renee, Elena, and Dan,

I hope this email finds you well.

Our NSF annual report is due now and will be overdue in two months. It's a good idea to start to work on it.

For collaborative awards, we usually work together and write the same report. Then we each upload it on research.gov.

@Kate, please let me know whether this approach works for you.

I have created [a google doc](#) with all required information listed as a start place to work on the report.

Please let me know if you have questions or if a meeting will be helpful to work on the report.

Thanks,
Sunny

--

Sunny Xun Liu, Ph.D.
Associate Director
Social Media Lab
Department of Communication
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liuxun@stanford.edu
650-723-4439

To: Sunny Xun Liu[sunnyxliu@stanford.edu]
Cc: Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]; Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]; Daniel Bateyko[dbateyko@stanford.edu]; Jeffrey T. Hancock[hancockj@stanford.edu]; Emma Spiro[espiro@uw.edu]; Jevin West[jevinw@uw.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 8/3/2022 6:44:41 PM
Subject: Re: NSF annual report
Received: Wed 8/3/2022 6:44:43 PM

Hi Sunny,

Thanks for starting this document. This approach is perfect. I had another one started, but it's less complete, so I'll move our notes in from there. Jeff and I had a first discussion about this last week. I'm happy to have another meeting if that would be helpful, but for now I think it might be useful for folks to add notes for the pieces they're familiar with.

It's a good reminder that we should be adding an acknowledgement to this grant on any papers that are related. And since we don't have a lot of publications yet, it'll be good to highlight speaking events (like Renee's talk at the SaTC meeting) as well as our work to get EIP 2022 in place.

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Sunny Xun Liu, Ph.D.
Associate Director
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liuxun@stanford.edu
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To: Clement Wolf[clementwolf@google.com]
Cc: Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]; Daniel Bateyko[dbateyko@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 6/28/2022 7:48:27 PM
Subject: Re: chatting EIP...
Received: Tue 6/28/2022 7:48:30 PM

Awesome. Thanks Clem!

Kate

On Jun 28, 2022, at 12:46 PM, Clement Wolf <clementwolf@google.com> wrote:

Perfect! I sent a calendar invite, i hope it works for all of us (and that you're fine with Google Meets!)

On Tue, Jun 28, 2022 at 2:29 PM Renee DiResta <rdirresta@stanford.edu> wrote:

8-8:30PT works for me on Thurs! Looking forward to speaking.

From: Clement Wolf <clementwolf@google.com>
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2022 8:06 PM
To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Cc: Daniel Bateyko <dbateyko@stanford.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdirresta@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: chatting EIP...

That would work for me as well!

Clement

On Mon, Jun 27, 2022, 19:46 Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

I can do 8-8:30 Pacific on Thurs.

Kate

On Jun 27, 2022, at 4:43 PM, Daniel Bateyko <dbateyko@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi Clement,

Nice to meet. Did you mean 9am PST this Thursday? Unfortunately I have a conflict, but I could do 8:00-9:00am PST; 12:00pm-3:00pm PST . Hoping we can find a time to all sync.

Best,
Dan

--

Dan Bateyko (he/him)

Special Projects Manager, Stanford Internet Observatory

dbateyko@stanford.edu

From: Clement Wolf <clementwolf@google.com>

Date: Monday, June 27, 2022 at 2:32 PM

To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>

Cc: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>, Daniel Bateyko <dbateyko@stanford.edu>

Subject: Re: chatting EIP...

No worries at all, let's try to find time on Thursday!

I could do e.g. noon Pacific / 9 AM Eastern, if that works?

On Mon, Jun 27, 2022 at 4:49 PM Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

I leave Friday morning for vacation, so that won't work for me. :(

Kate

On Jun 27, 2022, at 8:02 AM, Clement Wolf <clementwolf@google.com> wrote:

Hi Renee, Kate, and Daniel,

That sounds great -- this time Friday works for me! Looking forward to speaking with you then. Do you want me to schedule a meeting in our calendars?

Clemen

On Sun, Jun 26, 2022 at 3:50 PM Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hey Clement,

Per our chat, I wanted to set up a time to chat about EIP. Kate's away for a few weeks in July but has availability this week pre-9am PT (which is fairly easy for me, on the East Coast, which I think is where you are as well). Do you have any time to sync perhaps at 11am ET/8am PT on Th or F?

Best,

Renee

--

<unnamed.png>

- **Clement Wolf**
- Global Public Policy Senior Manager - Information Integrity
- Google Inc
- clementwolf@google.com

--

<unnamed.png>

- **Clement Wolf**
- Global Public Policy Senior Manager - Information Integrity
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<unnamed.png>

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To: Daniel Bateyko[dbateyko@stanford.edu]
Cc: Clement Wolf[clementwolf@google.com]; Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 6/27/2022 11:46:13 PM
Subject: Re: chatting EIP...
Received: Mon 6/27/2022 11:46:14 PM

I can do 8-8:30 Pacific on Thurs.

Kate

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Hi Clement,

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<unnamed.png> • **Clement Wolf**

- Global Public Policy Senior Manager - Information Integrity
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<unnamed.png> • **Clement Wolf**

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From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 6/27/2022 8:49:38 PM
Subject: Re: chatting EIP...
Received: Mon 6/27/2022 8:49:38 PM

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Renee

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<unnamed.png>

- **Clement Wolf**
- Global Public Policy Senior Manager - Information Integrity
- Google Inc
- clementwolf@google.com

To: rdiresta@stanford.edu[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Sat 6/11/2022 9:00:55 PM
Subject: Delayed Response | Media Contact Re: EIP Meeting today (6/9) at 11:00am PT
Received: Sat 6/11/2022 9:00:55 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: Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]
Cc: Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]; Daniel Bateyko[dbateyko@stanford.edu]; [REDACTED] 51 @uw.edu]; Mike Caulfield[mica42@uw.edu]; Jeffrey T. Hancock[hancockj@stanford.edu]; Rachel Moran[remoran@uw.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 6/17/2022 3:25:52 PM
Subject: Re: EIP Meeting today (6/9) at 11:00am PT
Received: Fri 6/17/2022 3:25:54 PM

[REDACTED] 51 reached out to Sonoma County with a question as part of our verifying that claim... but we didn't communicate the risk to them, as far as I know.

Kate

On Jun 16, 2022, at 4:18 PM, Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu> wrote:

Weighing in late here but IIRC (pulling this from memory not notes) we didn't reach out to elections officials on too many cases. The example in ch. 2 of the report is captured on the ticket. I think there was one other smaller case where we reached out to liaisons through the ticket. I don't remember any communication with Sonoma directly but I know we amplified their public fact check on twitter.

—
Elena Cryst
Assistant Director
Stanford Internet Observatory

<https://io.stanford.edu>

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Date: Saturday, June 11, 2022 at 2:20 PM
To: Renee DiResta <rdirresta@stanford.edu>
Cc: Daniel Bateyko <dbateyko@stanford.edu>, [REDACTED] 51 @uw.edu, Mike Caulfield <mica42@uw.edu>, Jeffrey T. Hancock <hancockj@stanford.edu>, Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>, Rachel Moran <remoran@uw.edu>
Subject: Re: EIP Meeting today (6/9) at 11:00am PT

[REDACTED] 51 called Sonoma County to get a statement on whether their ballots had been mailed out yet. But they recorded that with some cryptic notes that we're trying to unwind and we may have had other contact as well.

It was September 25. Early. So yes, you may still have been on maternity leave.

Kate

On Jun 11, 2022, at 2:00 PM, Renee DiResta <rdirresta@stanford.edu> wrote:

In nearly all cases I think that should show up in the ticket tags, no? If we are reaching out to govt participants or platform participants, it will. Was there outside outreach on Sonoma? (I think I was on maternity leave for that one, I don't remember the specifics...)

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>

Sent: Friday, June 10, 2022 10:17 AM

To: Daniel Bateyko <dbateyko@stanford.edu>

Cc: Renee DiResta <rdirresta@stanford.edu>; [REDACTED] 51 [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@uw.edu>; Mike Caulfield <mica42@uw.edu>; Jeffrey T. Hancock <hancockj@stanford.edu>; Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>; Rachel Moran <remoran@uw.edu>

Subject: Re: EIP Meeting today (6/9) at 11:00am PT

Also, I want to capture something that came up in our Slack channels. We should create some contact of form or documentation process for any time one of our analysts (likely at Tier 2) reaches out to official sources (e.g. for notification and/or verification). We're trying to reconstruct when and who we called for the Sonoma Ballots case, and we're can't perfectly put together than timeline. It would be really helpful for future reporting especially around impact.

(Perhaps there was a mechanism and we just didn't know it.)

Kate

On Jun 10, 2022, at 10:08 AM, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

Hi Daniel,

I'm sorry we missed this. Mike and I were speaking at an conference with election officials in Spokane. In any case, I'd love to hear how this conversation turned out.

My sense is that we want to be fairly inclusive, but also strategic in how we add partners and need a set of guidelines for mutual awareness between our two teams. For cases where we're not sure about whether an organization is the right partner for us, I think a process for raising a discussion with the full group would be helpful.

Also, I think you can remove [REDACTED] 51 [REDACTED] from this meeting now. All have graduated/moved on from the project.

Thanks!
Kate

On Jun 9, 2022, at 10:14 AM, Daniel Bateyko <dbateyko@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi all,

For today's meeting, I want us to discuss for a moment how we should go about bringing in new stakeholders to EIP. As we start to receive more requests asking us to take tips or share data, what should our internal approval process look like?

I will walk through our latest conversation with the Brennan Center as an example of the kinds of requests being made and to spark conversation on how UW and SIO can structure an approval process.

As always, please feel free to raise any questions or agenda items.

The link to the meeting notes is [here](#). The link to the Zoom is [here](#).

Best,
Dan

--

Dan Bateyko (he/him)
Special Projects Manager, Stanford Internet Observatory
dbateyko@stanford.edu

To: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
Cc: Daniel Bateyko[dbateyko@stanford.edu]; [REDACTED] 51 @uw.edu]; Mike Caulfield[mica42@uw.edu]; Jeffrey T. Hancock[hancockj@stanford.edu]; Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]; Rachel Moran[remoran@uw.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Sat 6/11/2022 9:20:22 PM
Subject: Re: EIP Meeting today (6/9) at 11:00am PT
Received: Sat 6/11/2022 9:20:23 PM

[REDACTED] 51 called Sonoma County to get a statement on whether their ballots had been mailed out yet. But they recorded that with some cryptic notes that we're trying to unwind and we may have had other contact as well. It was September 25. Early. So yes, you may still have been on maternity leave.

Kate

On Jun 11, 2022, at 2:00 PM, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu> wrote:

In nearly all cases I think that should show up in the ticket tags, no? If we are reaching out to govt participants or platform participants, it will. Was there outside outreach on Sonoma? (I think I was on maternity leave for that one, I don't remember the specifics...)

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2022 10:17 AM
To: Daniel Bateyko <dbateyko@stanford.edu>
Cc: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>; [REDACTED] 51 @uw.edu]; Mike Caulfield <mica42@uw.edu>; Jeffrey T. Hancock <hancockj@stanford.edu>; Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>; Rachel Moran <remoran@uw.edu>
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Also, I want to capture something that came up in our Slack channels. We should create some contact of form or documentation process for any time one of our analysts (likely at Tier 2) reaches out to official sources (e.g. for notification and/or verification). We're trying to reconstruct when and who we called for the Sonoma Ballots case, and we're can't perfectly put together than timeline. It would be really helpful for future reporting especially around impact.

(Perhaps there was a mechanism and we just didn't know it.)

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On Jun 10, 2022, at 10:08 AM, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

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From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 6/10/2022 5:17:02 PM
Subject: Re: EIP Meeting today (6/9) at 11:00am PT
Received: Fri 6/10/2022 5:17:03 PM

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Special Projects Manager, Stanford Internet Observatory
dbateyko@stanford.edu

To: Daniel Bateyko[dbateyko@stanford.edu]
Cc: Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]; John Perrino[perrino@stanford.edu]; Ronald Edward Robertson[ronalder@stanford.edu]; 51 @uw.edu; Mike Caulfield[mica42@uw.edu]; Jeffrey T. Hancock[hancockj@stanford.edu]; Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]; Rachel Moran[remoran@uw.edu]; jporteno@uw.edu[jporteno@uw.edu]
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Dan

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Dan Bateyko (he/him)
Special Projects Manager, Stanford Internet Observatory
dbateyko@stanford.edu

To: Wardle, Claire[claire_wardle@brown.edu]
Cc: Renee DiResta[renee.diresta@gmail.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Fri 6/10/2022 10:44:27 PM
Subject: Re: First Draft update
Received: Fri 6/10/2022 10:44:28 PM

Hi Claire,

Congratulations on the new position and the launch of the Information Futures Lab! It's great to hear that you've been able to find a place for our team and your critical work!

I think we'd be excited to connect sometime over the next few weeks or months to hear more about your plans and see if there are opportunities for collaboration and/or mutual support. We (Stanford and UW) are planning an EIP 2022 for the midterm elections — and we're still putting partnerships of various kinds in place around both our rapid response mission and some work with election officials and others to help them map our anticipated threats and plan their responses.

On a slightly separate note, I'm reaching out to folks in our network to let you all know about another role that I have with a request for support. I'm part of the CISA advisory board and leading a subcommittee on "mis- and disinformation around elections". Our subcommittee is small, but includes me, Vijaya Gadde, and Suzanne Spaulding. And our first set of recommendations are due out in less than two weeks (June 22). I can't say much specifically about them until they're released, but this first set is mostly around scoping their mission and around how to build societal resilience to mis- and disinformation through education (both generally around tactics and around elections specifically). With the attacks on Twitter (and Vijaya specifically) and the DHS's clumsy attempt at a "Disinformation Governance Board" — we're worried about bad faith actors building upon those discourses to try to undermine the work we're doing. We're reaching out to folks in our networks to give you awareness of our mission — and a heads up that we're expecting some criticism. Any support when that criticism comes would be much appreciated! I'd also love to hear insights either of your might have or to answer questions and respond to good faith criticism. We're hoping to get these recommendations right!

Cheers,
Kate

On Jun 10, 2022, at 11:57 AM, Wardle, Claire <claire_wardle@brown.edu> wrote:

Hi both - hope you're surviving and managing to stay sane.

I'm writing to share some news. On Tuesday we're announcing the launch of the Information Futures Lab at Brown University. I was invited to join the faculty of the School of Public Health at the end of last year, and they supported me in bringing the whole of the First Draft team to continue our mission there.

The support from the University is exactly what we need to scale our work and impact. If you want to stay up to date, we have a number of ways you can do that at [this link](#).

The First Draft website and resources will stay put for a while as we're partnering with the Internet Archive to make the site permanently accessible. There's a lot of important research and training materials hidden in that site!

Please keep the news to yourself until Tuesday, but I wanted to make sure I gave you a heads up.

Thanks so much for all of your support to date and I hope we can continue to work together in our new home.

Best wishes
Claire



claire_wardle@brown.edu



To: rdirستا@stanford.edu[rdirستا@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 6/28/2022 6:09:13 PM
Subject: Delayed Response | Media Contact RE: Trope Tracker for today's primary
Received: Tue 6/28/2022 6:09:13 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. Additionally, I am going to be out of office from July 1 to July 18 (and at a conference July 19-22). During that time, I will not be responding to email messages.

If this is an urgent request about the Center for an Informed Public, please contact our Director of Strategy and Operations, Julia Scanlan (jccarter@uw.edu). 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: Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]; Michael Grass[megrass@uw.edu]
Cc: Jeffrey T. Hancock[hancockj@stanford.edu]; Emma Spiro[espiro@uw.edu]; Jevin West[jevinw@uw.edu]
From: Renee DiResta
Sent: Thur 4/28/2022 3:19:29 AM
Subject: Re: SATC meeting: Project slide review
Received: Thur 4/28/2022 3:19:39 AM

I don't see the icon that's troubling you. But I also don't see color? It's all in greyscale. This is what I'm getting.

Rapid-Response Frameworks for Mitigating Online Disinformation

W CENTER FOR AN INFORMED PUBLIC
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

Stanford | Internet Observatory
Cyber Policy Center

Collaborative Research: SaTC: CORE: Large: 2120496

PIs (UW): Kate Starbird, Emma Spiro, Jevin West

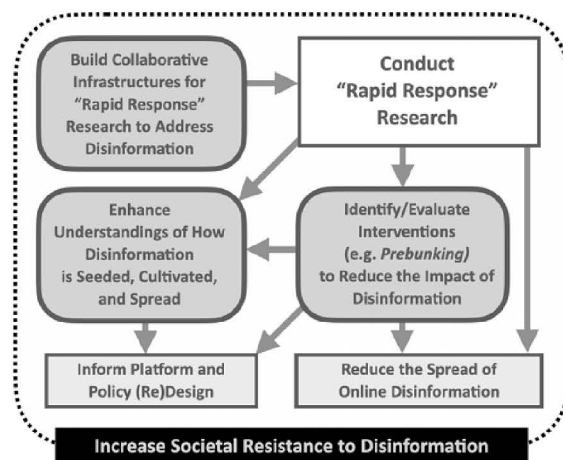
PI (Stanford): Jeff Hancock, Renee DiResta (Investigator)

CHALLENGE

- Pervasive disinformation (false or misleading information, intentionally seeded/spread for financial or political gain) is a critical challenge for society – undermining science, public health and democracy.
- **How can we address disinformation at the speed/scale of the problem?**

SOLUTION

- Apply mixed-method approaches to understand how disinformation takes shape and spreads online.
- Develop and evaluate “rapid response” methods for quickly detecting, analyzing, and addressing disinformation.
- Develop collaborative frameworks for researchers to work with journalists, community partners, and election officials to rapidly address emergent disinformation campaigns.



SCIENTIFIC IMPACT

- Enhance empirical and conceptual understandings (e.g., *participatory disinformation*) of the seeding, production, and spread of disinformation.
- Identify and evaluate “real-time” pathways for intervention and mitigation.

BROADER IMPACT

- Mitigate online disinformation.
- Inform (re)design of platforms to increase societal resilience to disinformation.
- Inform the development of policies to reduce the spread and impact of online disinformation.

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 5:12 PM
To: Michael Grass <megrass@uw.edu>
Cc: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>; Jeffrey T. Hancock <hancockj@stanford.edu>; Emma Spiro <espiro@uw.edu>; Jevin West <jevinw@uw.edu>
Subject: Re: SATC meeting: Project slide review

Thanks Michael. I’ve tried to follow your flow, but also add some consistency for mapping shapes/colors to activities vs outcomes. Here’s a V4.

There’s seems to be a “do not” icon hovering on my version of the slides. Anyone else see that? Any ideas for getting rid of it?

Kate

On Apr 27, 2022, at 3:46 PM, Michael Grass <megrass@uw.edu> wrote:

Here's another version (v3, see attached), where I've rebuilt the graphic. This currently doesn't have any color (shades of gray) nor does it incorporate any of the Twitter network graphs mapping out amplification. I hope the workflow visualization progression generally works. Although it may be possible, it's likely tough to incorporate more visual elements without decreasing the point size of the text. But I can tinker some more using this general approach (trying to fit everything within a squarish layout for the graphic).

-- Michael

From: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>

Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 1:51 PM

To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Jeffrey T. Hancock <hancockj@stanford.edu>

Cc: Michael Grass <megrass@uw.edu>; Emma Spiro <espiro@uw.edu>; Jevin West <jevinw@uw.edu>

Subject: RE: SATC meeting: Project slide review

Conceptually, I think the key points are there and like Jeff's suggestions for the language shift around replacing "takes root". I think the new non-oval version looks good. Could potentially do the flow across the entire top (the input -> analysis -> outputs -> impacts flow) and then split into 2 columns below, since the text is tighter. But I like this layout.

