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 ongoing initiative featuring UI faculty as well as invited guests.

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

Disinformation is Here to Stay

Wednesday, November 9, 2022 | 7:00 pm CDT

Anita Nikolich
Research Scientist and Director of Research Innovation, School of Information Sciences

The NSF-funded Deception Awareness and Resilience Training (DART) project is an interdisciplinary endeavor bringing together experts in psychology, deep fakes, game design, cybersecurity, social engineering, and education. Rather than try to solve mis- and disinformation, DART researchers take a step back and focus on better gamification as a way in which to educate people about how a set of basic—yet insidiously effective—online manipulation schemes such as romance scams, IRS phishing, and others actually work. Since these scams disproportionately affect the elderly population, the first phase will result in a mobile game designed specifically for senior citizens. Subsequent phases targeting other populations will result in immersive games built in conjunction with partners at a commercial gaming studio.

Registration is required for this Zoom event. Scan the code or visit https://cas.illinois.edu/node/2697

For more information please consult cas.illinois.edu.