Ph.D. Colloquium

Wednesday, February 22, 2023
12:15 - 1:45 p.m. • SCI 323

Creating Chaos Online: How to Uncover Disinformation?

Presented by Asta Zelenkauskaite, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Communication
Drexel University

With the prevalence of disinformation geared to instill doubt rather than clarity, Creating Chaos Online unmasks disinformation when it attempts to pass as deliberation in the public sphere and distorts the democratic processes. Dr. Zelenkauskaitė finds that repeated tropes justifying Russian trolling were found to circulate across not only all analyzed media platforms' comments but also across two analyzed sociopolitical contexts suggesting the orchestrated efforts behind messaging. Through a dystopian vision of publics that are expected to navigate in the sea of uncertain both authentic and orchestrated content, pushed by human and nonhuman actors, Creating Chaos Online offers a concept of post-publics. The idea of post-publics is reflected within the continuum of treatment of public, counter public, and anti-public. This book argues that affect-instilled arguments used in public deliberation in times of uncertainty, along with whataboutism constitute a playbook for chaos online.

Photo credit Elizabeth Waldie.

Dr. Zelenkauskaite is an associate professor in the department of Communication, Drexel University. Her research focuses on emergent practices in online spaces that are traceable through digital meta data and discourses. Her work is based on interdisciplinary perspectives that intersect information science, discourse studies, and computational social sciences. She is part of the Center for Science, Technology & Society. Her work has been published in New Media & Society, Social Media & Society, Convergence, Journal of Broadcasting and Electronic Media, and First Monday, among others. Creating Chaos Online book is available open access via University of Michigan Press, 2022, https://www.press.umich.edu//12237294).

RUTGERS
School of Communication
and Information

comminfo.rutgers.edu

@RutgersCommInfo   #RutgersCommInfo   #RUSCI