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Jevin West <jevinw@uw.edu>

Subject: Re: SATC meeting: Project slide review

The original bottom-up flow was an adaptation to the template which had a vertical oval shape, but since we've moved that around a bit and lost that constraint, I think we could do left to right. That's originally how I built it before adjusting to their template.

Is there anything conceptually missing or another direction you all might propose? Or just another iteration on that same flow (with the suggested adjustments)?

Kate

On Apr 27, 2022, at 10:06 AM, Jeff Hancock <hancockj@stanford.edu> wrote:

Thanks for putting this together. I think the text parts look good with a few suggestions:

- can we replace "takes root" in scientific impact with something more science-y? I think a strength of the project is looking at genesis as well as spread (most others look at campaigns that have already taken off). So an empirical contribution of the rapid response is getting data on genesis in real time (proactive) rather than in post hoc or retrospective. Could be as simple as "examining the genesis of disinformation campaigns and what properties lead it to spread"
- add evaluate to "identify and evaluate pathways for intervention and mitigation"

I also struggled with the image, in part because the text is small but its also a bit crowded (but trust me, I know how hard these are to design!). My only suggestion would be to consider a more left to right flow, with inputs like building the reporting infrastructure flowing into the core rapid response analysis, with direct outputs from that being something like "inform stakeholders" "identify and evaluation"

interventions" and then far right kinda higher level/societal/indirect outputs being "reduce spread of disinfo" "increase resilience to disinfo" and "advance disinformation science"

Feel free to reject any or all of those suggestions, but as the newbie to the team with an overly simplistic view, it's how I think of the project, and the input -> analysis -> outputs -> impacts flow is more legible to NSF types.

Not sure the figures are necessary, but they do look great and could fit nicely into outputs section.

Also, I'm going to be traveling back to Canada on Thursday so will miss our meeting this week. Back next week.

Congrats Renee on a great panel last week and hope the conversation with Obama went great. Couldn't ask for a better speech to support this project (worth noting somewhere?).

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

On Wed, Apr 27, 2022 at 9:31 AM Michael Grass <megrass@uw.edu> wrote:

I'll tinker with this a bit more this afternoon, will attempt to re-create the graphic in a way to fit the space better and (hopefully) more readable.

-- Michael

From: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 7:48 AM
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Cc: Jeffrey T. Hancock <hancockj@stanford.edu>; Emma Spiro <espiro@uw.edu>; Jevin West <jevinw@uw.edu>
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Thanks! At a minimum we could possibly reduce some of the white space to increase text size a bit in the image. I just tried it using this version but the subcomponents have already been grouped. Here is an attempt.

From: Michael Grass <megrass@uw.edu>
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To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Cc: Jeffrey T. Hancock <hancockj@stanford.edu>; Emma Spiro <espiro@uw.edu>; Jevin West <jevinw@uw.edu>
Subject: RE: SATC meeting: Project slide review

Here's a reworked version (see attached .pptx file), with the text from the four subheaded sections realigned, and the graphic shifted to the top-right of the slide. As for the graphic itself, the readability issues remain, but there's not a lot of room to work with if they're looking for a graphic that fits into the larger scientific domain.

-- Michael

--

Michael Grass (he/him)
Assistant Director for Communications
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: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 5:04 PM
To: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Cc: Michael Grass <megrass@uw.edu>; Jeffrey T. Hancock <hancockj@stanford.edu>; Emma Spiro <espiro@uw.edu>; Jevin West <jevinw@uw.edu>
Subject: Re: SATC meeting: Project slide review

Ya... they want a graphic that demonstrates how our project fits into the larger (scientific) domain. I don't know what to do with that. Any ideas are welcome!!

(Michael is just reorganizing the text and flow. No changes to the graphic yet... so if you have ideas here, please share them!)

Kate

On Apr 26, 2022, at 4:56 PM, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu> wrote:

I just looked, but will wait to make any changes since I see Michael was working on it today. I think conceptually it makes sense, and my main "design" feedback was all around readability of the center portion.

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2022 7:05 PM
To: Michael Grass <megrass@uw.edu>
Cc: Jeffrey T. Hancock <hancockj@stanford.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>; Emma Spiro <espiro@uw.edu>; Jevin West <jevinw@uw.edu>
Subject: Re: SATC meeting: Project slide review

Thank you, Michael!

Kate

On Apr 25, 2022, at 4:00 PM, Michael Grass <megrass@uw.edu> wrote:

I've set some time aside on Tuesday to tinker with and polish the PowerPoint template for the SaTC slide and will aim to share a new version with you on Wednesday.

-- Michael

--

Michael Grass (he/him)
Assistant Director for Communications
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: Sunday, April 24, 2022 11:39 AM
To: Jeffrey T. Hancock <hancockj@stanford.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>; Emma Spiro <espiro@uw.edu>; Jevin West <jevinw@uw.edu>
Cc: Michael Grass <megrass@uw.edu>
Subject: SATC meeting: Project slide review

Hi folks,

For our upcoming SaTC meeting (in June), they've asked that we submit a project slide that will likely be shown in a shared deck featuring all the projects. They provided a template and I tried to create something — adapting our last slide and some new products to their template. Please take a look and see what you think. Definitely adjust anything that seems amiss. And if you have a better idea for how to use that center space graphically, please suggest — or even better, provide an alternative!

Also, I hate Powerpoint (I'm a Keynote user), so anything you can do to help the appearance here would be fantastic. The NSF provided the circular template with the four sections. I'll attach their template slide to give a sense of their request.

The slide is due May 2, but I'm planning on submitting something this coming week.

Thanks!!
Kate

<SaTC_PI_Meeting_Starbird_Slide_Grassv3-2022.pptx>

To: Kate Starbird[kstarbi@uw.edu]; Jeffrey T. Hancock[hancockj@stanford.edu]
Cc: Michael Grass[megrass@uw.edu]; Emma Spiro[espiro@uw.edu]; Jevin West[jevinw@uw.edu]
From: Renee DiResta
Sent: Wed 4/27/2022 8:50:30 PM
Subject: RE: SATC meeting: Project slide review
Received: Wed 4/27/2022 8:50:36 PM

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From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 4/28/2022 12:12:41 AM
Subject: Re: SATC meeting: Project slide review
Received: Thur 4/28/2022 12:12:43 AM
[SaTC PI Meeting Starbird Slide Grass-2022-v4.pptx](#)

Thanks Michael. I've tried to follow your flow, but also add some consistency for mapping shapes/colors to activities vs outcomes. Here's a V4.

There's seems to be a "do not" icon hovering on my version of the slides. Anyone else see that? Any ideas for getting rid of it?

Kate

On Apr 27, 2022, at 3:46 PM, Michael Grass <megrass@uw.edu> wrote:

Here's another version (v3, see attached), where I've rebuilt the graphic. This currently doesn't have any color (shades of gray) nor does it incorporate any of the Twitter network graphs mapping out amplification. I hope the workflow visualization progression generally works. Although it may be possible, it's likely tough to incorporate more visual elements without decreasing the point size of the text. But I can tinker some more using this general approach (trying to fit everything within a squarish layout for the graphic).

-- Michael

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To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Jeffrey T. Hancock <hancockj@stanford.edu>
Cc: Michael Grass <megrass@uw.edu>; Emma Spiro <espiro@uw.edu>; Jevin West <jevinw@uw.edu>
Subject: RE: SATC meeting: Project slide review

Conceptually, I think the key points are there and like Jeff's suggestions for the language shift around replacing "takes root". I think the new non-oval version looks good. Could potentially do the flow across the entire top (the input -> analysis -> outputs -> impacts flow) and then split into 2 columns below, since the text is tighter. But I like this layout.

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Is there anything conceptually missing or another direction you all might propose? Or just another iteration on that same flow (with the suggested adjustments)?

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- can we replace "takes root" in scientific impact with something more science-y? I think a strength of the project is looking at genesis as well as spread (most others look at campaigns that have already taken off). So an empirical contribution of the rapid response is getting data on genesis in real time (proactive) rather than in post hoc or retrospective. Could be as simple as "examining the genesis of disinformation campaigns and what properties lead it to spread"
- add evaluate to "identify and evaluate pathways for intervention and mitigation"

I also struggled with the image, in part because the text is small but its also a bit crowded (but trust me, I know how hard these are to design!). My only suggestion would be to consider a more left to right flow, with inputs like building the reporting infrastructure flowing into the core rapid response analysis, with direct outputs from that being something like "inform stakeholders" "identify and evaluation interventions" and then far right kinda higher level/societal/indirect outputs being "reduce spread of disinfo" "increase resilience to disinfo" and "advance disinformation science"

Feel free to reject any or all of those suggestions, but as the newbie to the team with an overly simplistic view, it's how I think of the project, and the input -> analysis -> outputs -> impacts flow is more legible to NSF types.

Not sure the figures are necessary, but they do look great and could fit nicely into outputs section.

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Congrats Renee on a great panel last week and hope the conversation with Obama went great. Couldn't ask for a better speech to support this project (worth noting somewhere?).

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<SaTC_PI_Meeting_Starbird_Slide_Grassv3-2022.pptx>

Rapid-Response Frameworks for Mitigating Online Disinformation

W CENTER FOR AN INFORMED PUBLIC
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

Stanford | Internet Observatory
Cyber Policy Center

Collaborative Research: SaTC: CORE: Large: 2120496

PIs (UW): Kate Starbird, Emma Spiro, Jevin West

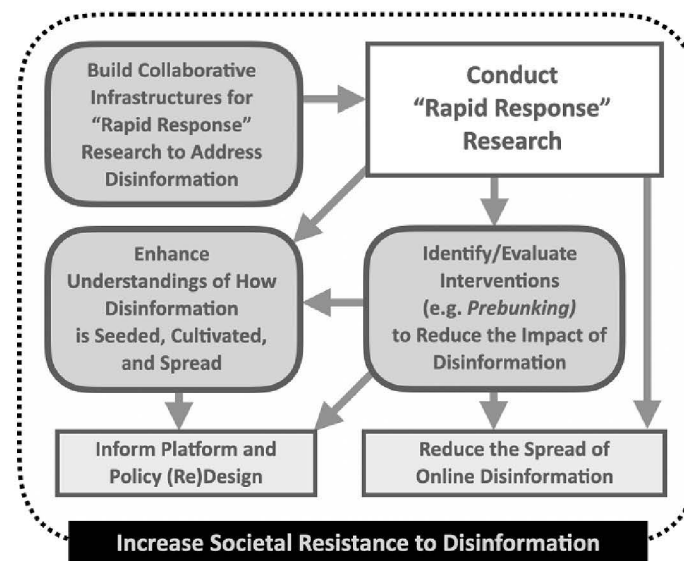
PI (Stanford): Jeff Hancock, Renee DiResta (Investigator)

CHALLENGE

- Pervasive disinformation (false or misleading information, intentionally seeded/spread for financial or political gain) is a critical challenge for society – undermining science, public health and democracy.
- **How can we address disinformation at the speed/scale of the problem?**

SOLUTION

- Apply mixed-method approaches to understand how disinformation takes shape and spreads online.
- Develop and evaluate “rapid response” methods for quickly detecting, analyzing, and addressing disinformation.
- Develop collaborative frameworks for researchers to work with journalists, community partners, and election officials to rapidly address emergent disinformation campaigns.



SCIENTIFIC IMPACT

- Enhance empirical and conceptual understandings (e.g., *participatory disinformation*) of the seeding, production, and spread of disinformation.
- Identify and evaluate “real-time” pathways for intervention and mitigation.

BROADER IMPACT

- Mitigate online disinformation.
- Inform (re)design of platforms to increase societal resilience to disinformation.
- Inform the development of policies to reduce the spread and impact of online disinformation.

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From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 4/27/2022 12:04:17 AM
Subject: Re: SATC meeting: Project slide review
Received: Wed 4/27/2022 12:04:18 AM

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Sent: Mon 4/25/2022 11:04:35 PM
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Sent: Thur 4/28/2022 3:19:56 PM
Subject: Re: tropes paper?
Received: Thur 4/28/2022 3:19:57 PM

I would bring in Mike Caulfield here, because he's been pushing on this. He has a pretty fascinating blog on the topic and has been working to map some of our election work (dissecting the different claims) to tropes.

Kate

On Apr 28, 2022, at 8:09 AM, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi! This came up again in my chat with Cameron yesterday, too. I really think it's something worth pursuing. His research assistant referenced the paper that Beth from Jigsaw had done on a codebook for anti-vaccine misinformation with some folks from Oxford. I said I'd found that, plus the Kata & Smith papers, immensely helpful from the standpoint of establishing how persistent and long-term the vaccine safety/efficacy/toxicity arguments have actually been. I would very much like to do something similar with election tropes. That paper is here: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34300005/>

There is also a paper Sinan Aral just put out on novelty, which I am currently reading, and it has me thinking about our way of describing the familiarity-novelty-repetition elements of these common tropes.

Our work on getting this going has been pretty informal/discussion-stage as there were other things in the queue, but I'm happy to start pulling together an outline.

From: Jeff Hancock <hancockj@stanford.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 1:53 PM
To: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>; Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Subject: tropes paper?

Hi Renee and Kate,
I wanted to check and see what the status of your tropes in disinfo paper is (I think you mentioned you are working on something like that). The idea has come up several times in conversation, including most recently with one of my PhD students, and it reminded me to check on it. Happy to provide any feedback - seems like an important topic!

Jeff

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

To: rdirستا@stanford.edu[rdirستا@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 4/26/2022 11:56:33 PM
Subject: Delayed Response | Media Contact RE: SATC meeting: Project slide review
Received: Tue 4/26/2022 11:56:33 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.

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 4/20/2022 8:22:22 PM
Subject: Delayed Response | Media Contact Re: Obama
Received: Wed 4/20/2022 8:22:22 PM

Thank you for your message.

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Kate

To: Renee DiResta[renee.diresta@gmail.com]
Cc: Jeff Hancock[hancockj@stanford.edu]; Emma Spiro[espiro@uw.edu]; Jevin West[jevinw@uw.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Sun 4/10/2022 6:42:06 PM
Subject: Re: SaTC PI meeting
Received: Sun 4/10/2022 6:42:08 PM

LOL. See you there!
Kate

On Apr 10, 2022, at 9:19 AM, Renee DiResta <renee.diresta@gmail.com> wrote:

Coincidentally it seems I committed to doing a keynote at this event...so I am 100% going to be there. :)

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 9, 2022, at 3:46 PM, Jeff Hancock <hancockj@stanford.edu> wrote:

I'll unfortunately won't be able to attend. I'll be at our main comm conference in Paris and won't get back until after.

Happy to help with the slide/poster prep etc.

--Jeff

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

On Sat, Apr 9, 2022 at 12:14 PM Renee DiResta <renee.diresta@gmail.com> wrote:

Oh, I'm already there. I'll calendar it.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 9, 2022, at 11:16 AM, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

DC. This upcoming one is the first week of June:

<https://cps-v.o.org/group/satc-pimtg22/participantguidance>

Kate

On Apr 9, 2022, at 9:38 AM, Renee DiResta
<renee.diresta@gmail.com> wrote:

I should probably know this, but where are the meetings?

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 9, 2022, at 9:07 AM, Kate Starbird
<kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

Hi folks,

I'm looking over the materials for the SaTC PI meeting coming up in June. Here's a couple of things I've noticed:

- Each institution needs to send at least one PI or senior research personnel to at least one meeting during the full term of the research
- We need to prepare a slide for the grant (due May 2)
- It's recommended that we prepare a poster and a video. (We might skip this until next year when we have more to report.)

I'm planning on attending this year, however I might only attend the first half so I can get back for an election officials event in Seattle on Thursday (June 2). I believe Jevin is planning on attending as well.

Kate

To: Renee DiResta[renee.diresta@gmail.com]
Cc: Emma Spiro[espiro@uw.edu]; Jevin West[jevinw@uw.edu]; Jeffrey T. Hancock[hancockj@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Sat 4/9/2022 5:15:45 PM
Subject: Re: SaTC PI meeting
Received: Sat 4/9/2022 5:15:46 PM

DC. This upcoming one is the first week of June:
<https://cps-vo.org/group/satc-pimtg22/participantguidance>

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From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Sat 4/9/2022 3:07:33 PM
Subject: SaTC PI meeting
Received: Sat 4/9/2022 3:07:35 PM

Hi folks,

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To: John Perrino[perrino@stanford.edu]
Cc: Mike Caulfield[mica42@uw.edu]; Daniel Bateyko[dbateyko@stanford.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]; Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 4/26/2022 8:39:40 PM
Subject: Re: Scheduling an EI-ISAC/EIP call
Received: Tue 4/26/2022 8:39:43 PM

We have have Mike represent UW, if that's the only time you have.

Kate

On Apr 26, 2022, at 12:16 PM, John Perrino <perrino@stanford.edu> wrote:

Apologies for the back-and-forth here!

I wish there was a way to include everyone for this call, but this is the only time we could find with CIS, bending our schedules so we could talk before they start their campaign with outreach to local and state officials.

Let us know if there's any other availability the rest of this week or next week, Kate and Mike!

Best,
John

John Perrino
Policy Analyst
Stanford Internet Observatory
650-304-8897
[@stanfordio](#) | [@JCPerrino](#)
[Subscribe to SIO updates!](#)
Time Zone: Eastern Time (ET/UTC-5)

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2022 6:52 PM
To: John Perrino <perrino@stanford.edu>
Cc: Mike Caulfield <mica42@uw.edu>; Daniel Bateyko <dbateyko@stanford.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdirresta@stanford.edu>; Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: Scheduling an EI-ISAC/EIP call

I can't meet next M-W (May 2-4) due to travel. Would like to attend this if possible.

Kate

On Apr 25, 2022, at 1:59 PM, John Perrino <perrino@stanford.edu> wrote:

Thank you, Mike!

Next Tuesday, May 3 at 2 PT works for the CIS team and you should have an updated calendar invite for that time.

Best,
John

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From: Mike Caulfield <mica42@uw.edu>
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2022 3:58 PM
To: John Perrino <perrino@stanford.edu>; Daniel Bateyko <dbateyko@stanford.edu>; Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Cc: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>; Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: Scheduling an EI-ISAC/EIP call

Hi John --

We actually have a research group that meets every week from 12:45-2:30 on Thursday and Friday, so I cannot make that time. Next week I can meet Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday after 2.

From: John Perrino <perrino@stanford.edu>
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2022 12:41 PM
To: Mike Caulfield <mica42@uw.edu>; Daniel Bateyko <dbateyko@stanford.edu>; Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Cc: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>; Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>
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Hi Mike,

Our team couldn't make the Monday time, but we want to make sure you are able to attend.

Do you have any availability from 1 - 3 PT this Thursday, April 28? If not, are there times that work for you early next week to connect with the CIS/EI-ISAC team?

Best,
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From: Mike Caulfield <mica42@uw.edu>

Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 12:23 PM
To: Daniel Bateyko <dbateyko@stanford.edu>; Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; John Perrino <perrino@stanford.edu>
Cc: Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>; Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: Scheduling an EI-ISAC/EIP call

Hi -- I actually can't make this time as it overlaps with our directed research group meeting. I could make the Monday time.

From: Daniel Bateyko <dbateyko@stanford.edu>
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2022 2:51 PM
To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; John Perrino <perrino@stanford.edu>
Cc: Mike Caulfield <mica42@uw.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>; Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: Scheduling an EI-ISAC/EIP call

Thanks, John. Thursday slot also works for me.

