

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 History and Impact of Misinformation in the Agricultural Sciences

Wednesday, March 23, 2022 | 7:00 pm CST

Alison Van Eenennaam

*Professor of Cooperative Extension, Animal Genomics and Biotechnology,
Department of Animal Science, University of California, Davis*

*CAS Professors of Plant Biology & Crop Sciences **Stephen P. Long**
and **Donald R. Ort** will moderate.*

Informing or basing public policy on misinformation in the agricultural sciences can have devastating consequences, as evidenced in numerous high-profile examples from the early 20th century to the present. Professor Van Eenennaam will discuss some recent examples of misinformation around the highly personal and emotive topic of food, and the role that institutions of higher education have had in both countering and amplifying the misinformation.

In preparation for this talk, Professor Van Eenennaam recommends watching the movie *Food Evolution*, available free of charge on Hulu and other video on demand platforms.

Registration is required for this Zoom event.
Scan the code or visit
<https://cas.illinois.edu/node/2586>

For more information please consult cas.illinois.edu

