

Conspiracy, Misinformation, AND THE Infodemic

CAS 2021–22 INITIATIVE

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Americans are facing another challenge—an “infodemic” of “fake news,” disinformation, and conspiracy theories spreading at an unprecedented rate, exacerbating anxiety and widening political divides. Dishonest communication has plagued democratic societies across the millennia, but new technologies broaden its reach, accelerate its spread, and demand new approaches to governing public discourse. The Center for Advanced Study invites you to participate in a series of public conversations about the origins of conspiracy theories; the dissemination of misinformation; rumors and fake news; the uses of propaganda; and other forms of information manipulation that change behavior and public opinion.

CAS Director May Berenbaum and Deputy Director Masumi Iriye oversee this new initiative featuring UI faculty as well as invited guests.

Co-hosted by the Center for Advanced Study and the Office of the Provost.

On Truth and Lies in the Age of Conspiracy Theory

Thursday, October 21, 2021 | 4:00 pm CDT

Jim Hansen

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We live in a technological era that seems to have lost its capacity to come to a consensus about what counts as fact and what as fiction. As a result, we find ourselves bombarded by irrational and unsubstantiated conspiracy theories on a nearly daily basis. While this problem has often proven lethal over the past few years, it's not entirely new. Cinema has been obsessed with paranoiac conspiracies for decades. In a wide-ranging discussion that brings Terry Gilliam's *Brazil* (1985) and Jordan Peele's *Us* (2019) into conversation with aesthetic and critical theory, we'll ask: What do these fictions—*fantasies about isolation and alienation*—have to say to us about this new age of truth and lies?

Registration is required for this Zoom event.
Scan the code or visit
<https://cas.illinois.edu/node/2569>

For more information please consult cas.illinois.edu