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dbateyko@stanford.edu

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Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 3:30 PM
To: Daniel Bateyko <dbateyko@stanford.edu>; Jeffrey T. Hancock <hancockj@stanford.edu>; John Perrino <perrino@stanford.edu>; Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>; Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Mike Caulfield <mica42@uw.edu>
Subject: UW/SIO Standing Meeting
When: Thursday, April 28, 2022 2:00 PM-3:00 PM.
Where: <https://stanford.zoom.us/j/94281655031?pwd=VUZjV3QzdVhLeDBVYUhhRSTZlFVcUT09>

This is a standing meeting between UW and SIO to discuss Election Integrity Partnership planning and 2022 efforts. I have scheduled an hour meeting to start, but we can adjust as necessary. Meeting notes and our weekly agenda are available at the Google doc linked below:

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Password: 31

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From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 4/25/2022 10:52:31 PM
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Best,
John

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Or Telephone:

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

Meeting ID: 942 8165 5031

Password: 31

To: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 3/28/2022 9:04:41 PM
Subject: Fwd: Written statement check-in survey
Received: Mon 3/28/2022 9:04:43 PM
[CGRS House Homeland Security on MPP 2022.3.1\[86\].pdf](#)
[CHIRLA Statement MPP for House Homeland Security Committee - March 2 2022.pdf](#)
[HOPE Statement for House Homeland Security Committee Hearing.pdf](#)
[HRF Statement for Record Remain in Mexico March 2022.pdf](#)
[WRC Remain in Mexico Statement 3.2.2022.pdf](#)
[HHRG-117-GO02-20211208-SD003.pdf](#)

Kate

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Conroy, Meghan" <Meghan.Conroy@mail.house.gov>
Subject: **Written statement check-in survey**
Date: March 24, 2022 at 7:56:10 AM MDT
To: "Prasanna, Sandeep" <Sandeep.Prasanna@mail.house.gov>, "Glick, Jacob" <Jacob.Glick@mail.house.gov>, "Conroy, Meghan" <Meghan.Conroy@mail.house.gov>

Good morning,

The Select Committee is grateful for your willingness to provide a written statement on your area of expertise. We look forward to reviewing what you've put together. In the meantime, we ask that you do the following:

- **By EOD Monday, March 28th, please fill out [this survey](#)** so we know where things stand with regard to your submission to the Select Committee.

- We were originally referring to your statements for the record as "written testimony." Because written testimony usually accompanies oral testimony, we have decided to reframe what we're asking of you to be a statement for the record. We have attached several examples for your convenience. While the formatting of a statement may be different than that of written testimony, the substance should not need to change.

Thank you so much! We look forward to hearing from you.

All the best,
Meghan

Meghan Conroy
Investigator
Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol
U.S. House of Representatives
202-617-4663

Statement for the Record by the Center for Gender & Refugee Studies (CGRS)

“Examining the Court-Ordered Reimplementation of the Remain in Mexico Policy”

House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Border Security, Facilitation, & Operations

March 2, 2022

The Center for Gender & Refugee Studies (CGRS) defends the human rights of refugees seeking asylum in the United States. We undertake strategic litigation to advance sound asylum laws and protect due process rights. Our current docket includes federal lawsuits challenging anti-asylum border policies, including Remain in Mexico, and high-impact appellate cases that present opportunities to restore paths to protection. Additionally, we provide free expert consultation, comprehensive litigation resources, and cutting-edge training nationwide to attorneys and advocates working with asylum seekers. We also advocate for the fair and dignified treatment of asylum seekers and promote policies that honor our country’s legal obligations to refugees.

We are grateful that the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Border Security, Facilitation, & Operations is examining the court-ordered reimplementation of the Remain in Mexico policy, formally known by its Orwellian name, the “Migrant Protection Protocols” (MPP). We appreciate this opportunity to provide a statement for the record.

CGRS is deeply familiar with the cruelty and illegality of MPP, having challenged many aspects of its first iteration in *Innovation Law Lab v. Mayorkas* and *Immigrant Defenders Law Center et al. v. Mayorkas*. In both cases we represent individual plaintiffs who have experienced the horrors of Remain in Mexico firsthand and legal service providers who have struggled to represent them. CGRS has supported the Biden administration’s efforts to end the policy by submitting *amicus* briefs in *Texas v. Biden* before the [Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals](#) and the [Supreme Court](#).

Congress must recognize that Remain in Mexico violates U.S. and international law

When the Trump administration launched MPP in 2019, it completely upended longstanding practices towards people seeking asylum at the U.S. southern border. It was an unprecedented policy change that made it impossible for most asylum seekers arriving at the border to safely pursue their protection claims in the United States. MPP was widely criticized by U.S. legal experts, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) [employees](#), and

international bodies, including the [UN Refugee Agency \(UNHCR\)](#) and the [Inter-American Commission on Human Rights](#). They explained that, by returning asylum seekers to dangerous conditions and undermining their ability to mount a successful asylum case, MPP violated the United States' *non-refoulement* obligations under the 1967 Refugee Protocol and the Convention Against Torture – that is, our promise not to return people to persecution or torture. These commitments have been reflected in both statutory law and federal regulations.

The courts agreed. As counsel in *Innovation Law Lab v. Mayorkas*, CGRS successfully challenged the legality of the first version of MPP. In April 2019 the District Court for the Northern District of California granted a [preliminary injunction](#), which would have temporarily halted the policy. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals initially stayed the injunction – allowing MPP to remain in effect – but [restored](#) it in February 2020, ruling unequivocally that MPP violates both U.S. and international law. The Trump administration then appealed to the Supreme Court, which put the injunction on hold as it considered the case, leaving the policy in place until the Biden administration formally terminated it in June 2021. Following the termination, the Supreme Court sent the case back to the district court, which vacated the injunction as moot. The case remains pending.

Reimplementation of MPP is based on the lower courts' misunderstanding of the facts and the law

The Biden administration's decision to terminate MPP was based on a sound analysis of the law and recognition of the untenable conditions created by the policy. DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas' second memorandum terminating MPP [cited](#) copious evidence that the policy's humanitarian and due process defects were “endemic to the program's design” and beyond reform. In contrast, the legal positions adopted by the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas, and upheld by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, grossly distorted the law and the facts. If the Supreme Court allows the Fifth Circuit's decision to stand, it will send a dangerous message that a single court ruling can arbitrarily override laws enacted by Congress.

CGRS joined partners in submitting an *amicus* brief on behalf of non-profit organizations and former immigration judges in *Biden v. Texas*, supporting the administration's decision to terminate Remain in Mexico. Our *amicus* brief highlights fatal flaws in the lower court decisions, which fault Secretary Mayorkas for failing to consider MPP's “benefits”— namely, its purported success in deterring migration and fraudulent asylum claims. The evidence in the case reveals the opposite to be true. No matter what cruel policy the Trump administration devised – from family separation, to MPP, to Title 42 – violence and insecurity in their home countries have continued to force people to seek refuge in the United States. MPP merely denied asylum seekers safe access to the U.S. immigration court system, trapping desperate families and adults in precarious conditions that exposed them to further violence and depriving them of a meaningful opportunity to present their asylum claims.

Far from bringing greater integrity to the asylum process, the program's procedural deficiencies, compounded by the inherent dangers in northern Mexico, made it impossible for most asylum seekers to access legal representation and prevented many from even making it to immigration court. Under the Trump administration, only seven percent of people placed in Remain in Mexico were able to obtain a lawyer, compared with 60 percent of asylum seekers applying inside the United States. As the sobering evidence in the *Texas* case shows, many placed in MPP were kidnapped at the time of their hearings and denied protection through no fault of their own. Of the nearly 70,000 asylum seekers enrolled in Trump's MPP, just [523](#) were granted asylum.

Remain in Mexico continues to cause incalculable violence and suffering

The Remain in Mexico policy has caused enormous harm to people seeking asylum. People returned to Mexico under MPP are frequently kidnapped and assaulted by cartels and other organized crime groups that regard asylum seekers as prime targets. Extortion of people subject to MPP is so routine, experts have [likened](#) the policy to "a stimulus package for cartels." Human rights investigators have documented numerous cases of pregnant women, children, LGBTQ+ people, and people with disabilities suffering horrific abuses after being returned to Mexico under MPP.

While the Biden administration pledged to make humanitarian improvements to the program, MPP 2.0 has been plagued with the same problems as the original policy. Conditions in Mexico remain incredibly dire for people seeking asylum. Since President Biden took office, Human Rights First has documented at least [8,705 public reports](#) of violent attacks – including rape, kidnapping, and murder – against people blocked from requesting protection at the U.S. border and/or expelled to Mexico under the Title 42 policy.

Unsurprisingly, in MPP 2.0's first two months of implementation, 88 percent of asylum seekers placed in the program have expressed fear of return to Mexico. Border officials have [rejected](#) 75 percent of these fear claims, despite copious evidence of the harm that befalls asylum seekers forced back over the border. Human rights investigators report that the Biden administration is returning even people who have already experienced severe violence in Mexico.

The *Texas* case does not preclude the Biden administration from providing redress to those subjected to MPP 1.0

Even while the *Texas v. Biden* case proceeds, CGRS and our partners continue to litigate a separate case, *Immigrant Defenders Law Center et al. v. Mayorkas*, which challenges ongoing harms suffered by asylum seekers who remain stranded outside the United States due to the effects of the policy's first incarnation under Trump. Individual plaintiffs in the case recently filed a motion for class certification, requesting that they be allowed to represent a

class of similarly situated individuals who had their cases terminated or received final removal orders after being deprived of meaningful access to the U.S. asylum process under MPP 1.0. Our lawsuit alleges that the Biden administration unnecessarily and unlawfully suspended the wind-down process that had previously enabled many such individuals to re-enter the United States to pursue their asylum claims.

The following quotes and excerpts from our plaintiffs' declarations offer a glimpse of the horrific circumstances facing asylum seekers returned to Mexico. Their experiences represent just the tip of the iceberg that is the profound trauma inflicted by Remain in Mexico under both the Trump and Biden administrations.

- “My daughter and I lived in horrible conditions in the migrant camp in Matamoros, and I was kidnapped and raped while we waited in Mexico for my immigration court hearings,” our plaintiff Dania Doe stated in her declaration. “I thought we were going to die ... I begged [U.S. officials] not to return us to Mexico, but they did not listen ... I was never able to find an attorney to represent me in my immigration case, and the immigration judge denied my asylum claim.”
- “Nobody explained why they were returning us to Mexico or what would happen,” our plaintiff Sofia Doe stated in her declaration. “I missed my third immigration hearing because I was experiencing complications with a high-risk pregnancy and had just been released from the hospital. As a result, my family and I received in absentia removal orders. In addition, my husband was assaulted while he was working in Mexico, and he has now been missing since early December ... I feel alone, afraid, and trapped in Mexico.”
- “I would never wish this experience on anyone,” our plaintiff Francisco Doe said in a recent [statement](#). “It has been so difficult since the first day, when they just left us here to survive by ourselves. People don't know about the suffering we've experienced here. I just want to be safe and reunited with my family in the U.S.”
- “MPP was such a lie because I never had any opportunity to present my case,” our plaintiff Gabriela Doe said in a recent [statement](#). “I am so frustrated and scared, and I am so afraid that something will happen to me here in Mexico. This has been so difficult for me, especially since I am just trying to protect my young daughter and have nevertheless seen her suffer because of MPP. This has been the terror of our lives, and I just want our lives to continue and to free my daughter of this agony. We are in agony every day, being in limbo and not knowing what we can do.”

Conclusion

Federal law, as well as our treaty commitments, require the United States to ensure that noncitizens are not returned to countries where they face persecution or torture. Congress must ensure through oversight and appropriations that the inhumane and unlawful

Remain in Mexico policy is ended, once and for all. Congress should also ensure that the Biden administration does everything in its power to mitigate the harms of MPP 1.0 by providing redress to people subjected to the original version of the policy and ensuring that they have a meaningful opportunity to present their claims for protection.



CHIRLA
Coalition for Humane
Immigrant Rights

March 2, 2022

Chair Nanette Diaz Barragán
Committee on Homeland Security
Subcommittee on Border Security, Facilitation and Operations
Washington, DC 20515

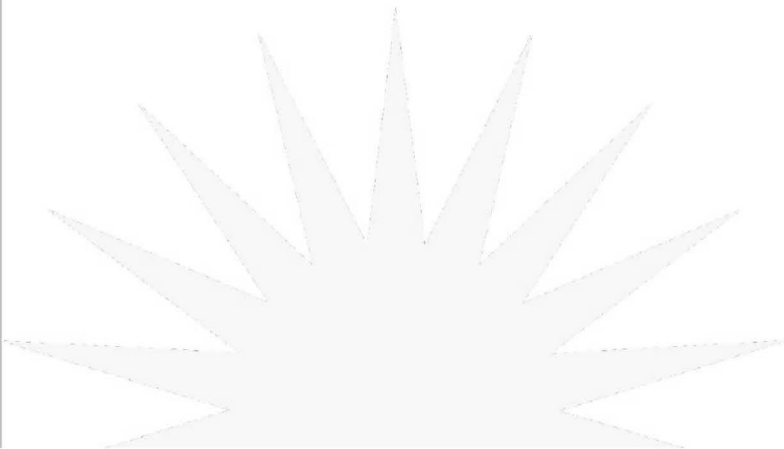
Ranking Member Clay Higgins
Committee on Homeland Security
Subcommittee on Border Security, Facilitation and Operations
Washington, DC 20515

Chair Bennie Thompson
Ranking Member John Katko
Committee on Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20515

**Re: Hearing “Examining The Court-Ordered Reimplementation Of The
Remain In Mexico Policy”**

Dear Chairs Barragán & Thompson & Ranking Members Higgins & Katko:

On behalf of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA), the largest statewide immigrant rights organization in California, I submit this statement for the record for today’s hearing entitled “*Examining The Court-Ordered Reimplementation Of The Remain In Mexico Policy.*” As an organization serving the immigrant community for the past 35 years, CHIRLA has worked to gain and maintain both trust and credibility as a reliable source of





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accurate information of events both in California and south of the U.S. - Mexico border.

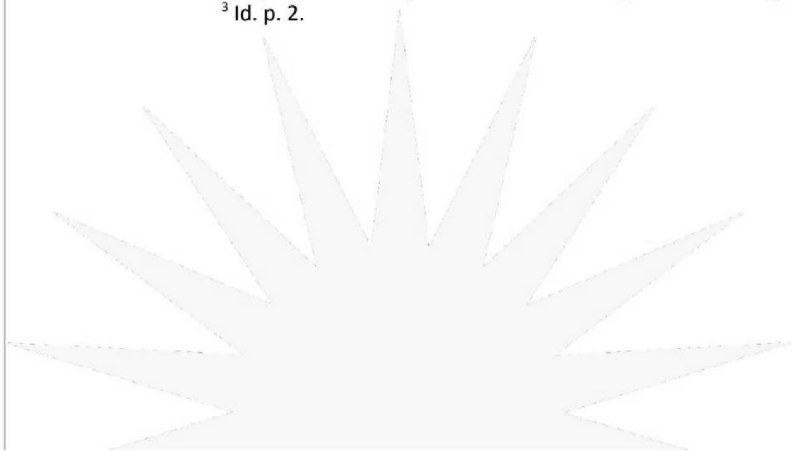
Since December 2018, CHIRLA has monitored both the initial “Remain in Mexico” policy (Migrant Protection Protocols, MPP 1.0) and more recently the impact of the court-ordered re-implementation of MPP 2.0. In both instances, CHIRLA bears witness to how the Orwellian nomenclature used for this program is wholly matched by the sheer cruelty of its impact on immigrants who are put through its grinding process.

Indeed, CHIRLA’s base analysis of MPP is mostly shared by the Biden Administration, and this is what makes the ongoing court-ordered implementation, which is effectively an extension of MPP, both baffling and disconcerting. As a candidate, President Biden identified MPP as the first “detrimental asylum policy” that needed to be ended.¹ After first suspending new enrollments in MPP, pursuant to Executive Order 14010, DHS Secretary Mayorkas on June 1, 2021 and then again on October 29, 2021 issued memos on the “termination” on MPP.² The basic reason for the termination was the clear and convincing evidence of MPP “**imposing substantial and unjustifiable human costs on the individuals who were exposed to harm while waiting in Mexico.**”³

¹ <https://joebiden.com/immigration/>.

² https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/21_1029_mpp-termination-memo.pdf.

³ Id. p. 2.





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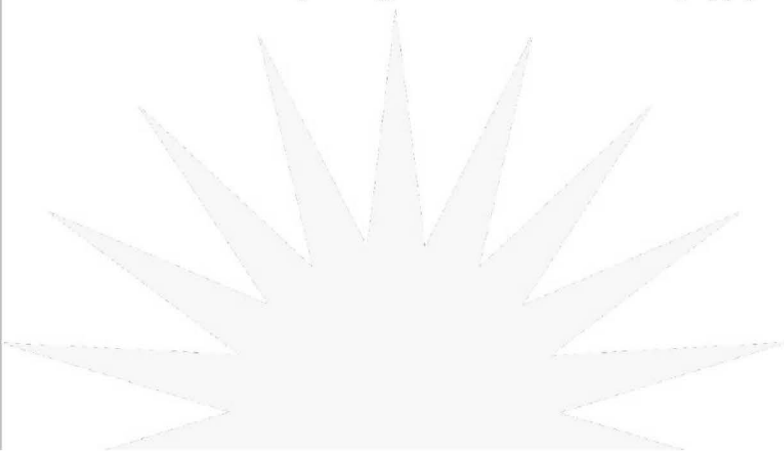
CHIRLA's Role in Mexico

Since 2017, CHIRLA has run an international program based in Mexico, from the border with the United States, to Mexico City and currently in Tapachula, Chiapas near the border with Guatemala. In the course of this work, CHIRLA's team regularly encounters MPP enrollees as well as other immigrant victims of the U.S. asylum system's decimation.

CHIRLA's Perspective on Policy Solutions

Aside from the ongoing multi-year process, led by the Biden Administration and Vice President Kamala Harris, of dealing with the root causes in Central America and elsewhere that compel immigrants to migrate, we believe there are *immediate* actions that the federal government can take to improve the situation. These include:

1. **First Reduce the Scope of MPP 2.0 and then Terminate It (Again)**
There is no reason for the Biden Administration to have expanded the eligible pool beyond MPP 1.0's Spanish-speaking countries and Brazil. The expansion will impact e.g. Haitians, already being expelled en masse using Title 42.
2. **End the Use of Title 42 to Expel Immigrants Arriving at the Border.**
Title 42 remains the central pillar of the anti-asylum regime built by the Trump Administration. While this has been ended for children, it has not for families arriving together or for single adults..
3. **Restitution for Victims of MPP 1.0 and 2.0**
The Biden Administration in its initial wind down of MPP allowed *pending* MPP enrollees to actually apply for asylum, with some 13,000





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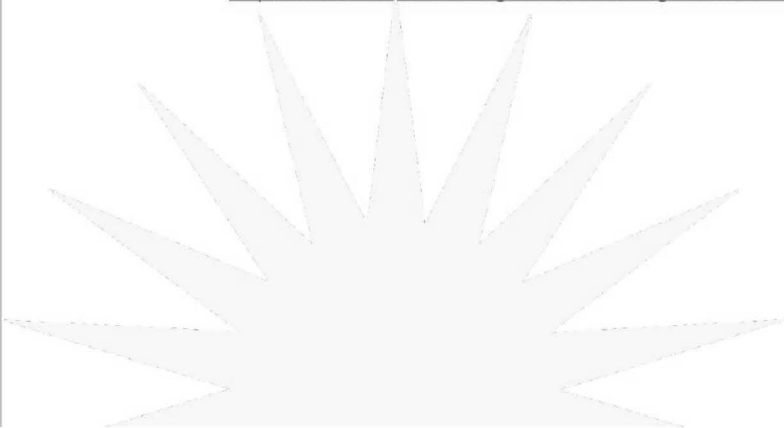
being processed into the United States for further adjudication. However, there are tens of thousands of other MPP victims who missed court hearings due to fear, kidnapping and more and were thus ordered deported in absentia. These individuals also need an option to apply for asylum as was their original intent.⁴

Idel Antonio - Victimized by MPP 2.0

Recently, a member of the CHIRLA family has been subject to the cruelty and arbitrariness of MPP 2.0. His name is Idel Antonio, and this is his story:

- He participated in the protests against the Cuban Government in November 2021. He has since been targeted and has seen friends jailed;
- Despite not wanting to leave Cuba, where he has 3 young children, fear of the government compelled him to leave;
- In Mexico, he endured extortion, constant movement around the country, corrupt officials, and attempted kidnappings;
- Unaware of the new MPP, and out of fear of persecutors in Mexico, he attempted to cross the border.
- He did not mention the full extent of the crimes he endured in Mexico, though he did express fear.
- Moreover, he was unable/unaware of the possibility of securing legal counsel, and therefore failed the fear interview and was placed in MPP 2.0.
- Although he was sent to a "permanent" shelter in Ciudad Juarez, he continues to live in fear of his Mexican persecutors;

⁴ <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/migrant-protection-protocols>.





