

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.

“The Protocols of the Elders of Zion” and the Allure of Conspiracy

Wednesday, February 9, 2022 | 7:00 pm CST

Steven J. Zipperstein

Koshland Professor of Jewish Culture and History at Stanford University

With **Harriet Murav**, *CAS Professor of Slavic Languages & Literatures and Comparative and World Literature*, and **Eugene Avrutin**, *Tobor Family Endowed Professor of Modern European Jewish History*

Why has “The Protocols of the Elders of Zion” managed to draw such widespread attention with countless reprints and websites in many languages — across the political spectrum — foregrounding its message of a mysterious Jewish cabal controlling the world’s finances and politics? Professor Zipperstein in conversation with Professors Murav and Avrutin will explore the reasons for its extraordinary resilience, this particularly surprising since it is definitively known to have been copied, almost word for word, from a mid-19th century attack on Napoleon III. Few better examples exist on the world stage of the resilience of “fake news.”

Registration is required for this Zoom event.
Scan the code or visit
<https://cas.illinois.edu/node/2570>



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