



Research Talks

2019
summer
semester



Monday, 11 March 2019, SR 4, 11:30-13:00

Conferring Resistance to Digital Disinformation: The Inoculating Influence of Procedural News Knowledge

Erik Bucy (Texas Tech University)

Despite the pervasiveness of digital disinformation in society, little is known about the individual characteristics that make some users more susceptible to erroneous information uptake than others, effectively dividing the media audience into prone and resistant groups. The study presented in this talk identifies and tests procedural news knowledge as a consequential civic resource with the capacity to inoculate audiences from disinformation and close this “resistance gap.” Engaging the persuasion knowledge model, and drawing on information processing theory, this presentation reviews data from several national surveys to demonstrate that possessing working knowledge of how the mainstream media operate aids in the identification of fake news and native advertising while reducing the effects of suspect content on users.



Monday, 8 April 2019, SR 4, 11:30-13:00

Building the Open Computational Communication Science Toolchain

Wouter van Atteveldt (University of Amsterdam)

Computational communication science promises to give new insight into communication and social behavior by using digital methods to study large and heterogeneous data sets consisting of traces left by online activity from Instagram posts, comments to online news articles on various sites to online purchases. This talk focuses on the tools needed to carry out this research. In particular, we need tools to gather data, such as digital trace data; analyze the resulting texts, networks, and images to measure our theoretical quantities; and store and share the data and results. In all cases, it is important to focus on the replicability, validity, and transparency of data, analytic processes, and results. In this talk, I will outline the requirements, existing resources and challenges for “open” computational communication science. For each of these steps, I will discuss the possibilities and limitations of existing tools, and describe the methods and open sources tools that we are currently developing. I will call for a turn to “open science” and collaboration on open source software to build the tools we need to develop Computational communication science.



Monday, 29 April 2019, SR 4, 11:30-13:00

Media Communication in Colonial Settings: The Case of Puerto Rico

Federico Subervi (University of Leeds)

Federico Subervi, Ph.D., 2018 Visiting Leverhulme Professor at the School of Media & Communication, University of Leeds, will discuss contexts and conundrums of media communication in colonial settings. The focus will be on Puerto Rico, the oldest colony in the world, which is trying to overcome two concurrent crises: one caused by Hurricane María in 2017, and the other caused by the economic bankruptcy stemming from its colonial status. The analysis brings together three areas of inquiry related to Puerto Rico’s colonial condition: political-economic and dependency, cultural identity and survival, and options for a liberating post-colonial future.



Monday, 3 June 2019, SR 4, 11:30-13:00

How to Analyze Digital Extremism. Method and Findings

Jürgen Grimm (University of Vienna)

Radicalization trends in Western societies are increasingly accompanied by right-wing, left-wing or Islamist violence and social media plays an important role in this. The presentation discusses how radicalizing internet communication can be analyzed. The instrument RADIX is explained which captures hate speech and other parameters of radicalization. Furthermore, first results of the COMRAD project are presented.