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- Idel Antonio's case highlights the impossibility of "justly" implementing this monstrous program.

Thank you for considering CHIRLA's statement.

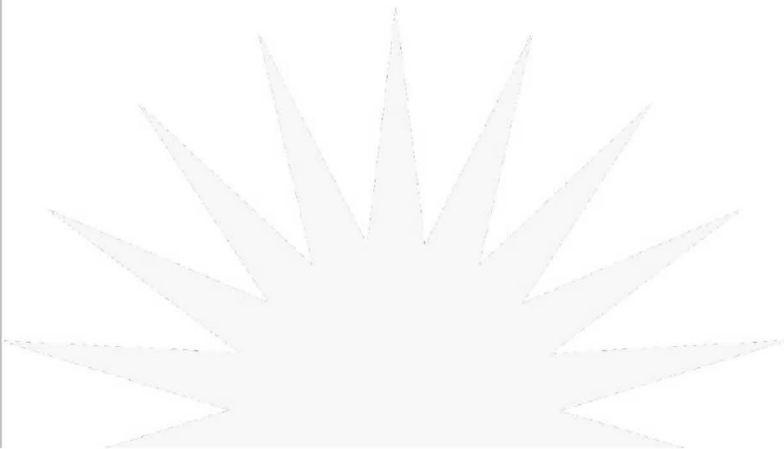
Please contact our General Counsel, Carl Bergquist, at cbergquist@chirla.org, and our International Program Manager, Arturo Viscarra, at aviscarra@chirla.org, should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Angelica Salas

Executive Director

Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)





**Statement for the Record
US House of Representatives, Committee on Homeland Security
Subcommittee on Border Security, Facilitation and Operations**

March 1, 2022

“Examining the Court-Ordered Reimplementation of the Remain in Mexico Policy”

The Hope Border Institute (HOPE) thanks the House Homeland Security Committee for holding a hearing on the reimplementation of Remain in Mexico. HOPE is a Catholic social justice organization working bi-nationally in El Paso, Texas and Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua to uphold the right to asylum and dignity for people on the move in our region. In addition to research and advocacy for asylum restoration and rights-respecting border policy, we operate the Border Refugee Assistance Fund to provide humanitarian support for migrants and asylum seekers forced to remain in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. As a borderland organization, we are all too familiar with the harms that result from the externalization of asylum and are advocating for a full restoration of the asylum system and an end to policies that deny people on the move access to US territory.

In 2019, the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) changed the landscape of asylum in our region. Over 20,000 people were placed into the first version of the program in El Paso and Ciudad Juárez, including highly vulnerable individuals such as families with children, indigenous people and mentally disabled people. The cruelty of the program lay in the fact that people were stranded with few resources in an extraordinarily dangerous environment where kidnapping, extortion, assault and other forms of violence against migrants were commonplace. Access to attorneys was severely limited and the challenge of navigating the complex asylum system while living in danger meant that pursuing and winning an asylum case was next to impossible.

The restart of MPP—and the unnecessary termination of the wind-down program, leaving thousands of people [stranded in Mexico with no opportunity for parole](#)—has been a devastating step backwards for asylum seekers. While the Biden administration is under court order to restart the program, its expansion to nationals of all Western Hemisphere countries and continued human rights violations during implementation are discouraging signs.

Changes to the structure of the program have not ameliorated serious concerns about human rights and dignity. MPP never has been and never will be a rights-respecting program. People we have spoken to and accompanied in both versions of the program describe compelling root causes that drove them from their homes, violence and extortion throughout their journey in Mexico, fear of being forced to stay in Mexico, and a desire to reunite with family in the US and build a new life in peace.

At the moment, with the Title 42 expulsion policy in place for the indefinite future, MPP has perversely become the only *de facto* opportunity for asylum at the US-Mexico border, an alarming fact because MPP is so deeply flawed and does not represent true access to asylum. This results in a discriminatory impact on those who are subject to Title 42 (such as people from Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras), while putting those who are subject to MPP in a deeply unsafe position where their chances of securing representation and winning an asylum case are extremely low. HOPE's research has documented some of these human rights concerns through conversations with individuals living in shelters and observation of MPP court proceedings.

Safety, Human Rights and Vulnerability

In January and February of this year, HOPE conducted interviews with asylum seekers who are currently enrolled in MPP and living in a shelter operated by the Mexican federal government in Ciudad Juárez. These interviews surfaced major concerns with the implementation of the program, in particular the impact on individuals' physical and mental health and their access to due process in court. Notably, most of those we interviewed fled home because of persecution and their political opposition to authoritarian governments in Nicaragua and Cuba that the US government has spoken out against.

- The asylum seekers described feeling deeply unsafe in Mexico and refused to leave the shelter for fear of being kidnapped or extorted. A significant number also expressed fear of living within the shelter due to the presence of Mexican police and soldiers and noted that the shelter was unhygienic, the food was inadequate and they did not have access to medical care while sick with illnesses like chickenpox. Despite requesting non-refoulement interviews and sharing their experiences with asylum officers of being extorted, robbed and kidnapped along the journey through Mexico, they were returned anyway.
- Many asylum seekers presented vulnerabilities that should have exempted them from MPP, including a Black indigenous man from Nicaragua whose dominant language is a dialect called Miskito, another man who is bisexual and one man who has a health issue in his lungs. Two of the men had expressed these vulnerabilities to asylum officers or immigration agents in the US but were returned to Mexico; the bisexual man was afraid to disclose his sexuality to asylum officers or immigration agents for fear of being discriminated against.
- The majority of those interviewed had left their country because of persecution related to political affiliation. One man from Nicaragua worked as an electoral count manager (*fiscal*) for an opposition political party. After raising inconsistencies with vote counts during the 2021 elections, police and paramilitaries stalked him at his home and he fled in fear of his life. He was experiencing major psychological distress after being placed in MPP and did not feel safe or well living in the shelter. Another man from Cuba worked as a math and



physics teacher and was persecuted for his refusal to participate in communist party activities and incorporate the party agenda into his curriculum. After he participated in the July 11-12 protests in Cuba, he was detained and questioned by police for a full day with no food or water, was fired from his job and said that state agents in civilian clothes from the *Comité de la defensa de la revolución* harassed his family at their home.

- People placed into MPP are given limited info packets about MPP and the asylum process, but the paperwork is in a mixture of Spanish and English, making it difficult for monolingual Spanish speakers to understand everything. One man from Cuba who was unrepresented said he was learning about asylum and preparing for his case by watching YouTube videos. Another person noted that he knows several people in MPP who cannot read or write, making it extremely difficult for them to prepare a case and understand the written materials they were given.
- Many of those we interviewed described mental and physical health issues stemming from shelter conditions as well as an extreme fear of leaving the shelter for any reason. A particular concern was having to leave the shelter to obtain a COVID test in order to attend court. No transportation is offered to clinics or testing labs in Cd. Juárez, forcing them to leave the shelter against their will simply to meet the prerequisite for attending court.

Obstacles to Due Process in Court

In addition to interviews with people enrolled in the program, HOPE observed several days of MPP court proceedings in January and February of 2022.

- None of those we observed had legal representation. At least one man said that he had attempted to contact pro bono attorneys on the contact list but was unable to reach them.
- Nonprofit service providers in El Paso have declined to take on many MPP cases because of lack of capacity and obstacles to due process, but they are still listed on the pro-bono, low-cost legal access list. This gives respondents the impression that substantial legal services are available when in fact they are not.
- On January 31, two men from Colombia were deported in absentia after failing to appear for their court hearing in El Paso. Despite the fact that shelter and transportation to the ports of entry are coordinated with the Department of Homeland Security, the US State Department and the International Organization for Migration (and thus the government would presumably have information about why the men were unable to appear in court), no information was provided to the judge and the men were deported. This is especially

concerning because deportations in absentia were [frequent in the first version of MPP](#), often because individuals had been kidnapped on the way to ports of entry, had become ill or felt too unsafe to leave their residence to present at the ports.

- People in court expressed confusion about basic elements of the asylum process, such as which country's governments are involved in decision-making and whether requesting more time to find an attorney would prohibit them from having a non-refoulement interview about fear of return to Mexico.
- People in court were anxious to express fear of return to Mexico and ensure they would have non-refoulement interviews (NRI's). Government [data on MPP](#) reveals that following initial enrollment in January 2022, 89% of individuals requested non-refoulement interviews (NRI's), but 73% of the NRI's resulted in a negative fear determination.
- Judges incorrectly asked respondents on several occasions whether they live in Casa del Migrante, a private shelter in Cd. Juárez that does not currently house people in MPP. Because "casa del migrante" can refer to both the specific Casa del Migrante or a generic "casa de migrante" or migrant shelter, respondents have tended to answer the question in the affirmative when they are actually living in a federally operated shelter with a different name.

It is clear from our research that grave human rights issues are still present within the Migrant Protection Protocols and that new safeguards to ensure the safety, wellbeing and due process of people in the program are not adequate. The program's founding intent was to deny access to asylum and to make people so desperate and unsafe in Mexico that they would give up and return home. We can and must do better to offer protection to people fleeing from grave harm and looking to the United States as a last resort.

Recommendations

We recommend that Congress:

- End funding for the Migrant Protection Protocols.
- Work with the administration to resume the MPP wind-down process that was in place in 2021 to allow people in the first version of MPP to be paroled in from Mexico, from third countries and countries of origin.
- End Title 42 and a current patchwork approach to asylum protections at the border that discriminates based on nationality while leaving the most vulnerable at risk.



- Restore full access to asylum at ports of entry without resorting to metering and other forms of externalization, including reliance on NGO's to screen individuals in Mexico for extreme vulnerabilities.
- Build capacity to safely process asylum seekers at the border in a dignified manner and release people to reunite with family or sponsors in the US interior. This should not include mass detention or indefinite stays in processing facilities.
- Partner with community organizations in border communities to facilitate safe release and travel for asylum seekers. Expand funding for community-based case management systems that assist people in accessing social services at their destination and offer legal representation and support with attending court hearings.

The El Paso border community is ready and willing to welcome asylum seekers and people on the move with dignity, as we have done for generations. Putting vulnerable people who fled for their lives in harm's way and denying their right to seek protection on US soil is not the answer to changing migration patterns and the root causes of migration.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this statement.



Statement of the Women's Refugee Commission

Submitted to the House Committee on Homeland Security Subcommittee on Border Security, Facilitation, and Operations Hearing “Examining the Court-Ordered Reimplementation of the Remain in Mexico Policy”

Wednesday, March 2, 2022 at 2:00 PM

Dear Members of the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Border Security, Facilitation, and Operations:

The Women's Refugee Commission (“WRC”) submits this statement to the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Border Security, Facilitation, and Operations for the March 2, 2022 hearing, “Examining the Court-Ordered Reimplementation of the Remain in Mexico Policy.”

WRC is a non-profit organization that advocates for the rights of women, children, and families fleeing violence and persecution. We are leading experts on the needs of refugee women and children and the policies and programs that can protect and empower them. The Migrant Rights and Justice (“MRJ”) Program focuses on the right to seek asylum in the United States and strives to ensure that migrants and refugees, including women and children, are provided with humane reception in transit to and in the United States, given meaningful access to legal protection, and are protected from exposure to gender discrimination or gender-based violence.

Since 1996, MRJ staff have made numerous visits to the southwest border region, including along Mexico's northern border, as well as to immigration detention centers for adult women and families and to shelters housing unaccompanied children throughout the country. WRC has interviewed hundreds of detained women, families, and children seeking asylum in the United States.¹ Based on the information that we collect on these visits and our analysis of the

¹ Reports of our findings include: Women's Refugee Commission, *Prison For Survivors: The Detention of Women Seeking Asylum in the United States*, (2017); Women's Refugee Commission, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, and Kids in Need of Defense, *Betraying Family Values: How Immigration Policy at the United States Border is Separating Families*, (2017); Women's Refugee Commission and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, *Locking Up Family Values, Again: A Report on the Renewed Practice of Family Immigration Detention*, (2014); Women's Refugee Commission, *Migrant Women and Children at Risk: In Custody in Arizona*, (2010); Women's Refugee Commission, *Torn Apart by Immigration Enforcement: Parental Rights and Immigration Detention*, (2010); Women's Refugee Commission, *Innocents in Jail: INS Moves Refugee Women From Krome to Turner Guilford Knight Correctional Center*, (2001); Women's Refugee

laws and policies relating to these issues, we advocate for improvements, including by meeting with government officials and service providers and by documenting our findings through fact sheets, reports, backgrounders, and other materials. We make recommendations to address identified or observed gaps or ways in which we believe the corresponding department or agency can improve its compliance with the relevant standards.

We commend the Subcommittee for conducting this vital hearing. WRC, alongside scores of other faith, immigration, human rights, and organizations, agree with and have consistently corroborated Secretary of Homeland Security's assessment that the human toll that the Remain in Mexico ("RMX") policy causes is "intolerable."² Under the last iteration of the Remain in Mexico policy, over 70,000 individuals were sent back to wait for their U.S. immigration hearings in dangerous Mexican border cities.³ Advocates tracked over 1,500 kidnappings and other violent crimes that occurred to individuals in Remain in Mexico—some of which occurred while individuals were in transit to the port of entry for their U.S. court hearing.⁴ In the prior iteration of the policy, fewer than eight percent of individuals were able to secure access to legal counsel. Despite existing guidance exempting people with known physical or mental health issues from Remain in Mexico, WRC witnessed individuals with severe health conditions who were enrolled anyway.⁵ Without access to housing or other basic services in Mexico, thousands of individuals in Remain in Mexico were forced to wait in squalid conditions in makeshift migrant encampments.⁶

Commission, *Behind Locked Doors: Abuse of Refugee Women at the Krome Detention Center*, (2000); and Women's Refugee Commission, *Liberty Denied: Women Seeking Asylum Imprisoned in the U.S.*, (1997).

² Alejandro N. Mayorkas, *Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) Termination Memo* (Oct. 29, 2021), <https://www.dhs.gov/publication/migrant-protection-protocols-termination-memo>. See Women's Refugee Commission and IMUMI, *Stuck in Uncertainty and Exposed to Violence: The Impact of US and Mexican Migration Policies on Women Seeking Protection in 2021* (Feb. 2, 2022), <https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/research-resources/stuck-in-uncertainty-and-exposed-to-violence-the-impact-of-us-and-mexican-migration-policies-on-women-seeking-protection-in-2021/>; Women's Refugee Commission, *WRC Response to Request for Input on Family Separation* (Jan. 25, 2022), <https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/research-resources/wrc-response-to-request-for-input-on-family-separation/>; "Immigrants' Rights Organizations Urge the Biden Administration to Permanently End Remain in Mexico and Title 42 Policies," (Dec. 17, 2021),

<https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/research-resources/immigrants-rights-organizations-urge-the-biden-administration-to-permanently-end-remain-in-mexico-and-title-42-policies/>; Women's Refugee Commission, *Asylum Denied: Remain in Mexico 2.0* (Dec. 15, 2021),

<https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/research-resources/asylum-denied-remain-in-mexico-2-0/>; "Coalition Letter on US Department of Homeland Security's Stated Intention to Issue a New Memorandum Ending the Migrant Protection Protocols (Remain in Mexico) Program," (Oct. 14, 2021),

<https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/research-resources/coalition-letter-us-department-homeland-security-stated-intention-issue-new-memorandum-ending-migrant-protection-protocols-remain-in-mexico/>; "Urgent Actions the Biden Administration Must Take Following Supreme Court Decision on Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP)," (Aug. 30, 2021),

<https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/research-resources/urgent-actions-the-biden-administration-must-take-following-supreme-court-decision-on-migrant-protection-protocols-mpp/>; "Civil Society Organizations Call on the Mexican Government to Reject Any Reinstatement of Migrant Protection-Protocols (MPP)," (Aug. 24, 2021),

<https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/research-resources/civil-society-organizations-call-on-the-mexican-government-to-reject-any-reinstatement-of-migrant-protection-protocols/>.

³ U.S. Customs and Border Protection, *Migrant Protection Protocols FY2022*, <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/migrant-protection-protocols>.

⁴ Human Rights First, *Delivered to Danger* (Feb. 19, 2021), <https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/campaign/remain-mexico>.

⁵ Women's Refugee Commission, *Chaos, Confusion, and Danger: The Remain in Mexico Program in El Paso* (May 16, 2019), <https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/research-resources/chaos-confusion-and-danger/>.

⁶ See Nicole Narea, "The abandoned asylum seekers on the US-Mexico border," *Vox* (Dec. 20, 2019), <https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2019/12/20/20997299/asylum-border-mexico-us-iom-unhcr-usaid-migration-international-humanitarian-aid-matamoros-juarez>.

The former iteration of RMX also led to different forms of family separations. In some cases, families, including biological parents and children, were separated by Customs and Border Protection (“CBP”) through RMX. CBP would process some family members into the U.S. for their immigration proceedings and return other members to Mexico to wait for their U.S. court hearings. These separations inflicted immense irreparable trauma on families and created huge due process barriers during immigration proceedings. WRC documented numerous cases of this type of family separation.⁷ For example, CBP officials ripped apart Alvaro, an indigenous Guatemalan man who spoke little Spanish, and his son, Enzo, claiming that their birth certificates and documents were false. CBP sent Alvaro back to Ciudad Juarez through Remain in Mexico and Enzo to an Office of Refugee Resettlement shelter. It took nearly three months of anguish and the help of pro bono immigration attorneys for the father and son to be reunited. In other cases of family separation, for families who were returned to Mexico through RMX, parents were forced to make the impossible decision to send their children across the border to safety in the U.S.⁸ According to WRC’s analysis of CBP data on individuals entering the U.S. without inspection subsequent to being returned to Mexico under the prior iteration of RMX, 900 children crossed the U.S. southern border alone after being returned to Mexico with their families.⁹

In August 2021, a Texas judge ordered the Biden administration to restore RMX “in good faith.”¹⁰ The administration appealed that order and issued a new memo terminating RMX in October 2021.¹¹ We further expand on pressing issues concerning the reimplementing of Remain in Mexico below.

