

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.

Misinformation and the Public Sphere in Napoleonic France

Tuesday, November 9, 2021 | 4:00 pm CDT

David O'Brien

Professor of Art History

Eighteenth-century Paris is at the center of Jürgen Habermas's famous account of the rise of the bourgeois public sphere in Europe. Habermas saw in this sphere the possibility of a discourse characterized by reason, inclusion, and truth. This lecture examines some of the ways in which the arts in Napoleonic France defied Habermas's expectations, offering misinformation, exclusion, and distraction, and speculates on some of the lessons to be learned.

Registration is required for this Zoom event.

Scan the code or visit

<https://cas.illinois.edu/node/2568>

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