Expansion of nationalities eligible for enrollment in Remain in Mexico

Under the administration’s reinstatement of Remain in Mexico, individuals from all Western Hemisphere countries besides Mexico are subject to placement in the program, significantly expanding it.¹² Under the Trump administration, RMX was originally applicable only to Spanish speakers.¹³ However, the Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”) routinely returned individuals from Central and South America who spoke Indigenous languages to Mexico, and later began returning Brazilians under the program.¹⁴ The Biden administration’s decision to expand RMX, which was not ordered by the Court, and in particular its decision to include Haitians, is alarming. Haitian and other Black migrants and asylum-seeking

⁷ Women’s Refugee Commission, *Separation of families via the ‘Migrant Protection Protocols,’* (Aug. 20, 2019), <https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/research-resources/separation-of-families-via-the-migrant-protection-protocols/>.

⁸ Kids in Need of Defense, *Forced Apart: How the ‘Remain in Mexico’ Policy Places Children in Danger and Separates Families* (Feb. 24, 2020), https://supportkind.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/MPP-KIND-2_24updated-003.pdf.

⁹ U.S. Customs and Border Protection, *Migrant Protection Protocols FY2022* (see “Individuals Apprehended Entering the US Without Inspection Subsequent to Being Returned to Mexico through MPP”), <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/migrant-protection-protocols>.

¹⁰ *Texas v. Biden* (Aug. 13, 2021), <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/21042967-81321-ruling-in-texas-missouri-v-biden-administration>.

¹¹ Alejandro N. Mayorkas, *Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) Termination Memo* (Oct. 29, 2021), <https://www.dhs.gov/publication/migrant-protection-protocols-termination-memo>

¹² Robert Silvers, *Guidance regarding the Court-Ordered Reimplementation of the Migrant Protection Protocols* (Dec. 2, 2021), <https://www.aila.org/infonet/dhs-releases-guidance-on-court-ordered>.

¹³ Juany Torres, Priscilla Lugo, Emma Israel, and Jessica Eller, *Migrant Protection Protocols* (May 2020), <https://www.strauscenter.org/wp-content/uploads/MPP-Two-Pager-2020-4-1.pdf>.

¹⁴ TRAC Immigration, *Details on MPP (Remain in Mexico)* (Nov. 2021), <https://trac.syr.edu/phptools/immigration/mpp/>.

individuals face pervasive, targeted anti-Black racism and discrimination in Mexico and are at particular risk for harm upon return to Mexico.¹⁵

Failure to accurately exempt individuals based on vulnerabilities

In the newest iteration of Remain in Mexico, the U.S. government once again promised to exclude “vulnerable individuals” from the policy. In the prior iteration of RMX, a DHS Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (“CRCL”) report from 2019 revealed that CBP officers violated the DHS principles and sent individuals with medical issues back to Mexico.¹⁶ WRC also witnessed this violation firsthand, observing the case of a four-year-old Honduran child with Guillain-Barre syndrome who was nonverbal and could not walk on her own. Despite her obvious health issues, this child was nevertheless unconscionably placed into RMX with her mother and older sister.¹⁷

The new DHS policy guidance outlined exemptions from Remain in Mexico for individuals with known mental and physical health issues, advanced age, or those vulnerable to increased risk based on sexual orientation or gender identity. However, within the first month of the program’s reimplementation, attorneys identified more than two dozen individuals who were enrolled in the program who should have been exempted, including LGBTQ individuals and people suffering from known medical conditions.¹⁸ DHS created a redress mechanism where individuals placed in the RMX can request a review of their enrollment.¹⁹ However, DHS first returned some individuals to Mexico prior to the creation of this mechanism, and since then it is unclear if all individuals enrolled in RMX have been made aware of this mechanism. Furthermore, even a short period enrolled in the program for “vulnerable” individuals eligible for exemption could be dangerous for their safety and well-being.

Lack of due process and meaningful legal representation

WRC is deeply concerned that Remain in Mexico is fundamentally incompatible with due process²⁰ and that individuals in Remain in Mexico face nearly insurmountable hurdles in securing meaningful legal representation or accessing protection. The reimplementation of Remain in Mexico provides that individuals in the program are given 24 hours to consult an attorney prior to their non-refoulement interview (“NRI”) in CBP custody, but many are

¹⁵ S. Priya Morley et al., “*There is a Target on Us*” – *The Impact of Anti-Black Racism on African Migrants at Mexico’s Southern Border*, IMUMI and Black Alliance for Just Immigration (2021), <https://imumi.org/attachments/2020/The-Impact-of-Anti-Black-Racism-on-African-Migrants-at-Mexico.pdf>; S. Priya Morley et al., *A Journey of Hope: Haitian Women’s Migration to Tapachula, Mexico*, IMUMI, Haitian Bridge Alliance, and the Center for Gender and Refugee Studies (2021), <https://cgrs.uchastings.edu/sites/default/files/A-Journey-of-Hope-Haitian-Womens-Migration-to-%20Tapachula.pdf>.

¹⁶ Hamed Aleaziz, “A Leaked US Government Report Documents How People With Medical Conditions And Disabilities Were Forced Into The ‘Remain In Mexico’ Program,” BuzzFeed News (Oct. 21, 2021), <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/hamedaleaziz/leaked-report-remain-in-mexico-children>.

¹⁷ Women’s Refugee Commission, *Chaos, Confusion, and Danger: The Remain in Mexico Program in El Paso* (May 16, 2019), <https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/research-resources/chaos-confusion-and-danger/>.

¹⁸ Adolfo Flores and Hamed Aleaziz, “US Border Authorities Have Incorrectly Placed Immigrants With Medical Conditions In The Relunched ‘Remain In Mexico’ Program, Attorneys Say,” BuzzFeed News (Dec. 20, 2021), <https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/adolfoflores/us-border-authorities-wrongly-sought-to-force-asylum>.

¹⁹ U.S. Department of Homeland Security, *MPP Additional Resources* (Feb. 10, 2022), <https://www.dhs.gov/mpp-additional-resources>.

²⁰ Approximately 1% of individuals returned to Mexico in the first iteration of RMX were granted relief, an egregiously low grant rate that demonstrates the due process barriers inherent in the policy.

unable to reach an attorney in that time frame.²¹ In addition, CBP facilities generally lack confidential spaces for these sensitive consultations. The most recent DHS data shows that the majority of individuals are unable to consult an attorney during the NRI process and the majority of individuals who express fear are sent back to Mexico.²² In December 2021 and January 2022, while 87 to 89 percent of RMX enrollees claimed fear, about 75 percent of NRIs resulted in negative fear decisions. Advocates have documented that individuals in RMX have said they did not receive a clear explanation of the NRI process by CBP.²³

In addition, barriers to accessing legal support make it extremely difficult, if not nearly impossible, for RMX enrollees to have a fair opportunity to present their case in court. The prior implementation of RMX put attorneys who crossed into Mexico to meet with their clients in danger,²⁴ and many shelters in Mexico are not equipped to provide confidential meeting spaces. According to the DHS implementation guidance for the current iteration of RMX, “CBP will provide MPP enrollees information provided by the Department of State about where they can locate places in Mexico to engage in telephonic or video communications with counsel.” Virtual legal representation—including via videoconferencing on televisions or tablets—creates significant barriers for attorneys to effectively communicate with and represent their clients.²⁵

Safety concerns in Mexico

WRC and other civil society organizations are concerned that enrollees will continue to face significant risks and exposure to violence in northern Mexico while waiting for their cases to be heard in the United States. In December 2021, advocates documented that many of the first individuals enrolled in this iteration of Remain in Mexico suffered harm in Mexico, including kidnapping and violence at the hands of Mexican officials, before being selected for the program.²⁶ Since RMX’s reinstatement in December 2021, individuals have been returned to Matamoros (with government-provided transportation to Monterrey), Tijuana, and Ciudad Juarez, with the expectation that individuals will soon also be sent back to Nuevo Laredo. The State Department’s current Travel Advisory for Mexico includes a “Do Not Travel” warning level for the Mexican state of Tamaulipas (where Matamoros and Nuevo Laredo are located); a “Reconsider Travel” warning level for the Mexican states of Baja

²¹ Julia Neusner and Ana Ortega Villegas, “Nothing Humane About This Process:” *Biden Administration Launches “Remain in Mexico” Revamp at El Paso Port of Entry*, Human Rights First (Dec. 16, 2021), <https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/blog/nothing-humane-about-process-biden-administration-launches-remain-mexico-revam-p-el-paso-port>.

²² Office of Immigration Statistics at the Department of Homeland Security, *Migrant Protection Protocols Cohort Report* (Feb. 2022), https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2022-02/22_0215_plcy_mpp_cohort_report_feb2022.pdf.

²³ Yael Schacher, *MPP as a Microcosm: What’s Wrong with Asylum at the Border and How to Fix It*, Refugees International (Feb. 11, 2022), <https://www.refugeesinternational.org/reports/2022/2/10/mpp-as-a-microcosm-whats-wrong-with-asylum-at-the-border-and-how-to-fix-it>.

²⁴ Human Rights First, *Remain in Mexico Restart Threatens Safety of Attorneys and Humanitarian Workers* (Nov. 30, 2021), <https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/resource/remain-mexico-restart-threatens-safety-attorneys-and-humanitarian-workers>.

²⁵ Women’s Refugee Commission, *Asylum Denied: Remain in Mexico 2.0* (Dec. 15, 2021), <https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/research-resources/asylum-denied-remain-in-mexico-2-0/>.

²⁶ Human Rights First, *Inhumane Again: Remain in Mexico Rollout Confirms Endemic Flaws of Unfixable Policy* (Dec. 2021), <https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/sites/default/files/Inhumane%20Again-%20Remain%20in%20Mexico%20Rollout%20Confirms%20Endemic%20Flaws%20of%20Unfixable%20Policy.pdf>.

California (where Tijuana is located); and Chihuahua (where Ciudad Juarez is located), due to crime and kidnapping.²⁷ In 2021, the Mexican government classified Tijuana and Ciudad Juarez as the two most violent municipalities in Mexico due to the cities' high homicide rates.²⁸

Difficulties accessing services in Mexico

In the first iteration of Remain in Mexico, the U.S. and Mexican governments failed to fulfill their promise to ensure access to housing and services for individuals returned to Mexico. According to the DHS policy guidance for this iteration of Remain in Mexico, the Department of State will “assist in coordinating safe transportation in Mexico to and from the [ports of entry]” and coordinate with the Government of Mexico to ensure access to shelters in Mexico.²⁹ However, the Department of State has yet to publicly release details about assistance with transportation and shelter for individuals enrolled in Remain in Mexico, including the allocation of funding to international organizations.

The incomplete winddown of the first iteration of Remain in Mexico

From February to August 2021, the Biden administration worked in collaboration with international organizations, regional task forces, and local nonprofit organizations on a winddown process that allowed approximately 13,000 individuals returned to Mexico under the first iteration of Remain in Mexico policy to continue their immigration cases in the U.S. rather than waiting in Mexico. The Department of Homeland Security suspended the process due to the court order and said that it would not resume the winddown as long as the injunction remains in place, stranding families and adults who had been waiting in dangerous conditions in Mexico for their U.S. immigration proceedings since 2019.³⁰

Ongoing barriers to access to protection at the U.S. southern border

There are ongoing barriers to access to protection at the U.S.-Mexico border separate from Remain in Mexico's reimplementation. Since March 2020, a provision of health law has been misused to summarily block and expel most individuals arriving at the U.S. southern border, either back into Mexico or even directly to home countries where they may face persecution, including Haiti, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Brazil. This policy, known as Title 42, has been resoundly rejected by thousands of medical professionals,³¹ hundreds of civil society and human rights organizations,³² and more than one hundred Members of

²⁷ U.S. Department of State Bureau of Consular Affairs, *Mexico Travel Advisory*,

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/mexico-travel-advisory.html>.

²⁸ Lidia Arista, “En 22 de los 50 municipios prioritarios suben hasta 50% los homicidios dolosos,” *Expansión Política* (Jan. 20, 2022), <https://politica.expansion.mx/mexico/2022/01/20/en-22-municipios-prioritarios-suben-homicidios-dolosos>.

²⁹ Robert Silvers, *Guidance regarding the Court-Ordered Reimplementation of the Migrant Protection Protocols* (Dec. 2, 2021), <https://www.aila.org/infonet/dhs-releases-guidance-on-court-ordered>.

³⁰ Adolfo Flores and Hamed Aleaziz, “Remain In Mexico” Asylum-Seekers Thought There Was Hope Under Biden, But Despair Is Sinking Back In,” *Buzzfeed News* (Sept. 10, 2021),

<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/adolfoflores/asylum-seekers-remain-in-mexico-biden>.

³¹ Physicians for Human Rights, “1,300+ Medical Professionals from 49 U.S. States and Territories Call on CDC to End “Junk Science” Border Expulsion Policy” (Oct. 28, 2021),

<https://phr.org/our-work/resources/u-s-medical-professionals-demand-cdc-end-title-42/>.

³² “Immigrants’ Rights Organizations Urge the Biden Administration to Permanently End Remain in Mexico and Title 42 Policies” (Dec. 17, 2021),

Congress.³³ Due to Title 42, currently there is no way virtually no way for individuals to approach a port of entry and seek asylum,³⁴ leading people to cross the border along dangerous routes between ports of entry to seek safety.³⁵

Conclusion

Despite efforts to mitigate the harms of the policy, the reimplementation of Remain in Mexico has not resolved its fundamental flaws with the policy: individuals continue to wait for their U.S. immigration hearings in dangerous Mexican border cities; individuals continue to face near-insurmountable barriers to due process and meaningful access to legal representation; and the U.S. government has not consistently applied exemptions based on its own vulnerabilities guidance. We provide the following recommendations to Members of this Subcommittee regarding the reimplementation of Remain in Mexico.

Recommendations

- Members of Congress should conduct regular and robust oversight over the relevant agencies responsible for implementing Remain in Mexico to ensure that the Biden Administration takes all lawful and appropriate steps to uphold its promise to end the unlawful and dangerous policy once and for all and to ensure that:
 - The Department of Homeland Security renews its efforts to bring individuals subjected to the previous iteration of Remain in Mexico into the U.S. to continue their immigration cases in safety, rather than continuing to wait in Mexico.
 - The Department of Homeland Security continues to release monthly updates on the cohorts of individuals enrolled in RMX, and works to incorporate data from the Executive Office for Immigration Review (“EOIR”) on hearing outcome/legal representation and from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) on transfer outcomes for individuals disenrolled from RMX.
 - Customs and Border Protection properly and consistently screens individuals for potential exemptions from the Remain in Mexico program across sectors.
 - Customs and Border Protection does not interfere with access to legal representation during NRIs and provides confidential spaces for legal consultations prior to NRIs and immigration court hearings.
 - All relevant agencies, including the Department of State, disclose the amount of funding provided to international organizations to support individuals returned to Mexico in Remain in Mexico and release regular reports on the

<https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/research-resources/immigrants-rights-organizations-urge-the-biden-administrati-on-to-permanently-end-remain-in-mexico-and-title-42-policies/>.

³³ “Booker, Bush Lead 100 Congressional Colleagues in Urging President Biden to Reverse Inhumane Immigration Policies Impacting Black Migrants” (Feb. 16, 2022),

<https://www.booker.senate.gov/news/press/booker-bush-lead-100-congressional-colleagues-in-urging-president-biden-to-rev-erse-inhumane-immigration-policies-impacting-black-migrants>.

³⁴ Women’s Refugee Commission, *Restoring Access to Asylum: Safely Reopening Ports of Entry at the US-Mexico Border* (Oct. 19, 2021),

<https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/research-resources/restoring-access-to-asylum-safely-reopening-ports-of-entry-at-the-us-mexico-border/>.

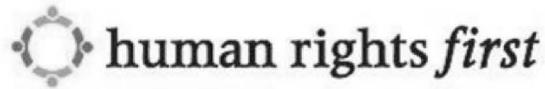
³⁵ David J. Bier, *How the U.S. Created Cuban and Haitian Illegal Migration*, Cato Institute (Feb. 15, 2022), <https://www.cato.org/blog/how-us-created-cuban-haitian-illegal-migration>.

support provided to individuals returned to Mexico, including transportation, housing, video and telephone conferencing, and know-your-rights sessions.

- The Department of Homeland Security works with the Department of State to track all reported kidnappings and other violent crimes suffered by individuals returned to Mexico in Remain in Mexico.
- Members of Congress should continue to conduct periodic monitoring trips to U.S. and Mexican border cities where individuals are returned to visit CBP facilities and Mexican shelters, immigration courts—including tent courts used for Remain in Mexico hearings—and to meet with international organizations and local legal and humanitarian service nonprofit organizations supporting or representing those in Remain in Mexico.
- We also urge Members of Congress, including this Committee, to ensure that DHS expeditiously takes steps to end the use of Title 42 expulsions and promptly restores access to asylum at the southern border, including at ports of entry.

We thank you for your consideration and time reviewing the Remain in Mexico policy's reimplementation. We look forward to engaging further with Members of this Subcommittee to ensure necessary oversight is conducted of this policy.

Sincerely,
Women's Refugee Commission



Statement for the Record

U.S. House, Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Border Security, Facilitation, and Operations

“Examining the Court-Ordered Reimplementation of the Remain in Mexico Policy”

March 2, 2022

Human Rights First thanks the House Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Border Security, Facilitation, and Operations for holding a hearing on “Examining the Court-Ordered Reimplementation of the Remain in Mexico Policy.”

Since 1978, Human Rights First has worked to protect and promote fundamental human rights. We have long advocated for U.S. compliance with international refugee and human rights law in addition to providing *pro bono* legal representation—in partnership with many of the nation’s leading law firms—to asylum seekers in U.S. asylum and immigration court proceedings. Since 2019, Human Rights First has issued a series of human rights reports ([March 2019](#), [August 2019](#), [October 2019](#), [December 2019](#), [May 2020](#), [December 2020](#), and [January 2022](#)) and factsheets ([January 2020](#), [April 2021](#), and [December 2021](#)) documenting the harms inflicted by the Remain in Mexico (RMX) policy and its reimplementation - as well as the similar Title 42 policy, which also evades the refugee laws enacted by Congress and endangers refugees seeking asylum. Human Rights First has also joined a series of amicus briefs in cases challenging the Remain in Mexico policy ([October 2020](#), [January 2021](#), [August 18, 2021](#), [August 23, 2021](#), and [September 2021](#)). In addition, Human Rights First’s attorneys have represented asylum seekers subjected to the RMX policy, including the [first](#) – and one of the very few – refugees who received asylum through the inherently flawed RMX.

The Biden administration has rightly [concluded](#) that significant due process issues are “endemic to the [RMX] program’s design” and that it should be ended. However, the administration’s stated position is at odds with its decision to [expand](#) the Remain in Mexico policy to include additional nationalities and its decision to evade refugee law by using the similarly dangerous Trump administration Title 42 policy to block and expel people seeking protection at the border. Use of these policies to circumvent international refugee protection obligations and U.S. refugee law is [counterproductive](#) and sets a dangerous example for other countries and future administrations. The United States should lead by example, upholding the right to asylum at its own borders as it looks to other countries to do the same – including as people flee from Ukraine in search of protection.

As outlined below, Congress has a critical role to play in ensuring that the executive branch and the Department of Homeland Security uphold and comply with the refugee laws that Congress enacted, as well as the Refugee Convention and its Protocol, and end Trump era policies that trample on those laws

and legal treaty commitments. Congress must hold the Biden administration accountable to its refugee protection obligations.

Remain in Mexico Endangers Migrants and Asylum Seekers

Returning migrants and asylum seekers to Mexico to await their U.S. immigration court hearings is dangerous and inhumane. Under the Trump administration, RMX resulted in massive human rights violations against migrants and asylum seekers forcibly returned to Mexico. During the two years that the Trump administration implemented RMX, Human Rights First tracked at least 1,544 publicly reported cases of kidnappings, murder, torture, rape, and other violent attacks against people returned to Mexico. They include a Honduran woman and her seven-year-old daughter who were abducted from inside the Mexican migration office in Nuevo Laredo immediately after DHS returned them to Mexico following an RMX immigration court hearing, a Salvadoran asylum seeker who was killed in Tijuana in November 2019 after having been returned under RMX, and a 19-year-old Cuban asylum seeker who was shot and killed in Ciudad Juárez in May 2021. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) concluded in its October 2021 memorandum terminating RMX that “significant evidence indicates that individuals were subject to extreme violence and insecurity at the hands of transnational criminal organizations that profited from putting migrants in harms’ way while awaiting their court hearings in Mexico.”

The Biden administration also continues to use the Trump-era Title 42 policy to block and expel migrants and asylum seekers to danger in Mexico and the countries they fled under the pretext of protecting public health-- a policy that the State Department’s top legal expert determined was illegal and has been repeatedly condemned as specious by leading public health experts. The U.S. Department of State advises American citizens to avoid travel to the very border regions of Mexico where asylum seekers are returned under Remain in Mexico and Title 42. As of February 2022, the Mexican border state of Tamaulipas remained at a designated Level Four “Do Not Travel” threat level as “[o]rganized crime activity – including gun battles, murder, armed robbery, carjacking, kidnapping, forced disappearances, extortion, and sexual assault – is common along the northern border” and “[h]eavily armed members of criminal groups often patrol areas of the state and operate with impunity, particularly along the border region from Reynosa to Nuevo Laredo.” In addition, the State Department advisory reports that in Baja California “[t]ransnational criminal organizations compete in the border area to establish narco-trafficking and human smuggling routes,” warns of “[b]attles for territory between criminal groups” in Chihuahua state which borders New Mexico and Texas, and acknowledges that to Arizona’s south “Sonora is a key location used by the international drug trade and human trafficking networks.”

Since President Biden took office, Human Rights First has tracked at least 8,705 additional reports of kidnapping, rape, human trafficking, torture, and other violent attacks against migrants expelled to or blocked in Mexico due to the Title 42 policy. Migrants and asylum seekers the Biden administration is returning to Mexico under RMX are forced to endure escalating dangers in Mexico. For example, in January 2022 a Venezuelan asylum seeker told Human Rights First he was beaten and robbed in Ciudad Juárez as he was returning to his shelter after obtaining a COVID-19 test to be able to attend his RMX hearing. Other RMX enrollees have been robbed in shelters in Mexico after DHS returned them. Mexican authorities, including police and immigration officers, perpetrate and refuse to investigate violent attacks against asylum seekers and migrants, including through collusion with powerful cartels that use their control over Mexican territory to kidnap, torture, and extort returned/expelled asylum seekers who are targeted due to their status as migrants as well as their race, gender, sexual orientation, and ties with family in the United States. These targeted attacks are not limited to the U.S.-Mexico border region.

Cartels and other organized criminal groups subject migrants and asylum seekers to kidnappings, extortion, and other violence throughout the country, including in central and southern Mexico.

Remain in Mexico Blocks Refugees from Asylum Protection and Cannot Provide Fair Access to the U.S. Asylum System

Under the Trump administration, RMX denied asylum seekers due process and drastically restricted access to counsel, legal information, and the ability of asylum seekers to attend and participate in their own immigration hearings. Just to reach U.S. immigration courts, asylum seekers were forced to risk kidnapping and violence. Many were abducted while traveling through border regions to attend hearings or directly outside ports of entry before or after their hearings. As a result of the policy's inherent flaws, *in absentia* removal orders were issued in at least 44 percent of RMX cases. Immigration judges have ordered asylum seekers in RMX deported when they missed court hearings even after being informed that the asylum seekers were kidnapped in Mexico. As a result of these dangers, refugees with protection needs have given up on their cases rather than risk their lives to attend court, and some have even returned to their home countries at risk of further persecution because of the harms they had suffered while trapped in Mexico.

Many U.S. attorneys and humanitarian groups have been unable to travel to dangerous Mexican border regions to represent asylum seekers stranded under RMX because of the risks to their safety. Their fears are justified. As Human Rights First explained in a November 2021 factsheet, U.S. based attorneys have been threatened with kidnapping and violence in connection with their representation of people in RMX. Given the many security, logistical, due process and ethical impediments to legal representation that are inherent to RMX, the vast majority of RMX returnees were not able to find lawyers, according to immigration court data analyzed by the Syracuse University Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC). As of December 2020, 97 percent of individuals in RMX whose cases had been decided did not have an attorney. By contrast, in non-RMX proceedings, only nine percent of non-detained asylum seekers whose cases concluded in fiscal year 2018 did not have legal representation at any point during their proceedings. Of the nearly 70,000 people placed in RMX under the Trump administration, only 523 people—less than one percent—were granted relief while in RMX.

The Biden Administration's Reimplementation of RMX Has Not Addressed the Policy's Fundamental, Unfixable Flaws

The inherently flawed RMX policy cannot be made safe, as its reimplementation by the Biden administration has already made clear. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers continue to return migrants and asylum seekers to grave danger in Mexico, including individuals who were previously harmed or threatened there, including by Mexican government officials. More than 90 percent of the more than 673 people placed by CBP in RMX since December 2021 are from Nicaragua (59 percent), Venezuela (23 percent), and Cuba (10 percent) - countries from which many are fleeing repressive regimes and deepening political and humanitarian crises. Very few have been able to find attorneys to represent them in immigration court to assist them in preparing their applications for asylum. The changes to RMX procedures implemented by the Biden administration cannot fix its fundamental flaws. Indeed, the UNHCR representative to the United States stated, in response to the reimplementation of RMX, that "the announced adjustments to the policy are not sufficient to address [UNHCR's] fundamental concerns" about the safety and due process rights of asylum seekers subjected to RMX.

Soon after its reinstatement in December 2021, the asylum officers' union described the RMX policy as "irredeemably flawed" and stated that its restart "makes our members complicit in violations of U.S.

federal law and binding international treaty obligations of non-refoulement that they have sworn to uphold." The Round Table of Former Immigration Judges wrote, "there has been no greater affront to due process, fairness, and transparency than the MPP, or "Remain in Mexico" policy. Instituted under the Trump Administration, it appears to have been motivated by nothing other than cruelty."

Return to Danger, Risk of Refoulement

CBP officers continue to return migrants and asylum seekers to grave danger in Mexico, including individuals who were previously harmed there, where they are at risk of onward refoulement by Mexican officials.

In a January 2022 report, "[A Shameful Record](#)," Human Rights First documented cases of people returned by CBP to Ciudad Juárez under RMX after severe harm in Mexico. For example, a Nicaraguan asylum seeker who had been recently kidnapped near the border in Mexico and tortured by electrocution and beatings for three weeks was sent back to Mexico by CBP in December 2021. Nearly all of the 16 RMX returnees Human Rights First interviewed in Ciudad Juárez in December 2021 reported having suffered violence, kidnappings, and/or extortion in Mexico – including at the hands of Mexican police or other government officers. Likewise, the Border Project, which provided legal consultations to individuals being returned to Ciudad Juárez in December 2021, reported that more than 70 percent of the 87 individuals that Border Project attorneys spoke to had been persecuted by Mexican police and other government officials. As the Border Project [noted](#) in a communication to Human Rights First, this level of violence by Mexican officials "raises serious concerns about the Biden administration's assurances that the Government of Mexico will assist in protecting the migrants returned" under RMX.

Asylum seekers returned to Mexico by the Biden administration are at grave risk of chain *refoulement*, i.e., illegal return, to countries where they would face persecution or torture. The Mexican government has [deported](#) asylum seekers whom the Biden administration had expelled or blocked from seeking U.S. protection under Title 42—including some who presented documentation showing they had legal status in Mexico. Though the Biden administration is offering to [bus](#) people returned to the dangerous border city Matamoros under RMX to Monterrey, a city in Mexico's interior, they remain at risk of violent crime or chain *refoulement*. For example, a Venezuelan asylum seeker told Human Rights First that Mexican police twice extorted him in Monterrey before he was placed in RMX and returned to Mexico in December 2021. This Venezuelan asylum seeker also reported that Mexican immigration authorities in Monterrey had threatened and forced him and other asylum seekers onto a bus to the south of Mexico, where Mexican immigration officers detained him, even though he had documentation showing he was legally present in Mexico. The asylum seeker was released in southern Mexico with instructions to leave Mexico within 10 days or face deportation to Venezuela.

Flawed Fear Screenings

RMX fear of return to Mexico screenings remain fundamentally flawed at every stage. The Biden administration has chosen to use a heightened screening standard, instead of the credible fear standard set by Congress for the expedited removal process, for RMX *non-refoulement* interviews (NRI). The "reasonable possibility" [standard](#) applied in these preliminary telephonic screenings is equivalent to what asylum seekers must show to establish eligibility for asylum after a full immigration court hearing. These interviews are conducted while individuals are being held - often for days - in freezing CBP holding cells and generally without counsel present—only [20 \(three percent\)](#) of 595 people in RMX who claimed fear of return to Mexico in December 2021 and January 2022 had an attorney present for their NRI. Unsurprisingly, few individuals have been found to have a fear of return to Mexico under RMX. According

to DHS data, 88 percent of migrants and asylum seekers placed in RMX in December 2021 and January 2022 expressed fear of return to Mexico, but only 14 percent of those screened were found to face “a reasonable possibility” of harm in Mexico, despite DHS’s own recognition that people in RMX are targeted for kidnappings and other violent crimes. The extraordinarily low percentage of individuals receiving positive RMX fear determinations under the Biden administration is nearly identical to when these screenings were conducted under an even more heightened standard by the Trump administration (13 percent of individuals subjected to RMX between January and October 2019 were found to have a fear of return to Mexico).

Information from the Border Project and Human Rights First interviews with individuals returned to Mexico under RMX indicate that CBP officers interfere with meaningful access to counsel for RMX fear screenings including by pressuring individuals in RMX to waive their opportunity to speak with an attorney, failing to inform individuals in RMX of their opportunity to access counsel prior to a *nonrefoulement* interview, and blocking individuals in RMX from hiring or consulting private legal counsel. Many individuals returned to Mexico in December 2021 described the *non-refoulement* interview as confusing and chaotic. They told Human Rights First that they did not understand the purpose of the interview and were unsure who they had spoken with on the phone during the interview. For instance, a Nicaraguan asylum seeker said that he had a conversation by telephone while detained in CBP custody but did not know whether he had spoken with a government official or had received a consultation with a legal office. Indeed, none of the 18 people Human Rights First interviewed in December 2021 after they were returned to Ciudad Juárez under RMX were certain whether they had spoken with a lawyer prior to being returned to Mexico, even though free legal consultations were available to anyone in RMX at the time.

Failure to Screen for Vulnerabilities

DHS has also returned to Mexico individuals with serious medical conditions and LGBTQ persons, despite DHS guidance exempting from RMX “those with a known mental or physical health issue” and “those at increased risk of harm in Mexico due to their sexual orientation or gender identity.” People with health issues wrongly returned by CBP to Mexico under RMX include a man with cancer. In December 2021 Human Rights First found that CBP officers were failing to ask health screening questions and falsely recording on the “Initial Health Interview Questionnaire” that migrants and asylum seekers placed in RMX have reported that they do not have any serious medical conditions. None of the 18 individuals in RMX who Human Rights First interviewed in Ciudad Juárez in December 2021 had been asked the 11 health screening questions on the form. Some were not asked any health-related questions, while others said that CBP officers inquired only generally about health issues. None of the RMX enrollees Human Rights First interviewed were asked any questions about their gender identity or sexual orientation.

Separating Families

CBP continues to separate families, returning some family members through RMX to danger in Mexico. In December 2021, the Border Project identified approximately 10 RMX returnees who had been separated from a spouse or adult children. One man who was returned to Mexico under RMX told the Border Project that he had been separated from his wife, who was six-months pregnant and suffering from epilepsy and asthma. A Venezuelan asylum seeker told Human Rights First that he had been separated from his adult brother and uncle approximately 10 RMX returnees who had been separated from a spouse or adult children. One man who was returned to Mexico under RMX told the Border Project that he had been separated from his wife, who was six-months pregnant and suffering from epilepsy and asthma. A

Venezuelan asylum seeker told Human Rights First that he had been separated from his adult brother and uncle. DHS has also used the illegal Title 42 expulsion policy to separate countless families.

Throwing Out Belongings

In addition, CBP is returning individuals without their belongings. Multiple individuals reported to Human Rights First that CBP officers discarded their personal possessions and that they were returned to Ciudad Juárez in December 2021 under RMX without their clothing, shoes, coats, or medication among other personal items – in violation of CBP's detention standards. This cruel and unnecessary practice exacerbates the challenges RMX enrollees face when left to wait for months in unfamiliar Mexican cities with few resources to support themselves.

Due Process Barriers, Lack of Representation

The Biden administration's reimplementation of RMX has not addressed its inherent due process denial. Like the first iteration of RMX, a very small number of individuals in RMX have managed to secure legal counsel. For example, only 6 percent (5 of 82) of asylum seekers had legal counsel when they appeared at the El Paso immigration court for the first two days of RMX hearings in early January 2022, according to a court observer with Refugees International. By comparison, 93 percent of asylum seekers had legal counsel in non-RMX asylum proceedings in Fiscal Year 2022 so far. Many asylum seekers returned to Mexico under RMX have reported that attorneys on the U.S. government-provided list of legal service providers are not taking RMX cases (often due to security concerns) or do not have capacity to assist them. RMX court observers in El Paso and San Diego report that the first RMX hearings were confusing and chaotic. Observers in both courts heard RMX enrollees tell judges that they tried but were unable to find legal counsel.

Since the Biden administration's reimplementation of RMX, immigration court judges have already issued in-absentia removal orders for some individuals who were not able to attend RMX hearings in January 2022. Judges rescheduled hearings for others who were unable to attend, but it is unclear how their new hearing dates will be communicated, as people in RMX often lack stable housing cannot always receive mail. Despite the Biden administration's claim that its version of RMX would be more transparent, DHS has limited access to RMX proceedings, improperly threatening an attorney monitoring RMX hearings in January 2022 with legal action for publicizing her observations (then later retracting the threat).

Remain in Mexico Is Illegal and Cannot Be Made Lawful

By returning asylum seekers to wait in danger in Mexico under the Remain in Mexico program, the U.S. government is violating U.S. immigration law and international treaty commitments to avoid *refoulement*. As extensive research by Human Rights First and other human rights groups have documented, the U.S. government's RMX policy (in addition to the Title 42 policy) returns people to highly dangerous regions of Mexico where they have subsequently faced, or are likely to face, horrific danger, including murder, rape, torture, kidnapping, human trafficking, and other violence. These returns violate the U.S. government's non-*refoulement* obligations under Article 33 of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (binding on the United States through its accession to the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees), the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and customary international law, which prohibit returning people to countries where they would be at risk of persecution, torture, or other serious harm.

Continuing Illegal Expulsions Under the Deadly Title 42 Policy

At the same time the Biden administration is using RMX to return people seeking U.S. humanitarian protection to Mexico, it continues to embrace and defend, rather than end, the Trump administration's [Title 42](#) policy, which misuses public health authority to violate U.S. *non-refoulement* obligations, block asylum at U.S. ports of entry, and expel people seeking refuge to danger in Mexico and the countries they fled. The suffering of families, adults, and children subjected to this policy continues to mount, with at least [8,705](#) kidnappings and other attacks on people blocked or expelled to Mexico under Title 42 since President Biden took office. Since September 2021, the Biden administration used this policy to illegally expel more than [18,000](#) Haitians to life-threatening insecurity in Haiti. The U.S. Department of State's top legal expert, former Yale Law School Dean Harold Koh, resigned from the Department in October 2021 after [concluding](#) that the Biden administration's continued use of Title 42 to expel people seeking protection is "illegal and inhumane."

Epidemiologists and public health experts have continued to condemn the misuse of Title 42, [explaining](#) in September 2021 that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) order "does not provide adequate public health justifications for expelling asylum-seeking families at the border" and that "expulsions magnify the risks of COVID-19 transmission." In a September 2021 letter to Biden administration officials and the CDC Director, public health experts again expressed [concern](#) that the CDC has "endorsed and extended the implementation of the scientifically baseless and politically motivated Title 42 order." The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has [urged](#) the United States to "swiftly lift the public health-related asylum restrictions that remain in effect at the border and to restore access to asylum for the people whose lives depend on it, in line with international legal and human rights obligations."

Action Needed by Congress

Congress has a critical role to play in upholding U.S. refugee law and treaties, urging all possible steps to end the Remain in Mexico policy and its expansion, and urgently pressing for an end to the similar Title 42 policy and others Trump era policies that evade refugee law, effectively block refugees from U.S. asylum and endanger their lives. Congress should:

- Continue to conduct oversight and strongly urge the Biden administration to comply with U.S. and international refugee law, definitively end the Remain in Mexico policy, stop misusing Title 42 to evade refugee law, and fully restore asylum processes at the southern border – including at ports of entry, and to take all necessary administrative and judicial steps needed to do so. Congress should also request updates on action the administration has taken to end other Trump-era policies including the asylum [entry](#) and [transit](#) bans, the "[Death to Asylum](#)" rule, and the interim final rule implementing [Asylum Cooperative Agreements](#) (ACAs).
- Update and reintroduce the [Refugee Protection Act](#), to ensure U.S. asylum laws uphold U.S. commitments under Article 33 of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
- While the inherently flawed and unfixable Remain in Mexico and/or Title 42 policies continue to be implemented, conduct oversight and advance recommendations to U.S. agencies to ensure that:
 - DHS (through information it receives from asylum seekers through USCIS, CBP and/or ICE interviews and communications) and the U.S. State Department track all reported incidents of kidnappings and other violence against individuals after they are returned to Mexico via RMX

- or Title 42, and harms suffered by persons expelled to other countries – including Haiti - under Title 42 without being provided with access to the safeguards of U.S. refugee law;
- DHS and CBP allow, provide and facilitate unimpeded access to in-person legal consultations and legal representation to people in its custody, including in connection with RMX NRI interviews, eliminate the limit on time permitted to consult with legal counsel, and prohibit the conduct of any fear interviews without the presence of in-person legal counsel when an asylum seeker requests such representation; and
 - DHS and CBP allow and provide NRI interviews at POEs upon request by asylum seekers or their counsel, and take steps to ensure that CBP appropriately screens, identifies and exempts individuals who should be exempt from placement in Remain in Mexico under DHS' internal implementation guidelines.
- Conduct official visits to Mexican, Guatemalan, and Honduran border towns where asylum seekers have been returned/expelled, CBP facilities and Border Patrol stations on the southern U.S. border, immigration detention centers, immigration courts, and humanitarian organizations in the border region assisting asylum seekers and migrants. Examine potential structural improvements to anticipate, plan for and manage humanitarian protection and uphold compliance with U.S. refugee law and treaties, such as a new or reconfigured and elevated U.S. agency with a humanitarian and refugee protection mission, expertise, and capacities.

**The Leadership Conference
on Civil and Human Rights**

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December 15, 2021

The Honorable Jamie Raskin
Chairman, House Oversight Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
2147 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Mace
Ranking Member, House Oversight Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
2147 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Congress Must End Egregious Civil Asset Forfeiture and Equitable Sharing Practices

Dear Chairman Raskin, Ranking Member Mace, and members of the House Oversight Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties:

On behalf of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, a coalition charged by its diverse membership of more than 230 national organizations to promote and protect the civil and human rights of all persons in the United States, we thank you for holding the hearing entitled “Forfeiting our Rights: The Urgent Need for Civil Asset Forfeiture Reform.” The practice of civil asset forfeiture undermines property rights, has a disparate impact on low-income communities and communities of color,¹ and is fundamentally unjust. We appreciate the committee examining this important issue and look forward to your recommendations on ending this egregious practice.

Civil and human rights advocates have long held that civil asset forfeiture and related equitable sharing programs must be abolished. Civil asset forfeiture incentivizes police to essentially steal from the people without due process of law, has been used for decades to carry out the ineffective and abusive War on Drugs, and disproportionately harms working-class people in America while enriching federal, state, and local law enforcement budgets. Civil asset forfeiture authorizes the government to confiscate and seize property when, ostensibly, the government has probable cause to believe the property is contraband, constitutes the proceeds of a crime, or is used to facilitate a crime.² Once a person’s property

¹ Sallah, Michael, Robert O’Harrow Jr., Steven Rich, and Gabe Silverman. “Stop and Seize.” *The Washington Post*. Sept. 6, 2014. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/sf/investigative/2014/09/06/stop-and-seize/>. An investigative series of articles by The Washington Post chronicling the issue of civil asset forfeiture found that “of the 400 court cases examined by The Post where people who challenged seizures and received some money back, the majority were black, Hispanic or another minority.”

² Thompson, Richard M. II. “Contesting the Seizure of Vehicles Under Civil Forfeiture: What Process is Due?” *Congressional Research Service*. March 16, 2021. <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/LSB/LSB10581>.

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Wade Henderson

has been seized, ordinary people must navigate a system that is stacked against them, a system in which they must prove that they are not guilty in order to recover their property, turning the fundamental presumption of innocence on its head. This practice also disproportionately affects people of color and those with modest means, as many of these seizures occur where law enforcement has engaged in discriminatory profiling of people of color, like traffic stops and airport and train searches. As none other than Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas has recognized, “forfeiture operations frequently target the poor and other groups least able to defend their interests.” “Perversely,” Justice Thomas continued, “these same groups are often the most burdened by forfeiture.”³ This practice, however, has proved lucrative for states and for the federal government. In 2018 alone, 42 states, the District of Columbia, and the federal government accrued over \$3 billion from asset forfeiture, with \$500 million seized by the states and \$2.5 billion under the equitable sharing programs run by the Department of Justice and the Department of the Treasury.⁴ By providing kickbacks to law enforcement, asset forfeiture programs create a troublesome incentive for police and prosecutors to go after innocent people.⁵

While billed as a way to “remove the tools of crime from criminal organizations, deprive wrongdoers of the proceeds of their crimes, recover property that may be used to compensate victims, and deter crime,” this abusive practice does nothing of the sort and instead targets everyday people going about the course of their lives.⁶ Indeed, law enforcement claims that asset forfeiture targets high-level drug “kingpins,” but data from 21 states suggests that most seizures in recent years have claimed under \$2,000.⁷ Stories of those impacted by forfeiture also provide a different tale: for example, that of Malinda Harris, who testified before the committee about the seizure of her vehicle by local law enforcement.⁸ Saying they suspected the vehicle had been involved in the commission of a crime, law enforcement seized Ms.

³ Leonard v. Texas, 137 S. Ct. 847 (2017) (Thomas, J., respecting the denial of certiorari). For example, an investigative series of articles by The Washington Post chronicling the issue of civil asset forfeiture found that “of the 400 court cases examined by The Post where people who challenged seizures and received some money back, the majority were black, Hispanic or another minority.” Sallah, Michael, et al. “Stop and Seize.” *The Washington Post*. Sept. 6, 2014. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/sf/investigative/collection/stop-and-seize-2/>. See also Cary, Nathaniel, and Ellis, Mike. “65% of cash seized by SC police comes from black men. Experts blame racism.” *Greenville News*. Jan 27, 2019. <https://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/taken/2019/01/27/south-carolina-racism-blamed-civil-forfeiture-black-men-taken-exclusive-investigation/2459039002/>; “Civil Asset Forfeiture: A 5-Month Snapshot in New Jersey.” *ACLU-New Jersey*. Dec. 2018. <https://www.aclu-nj.org/theissues/criminaljustice/civil-asset-forfeiture> (finding that areas in New Jersey with greater populations of people of color tended to have higher numbers of seizures).

⁴ Knepper, Lisa, et al. “Policing for Profit: The Abuse of Civil Asset Forfeiture.” *Institute for Justice*. Dec. 2020. Pg. 14. <https://ij.org/wp-content/themes/ijorg/images/pfp3/policing-for-profit-3-web.pdf>.

⁵ Some agencies use forfeiture to pad their budgets – for example, a 2015 Drug Policy Alliance survey of several California police departments found that forfeiture revenue “spiked immediately after police budgets were cut.” “Above the Law: An Investigation of Civil Asset Forfeiture in California.” *Drug Policy Alliance*. 2015. https://drugpolicy.org/sites/default/files/Drug_Policy_Alliance_Above_the_Law_Civil_Asset_Forfeiture_in_California.pdf.

⁶ “Guide to Equitable Sharing for State, Local, and Tribal Law Enforcement Agencies.” *U.S. Department of Justice and Department of the Treasury*. July 2018. <https://www.justice.gov/criminal-afmls/file/794696/download>.

⁷ Knepper, Lisa, et al. “Policing for Profit: The Abuse of Civil Asset Forfeiture.” *Institute for Justice*. Dec. 2020. Pg. 20. <https://ij.org/wp-content/themes/ijorg/images/pfp3/policing-for-profit-3-web.pdf>.

⁸ Testimony of Malinda Harris before the House Oversight Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. Dec. 8, 2021. <https://docs.house.gov/meetings/GO/GO02/20211208/114293/HHRG-117-GO02-Wstate-HarrisM-20211208.pdf>.

Harris's car and kept it for more than five years before even beginning a process to keep it permanently.⁹ Similarly, Melisa Ingram and two other plaintiffs have launched a class action lawsuit against Wayne County, Michigan, challenging its seizure and civil forfeiture laws after their vehicles were seized under suspicion they had been involved in crimes, even though their owners had not been arrested, charged, or convicted of any crime.¹⁰

Equitable asset sharing serves to enrich state and local law enforcement

Current federal forfeiture laws create a financial incentive to pursue profit over the fair administration of justice, facilitate the circumvention of state laws intended to protect people from abuse, and encourage the violation of due process and property rights of people in America — particularly people of color and those less able to navigate the complex and costly processes to recover their property. One component of federal forfeiture, the equitable sharing program, is particularly injurious to those affected by this practice. Under this program, which was restarted by the DOJ in 2016,¹¹ state and local law enforcement partner with the federal government and conduct seizures under the permissive federal forfeiture policies, which allow law enforcement to keep up to 80 percent of seized assets.¹² Alternatively, under another aspect of the program, state and local law enforcement agencies can conduct adoptive seizures, wherein these agencies carry out seizures without the federal government, but then request that the federal government forfeit, or adopt, the property under federal law.¹³ The equitable sharing program is an affront to our nation's federalist system because it creates loopholes that allow state and local law enforcement to use federal forfeiture laws to circumvent state law limitations.¹⁴ This approach directly undermines states and communities and weakens our nation's self-governance while enriching law enforcement agencies. Indeed, in 2019, the federal government distributed \$333.8 million to agencies participating in the equitable sharing program, adding to the more than \$8 billion in total distributed from 2000 to 2019.¹⁵ While the DOJ and Treasury Department suggest that asset forfeiture and equitable sharing are intended to supplement, not supplant, law enforcement budgets, these staggering allocations have bolstered law

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Wright, Aallyah. "Federal loophole thwarts state efforts to curb civil asset forfeiture by police." *USA Today*. Aug. 19, 2021. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2021/08/19/states-work-scale-back-civil-forfeiture-laws-amid-federal-loophole/8181774002/>.

¹¹ Ingraham, Christopher. "The feds have resumed a controversial program that lets cops take stuff and keep it." *The Washington Post*. March 28, 2016. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2016/03/28/the-feds-have-resumed-a-controversial-program-that-lets-cops-take-stuff-and-keep-it/?hpid=hp_hp-top-table-main_wonk-seize-815pm%3Ahomepage%2Fstory.

¹² See "Guide to Equitable Sharing for State, Local, and Tribal Law Enforcement Agencies." *U.S. Department of Justice and Department of the Treasury*. July 2018. <https://www.justice.gov/criminal-afmls/file/794696/download>. See also Knepper, Lisa, et al. "Policing for Profit: The Abuse of Civil Asset Forfeiture." *Institute for Justice*. Dec. 2020. Pg. 6. <https://ij.org/wp-content/themes/ijorg/images/pfp3/policing-for-profit-3-web.pdf>.

¹³ Knepper, Lisa, et al. "Policing for Profit: The Abuse of Civil Asset Forfeiture." *Institute for Justice*. Dec. 2020. Pg. 46. <https://ij.org/wp-content/themes/ijorg/images/pfp3/policing-for-profit-3-web.pdf>.

¹⁴ Wright, Aallyah. "Federal loophole thwarts state efforts to curb civil asset forfeiture by police." *USA Today*. Aug. 19, 2021. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2021/08/19/states-work-scale-back-civil-forfeiture-laws-amid-federal-loophole/8181774002/>; "Equitable Sharing Creates a Giant Loophole." *Institute for Justice*. Dec. 2020. <https://ij.org/report/policing-for-profit-3/pfp3content/equitable-sharing-creates-a-giant-loophole/>.

¹⁵ Knepper, Lisa, et al. "Policing for Profit: The Abuse of Civil Asset Forfeiture." *Institute for Justice*. Dec. 2020. Pg. 6. <https://ij.org/wp-content/themes/ijorg/images/pfp3/policing-for-profit-3-web.pdf>.

enforcement budgets by magnitudes for decades, resulting in the mass criminalization and over-policing that we see rampant across the country today.

Attempts by the DOJ to limit these forfeitures have offered very little substantive protection to property owners. In 2015, then-Attorney General Eric Holder placed limits on adoptive seizures except for “public safety reasons.”¹⁶ Attorney General Jeff Sessions, however, promptly rolled back these changes in 2017,¹⁷ while instituting safeguards that critics deemed “weak.”¹⁸ When the DOJ restarted the equitable sharing program in 2016, The Leadership Conference denounced the reinstatement¹⁹ and further pointed out the limitations of the supposed safeguards proffered by the DOJ upon reinstatement.²⁰ This program continues to run virtually unchecked, undermining our systems of governance while exploiting innocent people and businesses.

Congress must take swift action to reform federal civil asset forfeiture

Eliminating civil asset forfeiture is not a partisan issue. Americans across the political and ideological spectrums have recognized the harms perpetuated by asset forfeiture: A recent poll found that 59 percent of Americans oppose allowing law enforcement to use forfeited property or its proceeds for its own use, while 70 percent of Americans oppose the equitable sharing program.²¹ The Leadership Conference shares these concerns and has long fought for an end to the asset forfeiture system at the federal level.²² We urge Congress to act decisively to curb this pernicious practice, tackling reform of four aspects of the civil asset forfeiture program:

- First, the profit incentives driving civil asset forfeiture at all levels must be eliminated by ending the equitable sharing program and adoptive seizures.

¹⁶ O’Harrow Jr., Robert, et al. “Holder limits seized-asset sharing processes that split billions with local and state police.” *The Washington Post*. Jan 16, 2015. https://www.washingtonpost.com/investigations/holder-ends-seized-asset-sharing-process-that-split-billions-with-local-state-police/2015/01/16/0e7ca058-99d4-11e4-bc9b-059ec7a93ddc_story.html.

¹⁷ “Attorney General Sessions Issues Policy and Guidelines on Federal Adoptions of Assets Seized by State or Local Law Enforcement.” *Department of Justice*. July 19, 2017. <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/attorney-general-sessions-issues-policy-and-guidelines-federal-adoptions-assets-seized-state>.

¹⁸ Knepper, Lisa, et al. “Policing for Profit: The Abuse of Civil Asset Forfeiture.” *Institute for Justice*. Dec. 2020. Pg. 46. <https://ij.org/wp-content/themes/ijorg/images/pfp3/policing-for-profit-3-web.pdf>; McDonald, Jennifer. “Civil Forfeiture, Crime Fighting and Safeguards for the Innocent: An Analysis of Department of Justice Forfeiture Data.” *Institute for Justice*. Dec. 2018. https://ij.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Forfeiture-White-Paper_Final.pdf.

¹⁹ “Civil and Human Rights Coalition Responds to Justice Department Move to Encourage Policing for Profit.” *Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights*. March 29, 2016. <https://civilrights.org/2016/03/29/civil-and-human-rights-coalition-responds-to-justice-department-move-to-encourage-policing-for-profit/>.

²⁰ “Letter to Senate & House Committees on the Judiciary re: Call to Pass Civil Forfeiture Reform Quickly and Independently.” *Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights*. July 20, 2017. <https://civilrights.org/resource/letter-re-call-pass-civil-forfeiture-reform-quickly-independently/>.

²¹ Poll: YouGov Institute for Justice Civil Forfeiture. Sep. 28-29, 2020. <https://ij.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Results-for-Institute-for-Justice-Civil-Forfeiture-245-9.30.2020-1-Civil-Forfeiture-2.pdf>.

²² Letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee re: Support Effective & Comprehensive Federal Civil Asset Forfeiture Reform. *Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights*. April 15, 2015. <https://civilrights.org/resource/support-effective-comprehensive-federal-civil-asset-forfeiture-reform/>.



- Second, reform must also tackle these perverse profit incentives by restoring federal oversight and control. Forfeiture proceeds should be directed to the U.S. Treasury's General Fund or toward programs that do not perpetuate improper forfeiture-related incentives.
- Third, the burden of proof in asset forfeiture proceedings should be increased from a "preponderance of the evidence" to "clear and convincing evidence" before the government can take someone's property believed to be connected to a crime. Chairman Raskin and Congressman Walberg's bill, H. 2857, the Fifth Amendment Integrity Restoration (FAIR) Act,²³ which The Leadership Conference has endorsed in the past, includes this necessary change to the burden of proof. Additionally, the right to counsel should apply in all civil asset forfeiture proceedings and the right to a pretrial hearing should be guaranteed.
- Finally, innocent business owners subjected to forfeiture should be protected. Congress must revise federal law to end the use of civil forfeiture in structuring cases where funds cannot be tied to illegal activity and are not derived from an illegal source. The IRS and other federal agencies should be required to prove that cash and other property is connected to illegal activity or derived from an illegal source that is separate and apart from a federal structuring offense.

As you consider this issue, we urge you to advance federal forfeiture policies that will protect lower income communities and communities of color, enhance due process rights, strengthen property rights across the country, and curb misaligned policy and economic incentives surrounding the use of federal civil asset forfeiture. We encourage you to pursue bipartisan legislative reforms. Thank you for your commitment to this issue and for your consideration. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at cook@civilrights.org or my colleague Chloé White, Policy Counsel, at white@civilrights.org.

Thank you,

Sakira Cook
Senior Director, Justice Program
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

²³ H. 2857. 117th Congress, 2021.

To: rdirستا@stanford.edu[rdirستا@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 3/31/2022 5:49:46 PM
Subject: Delayed Response | Media Contact Re: FW: Russian War Report - March 28, 2022
Received: Thur 3/31/2022 5:49:46 PM

Thank you for your message.

**** I am currently traveling (Mar 21-Mar 27) and may be unreachable during this time. ****

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: Daniel Bateyko[dbateyko@stanford.edu]
Cc: Jeffrey T. Hancock[hancockj@stanford.edu]; Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]; John Perrino[perrino@stanford.edu]; Mike Caulfield[mica42@uw.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 3/31/2022 5:54:18 PM
Subject: Re: UW/SIO Standing Meeting
Received: Thur 3/31/2022 5:54:18 PM

I might be late to some... but I should be able to make the bulk of those.

Kate

On Mar 31, 2022, at 10:33 AM, Daniel Bateyko <dbateyko@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi Kate,

All good. Our meetings are weekly on Thursdays, 11:00-12:00pm PT. If we need to adjust for the new quarter, please let me know and I can send out a scheduler.

Best,
Dan

--

Dan Bateyko (he/him)
Special Projects Manager, Stanford Internet Observatory
dbateyko@stanford.edu

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Date: Thursday, March 31, 2022 at 10:31 AM
To: Daniel Bateyko <dbateyko@stanford.edu>
Cc: Jeffrey T. Hancock <hancockj@stanford.edu>, Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>, John Perrino <perrino@stanford.edu>, Mike Caulfield <mica42@uw.edu>, Renee DiResta <rdirresta@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: UW/SIO Standing Meeting

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Dan, can you remind me of the current timing?

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On Mar 31, 2022, at 9:38 AM, Jeff Hancock <hancockj@stanford.edu> wrote:

Thanks Dan. I won't be able to make it today but back next week.

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Hi all,

Today's agenda is pretty light. We'd like to share our current thoughts on and approach to student hiring and then discuss how that student hiring aligns with UW's. Mike, if you'd be up to it, we'd also love if you could share with the group the methodology for graphing Twitter virality.

If anyone has additional items to raise during today's call, please let me know or otherwise raise them during the call.

The link to the meeting notes is [here](#). The link to the Zoom is [here](#).

Talk more soon.

Best,
Dan

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Dan Bateyko (he/him)
Special Projects Manager, Stanford Internet Observatory
dbateyko@stanford.edu

From: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Date: Monday, March 28, 2022 at 7:41 AM
To: Daniel Bateyko <dbateyko@stanford.edu>
Cc: John Perrino <perrino@stanford.edu>, Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>, Mike Caulfield <mica42@uw.edu>, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>, Jeffrey T. Hancock <hancockj@stanford.edu>
Subject: Re: UW/SIO Standing Meeting

Hi Daniel,

I think our students should be able to give a presentation in about 2-3 weeks?

Kate

On Mar 24, 2022, at 11:12 AM, Daniel Bateyko <dbateyko@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi all,

Hope everyone's well. SIO has nothing on the agenda today—unless folks have things to discuss, I am going to cancel today's meeting and yield back everyone's time.

Kate and Mike, it would be great if your students could join us and provide an update on their work. What week would be ideal?

Warmly,
Dan

From: Daniel Bateyko <dbateyko@stanford.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 12:30 PM
To: John Perrino <perrino@stanford.edu>; Elena Cryst <ecryst@stanford.edu>; Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>; Mike Caulfield <mica42@uw.edu>; Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>; Jeffrey T. Hancock <hancockj@stanford.edu>
Subject: UW/SIO Standing Meeting
When: Occurs every Thursday from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM effective 3/17/2022 until

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Where: <https://stanford.zoom.us/j/94281655031?pwd=VUZjV3QzdVhLeDBVYUhrSTZlYVUoUT09>

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<https://stanford.zoom.us/j/94281655031?pwd=VUZjV3QzdVhLeDBVYUhrSTZlYVUoUT09>

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Meeting ID: 942 8165 5031

Password: 31

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

To: Daniel Bateyko[dbateyko@stanford.edu]
Cc: Jeff Hancock[hancockj@stanford.edu]; Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]; John Perrino[perrino@stanford.edu]; Mike Caulfield[mica42@uw.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 3/31/2022 5:32:39 PM
Subject: Re: UW/SIO Standing Meeting
Received: Thur 3/31/2022 5:32:39 PM

Actually, it looks like I can attend most of the meetings, just not this week. Sorry!

Kate

On Mar 31, 2022, at 10:31 AM, Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

I can't make today's meeting and may need to reschedule weekly meetings for this new quarter. Dan, can you remind me of the current timing?

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dbateyko@stanford.edu

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To: Daniel Bateyko[dbateyko@stanford.edu]
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From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 3/31/2022 5:31:30 PM
Subject: Re: UW/SIO Standing Meeting
Received: Thur 3/31/2022 5:31:31 PM

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To: Daniel Bateyko[dbateyko@stanford.edu]
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From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 3/28/2022 2:40:38 PM
Subject: Re: UW/SIO Standing Meeting
Received: Mon 3/28/2022 2:40:39 PM

Hi Daniel,
I think our students should be able to give a presentation in about 2-3 weeks?

Kate

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Warmly,
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Cc: Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]; Mike Caulfield[mica42@uw.edu]; Jeffrey T. Hancock[hancockj@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Wed 3/9/2022 5:41:38 PM
Subject: Re: Scheduling a weekly EIP 2022 Standing Meeting
Received: Wed 3/9/2022 5:41:40 PM

This link seems to be broken!

Kate

On Mar 8, 2022, at 4:52 PM, Daniel Bateyko <dbateyko@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi all,

We'd like to get an hour on the calendar for a recurring meeting between UW and SIO to share updates on the EIP 2022 process across all team members. If our schedules align, it would be great to get started this week or next. As before, here's a when2meet:

<https://www.when2meet.com/?14895779-R3hTNOnce>

Once I have everyone's availability, I'll circulate a Zoom link and running agenda.

Best,
Dan

To: rdirستا@stanford.edu[rdirستا@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 3/14/2022 4:34:56 PM
Subject: Delayed Response | Media Contact Re: Chat written EIP stuff
Received: Mon 3/14/2022 4:34:56 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: Samuel Christopher Woolley[swoolley@utexas.edu]
Cc: SMS Political Influencers[smspoliticalinfluencers@gmail.com]; Josephine Lukito[jlukito@utexas.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]; Martin Riedl[martin.riedl@utexas.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 2/28/2022 3:46:23 PM
Subject: Re: Abstract Decision / SM+S Special Issue on Political Influencers
Received: Mon 2/28/2022 3:46:26 PM

Thanks Sam.

I think we're going to try a deep cut — essentially make it a one-platform study rather than a cross-platform study. That might help us get there. It'll be another reason why we don't have cross-platform studies (they're complicated to do and lengthy to write up), but I think we can do that here without losing our other main contributions. Can you confirm that references aren't counted against that limit? What about the abstract?

Kate

On Feb 28, 2022, at 7:41 AM, Samuel Christopher Woolley <swoolley@utexas.edu> wrote:

Hi Kate,

Weighing in here. We'd really like to run this piece from you all, and absolutely understand the challenge involved with cutting qualitative work. Why don't we say 9k words, or +1000 words to the original limit? We talked to Zizi over at SM+S and apparently that is the highest word count we can go to per article per internal rules there. Let me know if you'd like to hop on a call.

Let us know.

Best,
Sam

--

SAMUEL WOOLLEY, PHD

Fellow | R.P. Doherty, Sr. Centennial Professorship in Communication
Assistant Professor | School of Journalism & Media
Program Director & Knight Faculty Fellow | Center for Media Engagement
Moody College of Communication | The University of Texas at Austin
mediaengagement.org/propaganda/ | BMC 3.388 | @SamuelWoolley

On Mon, Feb 28, 2022 at 9:32 AM Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

Hi Martin,

The extra time might help, but I don't think we'll be able to get it under 8500. We'll do our best and send over what we have. And if that doesn't work, we'll submit somewhere with a higher word limit. Sorry. The qualitative case studies just don't lend themselves well to brevity. But we'll do our best! And thanks for the extension.

Kate

On Feb 28, 2022, at 6:50 AM, SMS Political Influencers <smspoliticalinfluencers@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi all:

Apologies for the delay, figuring this one out took a bit longer than expected. We can give 500 words extra space but I am afraid that is all as we want to keep it a level field for other submitters to have similar length restrictions.

I realize that you are hearing back from us fairly close to the deadline, so we'd be happy to extend the deadline by a week, to **Tuesday, March 8**.

Please let me know if you have any other questions. Thanks, and we look forward to receiving your paper!

Best,
Martin

On Mon, Feb 21, 2022 at 5:28 PM Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

Hi folks,

Question for you all. We're preparing our manuscript and it looks like we'll need some significant space to lay out our (qualitative and mixed-method) data. I've seen the recommended word count, but is there any chance we can extend to something a bit longer? It's a challenge to explain these complex data stories — and honestly to lay out the evidence for our arguments — in 8000 words. (SharpieGate alone, one of our three case studies, takes 4000 words. That's our longest case study and we can probably trim that some, but the arguments lose their evidentiary support if we strip the content down too far.)

Looking for a little guidance here. Thanks!

Kate

On Dec 13, 2021, at 10:45 AM, Josephine Lukito <jlukito@utexas.edu> wrote:

Awesome!! We were really into the abstract and are super looking forward to the full manuscript. :)

Jo

JO[SEPHINE] LUKITO, PHD (she/her)
Assistant Professor | School of Journalism & Media
Senior Faculty Research Associate | Center for Media Engagement
Moody College of Communication | The University of Texas at Austin
<With sincerest apologies for my end-of-semester brain>
<Current Email Response Time: 7 days>

On Mon, Dec 13, 2021 at 12:08 PM Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

Hi Jo,

YES! We intend to submit a full manuscript. We're really excited for the opportunity — and thankful for the forcing function to get this work out the door. :)

Kate

On Dec 13, 2021, at 6:30 AM, Josephine Lukito

<jlukito@utexas.edu> wrote:

Hi Kate and Renee,
I hope this email finds you surviving! I just wanted to confirm that you intend to submit a full manuscript to our special issue. If you do not plan to proceed with the submission, please let us know!

Jo

JO[SEPHINE] [LUKITO](#), PHD (she/her)
Assistant Professor | School of Journalism & Media
Senior Faculty Research Associate | Center for Media Engagement
Moody College of Communication | The University of Texas at Austin
<*With sincerest apologies for my end-of-semester brain*>
<*Current Email Response Time: 7 days*>

On Tue, Dec 7, 2021 at 4:37 PM SMS Political Influencers
<smspoliticalinfluencers@gmail.com> wrote:

7-Dec-2021

Dear Kate Starbird and Renee DiResta:

Thank you again for your submission to our Special Issue on “Political Influencers” in Social Media + Society.

We spent a great deal of time and deliberation on reviewing the impressive pool of abstracts that we have received. After careful review, we were able to extend invitations for full manuscripts to less than 12% of all submitted abstracts.

We are thrilled to invite you to develop a full manuscript on the basis of the abstract that you submitted. The deadline for submissions is March 1, 2022.

Please prepare your manuscript in line with the formatting and length requirements listed on the journal website (<https://journals.sagepub.com/author-instructions/SMS>). You will be submitting the manuscript to the same email address to which you submitted your abstract: smspoliticalinfluencers@gmail.com

Editorial selection for development into full manuscripts does not guarantee article acceptance; all research articles will undergo rigorous double-blind peer review. Once articles have undergone peer review and have been accepted for publication by the special issue editors, you will submit your manuscript via Social Media + Society’s submission site for production.

We would like you to take into consideration the following feedback:

As you develop your manuscript, we are particularly interested in an

emphasis on influencers (as opposed to influence) in the voter fraud disinformation campaign that you describe. Your abstract emphasizes four dimensions: cross-platform work, relationships between influencers and audiences, roles of 'uncredentialed' influencers, and the relationship between online and offline action. Based on this, it follows that the differentiation between 'credentialed' and 'non-credentialed' would be a particularly important conceptual contribution of your manuscript that we hope you will be able to make. Please also make sure to provide considerable detail about your analytical process and qualitative approach in the manuscript.

If you foresee any issues or are no longer able to submit a full manuscript by the aforementioned deadline, please let us know by the end of this week (Friday, December 10).

Thank you again for your submission.

With best wishes,

Martin J. Riedl, Josephine Lukito, and Samuel Woolley
Guest Editors, *Social Media + Society* Special Issue on Political Influencers

This message is from an external sender. [Learn more about why this matters.](#)

This message is from an external sender. [Learn more about why this matters.](#)

To: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]; Matt DeButts[mdebutts@stanford.edu]; Isabella Gc[isabellagc2010@gmail.com]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 2/28/2022 3:37:06 PM
Subject: Fwd: Abstract Decision / SM+S Special Issue on Political Influencers
Received: Mon 2/28/2022 3:37:08 PM

Looks like they've given us an extension, but they want this at 8500 words. I can't see it happening. But here's an idea: that we limit it, primarily, to Twitter data — but also allowing that we trace content from Twitter to other platforms and maybe add some contextualization to say that Case 1/3 were primarily Twitter-driven, and Case 2 was much more cross platform.

That should help us reduce content throughout ... and currently our discussion doesn't really feature any cross-platform findings, so we can lose that without losing much.

We can talk about this later.

Kate

Begin forwarded message:

From: SMS Political Influencers <smspoliticalinfluencers@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Abstract Decision / SM+S Special Issue on Political Influencers
Date: February 28, 2022 at 6:50:11 AM PST
To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>
Cc: Josephine Lukito <jlukito@utexas.edu>, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>, Martin Riedl <martin.riedl@utexas.edu>, Samuel Christopher Woolley <swoolley@utexas.edu>

Hi all:

Apologies for the delay, figuring this one out took a bit longer than expected. We can give 500 words extra space but I am afraid that is all as we want to keep it a level field for other submitters to have similar length restrictions.

I realize that you are hearing back from us fairly close to the deadline, so we'd be happy to extend the deadline by a week, to **Tuesday, March 8**.

Please let me know if you have any other questions. Thanks, and we look forward to receiving your paper!

Best,
Martin

On Mon, Feb 21, 2022 at 5:28 PM Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

Hi folks,

Question for you all. We're preparing our manuscript and it looks like we'll need some significant space to lay out our (qualitative and mixed-method) data. I've seen the recommended word count, but is there any chance we can extend to something a bit longer? It's a challenge to explain these complex data stories — and honestly to lay out the evidence for our arguments — in 8000 words. (SharpieGate alone, one of our three case studies, takes 4000 words. That's our longest case study and we can probably trim that some, but the arguments lose their evidentiary support if we strip the content down too far.)

Looking for a little guidance here. Thanks!

Kate

On Dec 13, 2021, at 10:45 AM, Josephine Lukito <jlukito@utexas.edu> wrote:

Awesome!! We were really into the abstract and are super looking forward to the full manuscript. :)

Jo

JO[SEPHINE] [LUKITO](mailto:jlukito@utexas.edu), PHD (she/her)
Assistant Professor | School of Journalism & Media
Senior Faculty Research Associate | Center for Media Engagement
Moody College of Communication | The University of Texas at Austin
<With sincerest apologies for my end-of-semester brain>
<Current Email Response Time: 7 days>

On Mon, Dec 13, 2021 at 12:08 PM Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu> wrote:

Hi Jo,

YES! We intend to submit a full manuscript. We're really excited for the opportunity — and thankful for the forcing function to get this work out the door. :)

Kate

On Dec 13, 2021, at 6:30 AM, Josephine Lukito <jlukito@utexas.edu> wrote:

Hi Kate and Renee,

I hope this email finds you surviving! I just wanted to confirm that you intend to submit a full manuscript to our special issue. If you do not plan to proceed with the submission, please let us know!

Jo

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On Tue, Dec 7, 2021 at 4:37 PM SMS Political Influencers
<smspoliticalinfluencers@gmail.com> wrote:

7-Dec-2021

Dear Kate Starbird and Renee DiResta:

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Thank you again for your submission.

With best wishes,

Martin J. Riedl, Josephine Lukito, and Samuel Woolley
Guest Editors, *Social Media + Society* Special Issue on Political Influencers

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To: SMS Political Influencers[smspoliticalinfluencers@gmail.com]
Cc: Josephine Lukito[jlukito@utexas.edu]; Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]; Martin Riedl[martin.riedl@utexas.edu]; Samuel Christopher Woolley[swoolley@utexas.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 2/28/2022 3:31:35 PM
Subject: Re: Abstract Decision / SM+S Special Issue on Political Influencers
Received: Mon 2/28/2022 3:31:38 PM

Hi Martin,

The extra time might help, but I don't think we'll be able to get it under 8500. We'll do our best and send over what we have. And if that doesn't work, we'll submit somewhere with a higher word limit. Sorry. The qualitative case studies just don't lend themselves well to brevity. But we'll do our best! And thanks for the extension.

Kate

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7-Dec-2021

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From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 2/21/2022 10:28:11 PM
Subject: Re: Abstract Decision / SM+S Special Issue on Political Influencers
Received: Mon 2/21/2022 10:28:12 PM

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From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 12/13/2021 6:07:58 PM
Subject: Re: Abstract Decision / SM+S Special Issue on Political Influencers
Received: Mon 12/13/2021 6:07:59 PM

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Guest Editors, *Social Media + Society* Special Issue on Political Influencers

To: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Thur 12/9/2021 3:52:44 PM
Subject: Fwd: Abstract Decision / SM+S Special Issue on Political Influencers
Received: Thur 12/9/2021 3:52:45 PM

I totally missed this... good news! The March 1 date is going to be a nice forcing function.

Kate

Begin forwarded message:

From: SMS Political Influencers <smspoliticalinfluencers@gmail.com>
Subject: Abstract Decision / SM+S Special Issue on Political Influencers
Date: December 7, 2021 at 2:36:46 PM PST
To: Kate Starbird <kstarbi@uw.edu>, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu>
Cc: Josephine Lukito <jlukito@utexas.edu>, martin.riedl@utexas.edu, Samuel Christopher Woolley <swoolley@utexas.edu>

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To: Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org[Vivian.Schiller@aspeninstitute.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 2/28/2022 12:49:16 PM
Subject: Delayed Response | Media Contact Re: Eyes on Russia Project
Received: Mon 2/28/2022 12:49:16 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, 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: Tue 2/22/2022 11:36:05 PM
Subject: Delayed Response | Media Contact Re: Finding time to discuss the Bridgespan/Pew proposal
Received: Tue 2/22/2022 11:36:05 PM

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To: rdirستا@stanford.edu[rdirستا@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 2/15/2022 8:22:17 PM
Subject: Delayed Response | Media Contact Re: Kate Starbird, Renee DiResta - paper discussion
Received: Tue 2/15/2022 8:22:17 PM

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Cc: Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]; Elena Cryst[ecryst@stanford.edu]; Jeffrey T. Hancock[hancockj@stanford.edu]; mica42@uw.edu[mica42@uw.edu]; cameron@ncoc.org[cameron@ncoc.org]; kaitlyn@ncoc.org[kaitlyn@ncoc.org]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Sat 2/12/2022 1:37:36 AM
Subject: Re: Scheduling an EIP Meeting next week, sharing docs for collaboration
Received: Sat 2/12/2022 1:37:37 AM

Sounds great Dan!

I think we also might want to talk about how our different workflows come together — and where. The Miro board might be a good place to do that thinking/diagraming as well.

Kate

On Feb 11, 2022, at 11:48 AM, Daniel Bateyko <dbateyko@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi all,

Thanks again for meeting last week! We left off with the group voicing interest in starting to work asynchronously on 1) a list of communities to follow and 2) a list of narratives/tropes. Cameron kindly put together a Miro board which you all should have received a link to. It's a great spot to start collaborating on some of our open questions, so please feel free to start adding to it. To kick us off, can everyone go into the Miro board and add at least 5 entries to the tables on communities and narratives before our next meeting?

Let's also get another 1hr meeting on the calendar for the end of next week. Here's a when2meet:
<https://www.when2meet.com/?14564906-kv7sK>

Please fill out your availability and I'll circulate a Zoom link after.

Thank you!

Dan Bateyko

To: rdirستا@stanford.edu[rdirستا@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 3/8/2022 4:24:24 PM
Subject: Delayed Response | Media Contact Re: Canceled: Recurring paper meeting
Received: Tue 3/8/2022 4:24:24 PM

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To: Wick, Amanda[Amanda.Wick@mail.house.gov]
Cc: Renee DiResta[rdirresta@stanford.edu]; Scherer, William[William.Scherer@mail.house.gov]; Riggleman, Denver[topshelf@mail.house.gov]; Aganga-Williams, Temidayo[Temidayo.AgangaWilliams@mail.house.gov]; Johnson, Camisha[Camisha.Johnson@mail.house.gov]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Sun 1/23/2022 9:25:25 PM
Subject: Re: Funding Discussion
Received: Sun 1/23/2022 9:25:28 PM

Hi Amanda,

I don't know much about the funding aspects, but I'm happy to connect again on other dimensions.

Kate

On Jan 20, 2022, at 12:35 PM, Wick, Amanda <Amanda.Wick@mail.house.gov> wrote:

Kate and Renee,

I just wanted to echo everyone's thanks for your time and patience answering all our questions. What you have done is incredible and I was very excited to see the areas where the financial aspect of our investigation could really benefit from your thoughts.

I'd love to strike while the iron is hot and the topic is fresh, but I also would love to come in a lot more familiar with the work you've done so I ask much better questions. If there are any papers or links you'd suggest we look at, just let us know.

But is there any chance you'd be open to a follow up conversation tomorrow or Monday? If that's too short notice, please let us know your availability next week.


Thanks again!

<image001.png> **Amanda S. Wick**
Senior Investigative Counsel
House Select Committee to Investigate the January
6th Attack on the United States Capitol
Phone 202-226-3023 Mobile 202-809-8947
Email Amanda.Wick@mail.house.gov
Web <https://january6th.house.gov/>

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To: kstarbi@uw.edu[kstarbi@uw.edu]
From: Renee DiResta (Google Docs)
Sent: Thur 1/6/2022 3:25:40 AM
Subject: 4 - Actors & Tactics - @kstarbi@uw.edu I've put in and then ...
Received: Thur 1/6/2022 3:26:08 AM

Renee DiResta assigned you an action item in the following document

 4 - Actors & Tactics

The CTIs do not necessarily have high-profile media accounts at a national- or mainstream-audience level; instead, they act as mini-celebrities, or local influencers, within the conspiracy theory community. While nationally prominent influencers may have the ability to reach many, or to reinforce the preexisting beliefs of their audience, local online influencers like CTIs can work to shape opinion within these local networks to greater effect because they are trusted members of the community.

 Renee DiResta

New

@kstarbi@uw.edu I've put in and then taken out a whole thing on simple vs complex contagion and bridging communities from this section. thoughts on whether this suffices, or if I should go deeper into the research on that? it felt like a deviation from the main point of the section, but it did add some depth. if you have an alternative idea for something to cite on this would welcome suggestions.

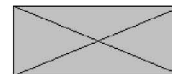
Assigned to you

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To: Renee DiResta[rdiresta@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Mon 12/20/2021 10:34:27 PM
Subject: Re: Virality Project - final report review
Received: Mon 12/20/2021 10:34:30 PM

Could we use “some” and then footnote specific cases (i.e. highlighting where the actor makes money from the sale of books)? I think the issue is that “many” casts suspicion over all of them, which can be problematic.

Kate

On Dec 20, 2021, at 2:31 PM, Renee DiResta <rdiresta@stanford.edu> wrote:

I can chat about that financial question whenever; I reread the passage and it definitely says "most" but not all; we can change to "many" or something like that.

To: rdirستا@stanford.edu[rdirستا@stanford.edu]
From: Kate Starbird
Sent: Tue 12/14/2021 7:59:50 PM
Subject: Delayed Response | Media Contact Re: Canceled: Recurring paper meeting
Received: Tue 12/14/2021 7:59:50 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, 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