

Course Title: 91195 – Forecasting and Analyzing Conflict and Instability

Term: Spring 2022

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Sessions: Thursdays, 9-11am, Aula 1
Fridays, 9-11am, Aula 3

Office hours: Thursdays, 6-7pm, by appointment, online (Teams)

Description: This year's course will approach the topic of conflict and instability from the point of view of the functioning of our contemporary digital societies. The overarching notion which will guide us through the course is *social trust*, and specifically the systemic lack of it and the crisis of the notion itself in multiple spheres of our everyday experience. The course will trace the disruption generated by new technologies in eight politically and socially strategic ambits; in each, it will attempt to highlight how key actors either attempt to rebuild the bases for trustworthiness or tend to exploit mistrust for their own ends.

Prerequisites: This is an advanced research course. While there are no formal prerequisites, participants are expected to be acquainted with basic concepts in political science, international relations, economics, and quantitative reasoning techniques; furthermore, they should be self-starters, capable of orienting themselves quickly in large amounts of new information, and curious about the role of IT in our understanding of contemporary politics. Excellent written and spoken proficiency in English is indispensable.

Readings: The material for the course is outlined below, week by week. A Non-Attendee Required Reading List is provided, which traces the main arguments discussed in class in weeks 2 through 9. As these readings form the basis for each week's lectures, attendees may also wish to acquaint themselves with their content before class (but are not required to do so). All readings on this list, together with class materials (slides and other documents), will be posted on the online platform for the course. The General Reading List contains a broader selection of suggested further readings, intended as an initial guide for those interested in exploring a particular topic in greater depth, for the purposes of the research paper or general curiosity.

Assessment: *Non-attendees* will sit an oral examination. The examination will cover all material included in the non-attendee required reading list. The examination will be offered at various different dates within the official exam periods, as per departmental regulations. *Attendees* will need to

declare their intention to follow the course by the end of the second session (i.e., by the end of week one). They will be required to attend all lectures. The maximum number of sessions that may be missed (barring documented emergencies) in order to maintain attendee status is 2. Attendee performance will be assessed on the basis of a final research paper. The final research paper will be an original, 5000-word-long essay. Its aim will be to apply the general knowledge gained in the course to an empirical case-study. The topic of the research paper must be approved by the instructor before the Easter Break. The research paper will be due exactly one week after the final session of the course. No extensions will be offered. Style, formatting, and submission details to follow.

COURSE CALENDAR

		Thursdays	Fridays
<i>Week 1</i> Trust as a social-science problem	Feb. 24 & 25	Course introduction	Crises of democracy, neoliberalism, the global order, and community
Deadline to confirm attendee status			
<i>Week 2</i> Surveillance & archives	Mar. 3 & 4	Search and access to the digital archive	Data science and information overload
<i>Week 3</i> Information & the public sphere	Mar. 10 & 11	Misinformation and fake news	Generic trust in the public sphere
<i>Week 4</i> Organizational behavior & relations	Mar. 17 & 18	Leaks & whistleblowers, industrial espionage	Legitimacy and institutional reputations
<i>Week 5</i> Domestic politics	Mar. 24 & 25	Online populism, mobilization, astroturfing	Election management
<i>Week 6</i> Comparative policymaking	Mar. 31 & Apr. 1	Digital policy regulatory fora, regulatory capture	Tech company nationality
<i>Week 7</i> IR & power politics	Apr. 7 & 8	Information warfare	State-sponsored hacking, hacking as a power resource
Easter Break (deadline to confirm paper topic)			
<i>Week 8</i> Online sociability	Apr. 21 & 22	Digital charismatic communities, belief entrepreneurship	Digital discrimination (domestic and international)

<i>Week 9</i> Political economy & visibility	Apr. 28 & 29	Anonymity, visibility, wealth (financial flows)	Gig economy careers, platform monopolies and exploitation
<i>Week 10</i> Present & future challenges	May 5 & 6	Civic responsibility	Course roundup
			Final paper due May 13, 11am

NON-ATTENDEE REQUIRED READING LIST

- Couldry, N., Mejias, U.A., 2019. The costs of connection, pp. 3-68.
Henschke, A., 2017. Ethics in an age of surveillance, pp. 28-55, 89-125, 185-198.
Lyon, D., 2011 (Ed.). Theorizing surveillance, pp. 69-94, 247-269, 270-295.
- Bronner, G., 2015. Belief and misbelief asymmetry on the internet, pp. 1-59.
Howard, P.N., 2020. Lie machines, pp. 1-81.
Muirhead, R., Rosenblum, N.L., 2019. A lot of people are saying, pp. 17-78.
- Sagar, R., 2013. Secrets and leaks, pp. 16-50, 103-180.
Scott, C.R., 2013. Anonymous agencies, backstreet businesses, and covert collectives, pp. 1-24, 81-105, 160-196.
- Benkler, Y., Faris, R., Roberts, H., 2018. Network propaganda, pp. 3-99.
Jamieson, K.H., 2018. Cyberwar, pp. 21-63.
Persily, N., Tucker, J.A. (Eds.), 2020. Social media and democracy, pp. 34-55, 286-312.
Woolley, S., Howard, P.N. (Eds.), 2019. Computational propaganda, pp. 3-18.
- Farrell, H., Newman, A., 2019. Of privacy and power, pp. 39-124.
Murphy, M.H., 2019. Surveillance and the law, pp. 1-73.
Yeung, K., Lodge, M. (Eds.), 2019. Algorithmic regulation, pp. 203-223, 248-262.
- Buchanan, B., 2017. The cybersecurity dilemma, pp. 15-73.
Lindsay, J.R., Cheung, T.M., Reveron, D.S. (Eds.), 2015. China and cybersecurity, pp. 51-86, 138-162, 333-354.
Maurer, T., 2018. Cyber mercenaries, pp. 3-28, 123-150.
Perkovich, G., Levite, A. (Eds.), 2017. Understanding cyber conflict, pp. 231-247.
- Han, B.-C., 2015. The transparency society, pp. 1-8, 15-20, 34-49.
Marwick, A.E., 2013. Status update, pp. 73-244.
- Brunton, F., 2019. Digital cash, pp. 62-205.
Mejias, U.A., 2013. Off the network, pp. 81-141.

GENERAL READING LIST

Week 1: Trust as a social-science problem

- Schneier, B., 2012. Liars and outliers: enabling the trust that society needs to thrive. Wiley, Indianapolis.
- Zuckerman, E., 2021. Mistrust: why losing faith in institutions provides the tools to transform them. W.W. Norton & Co., New York.

Week 2: Surveillance & archives

- Bauman, Z., Lyon, D., 2013. Liquid Surveillance: A Conversation. Wiley, Oxford.
- Brayne, S., 2021. Predict and surveil: data, discretion, and the future of policing. Oxford University Press, New York, NY.
- Couldry, N., Mejias, U.A., 2019. The costs of connection: how data is colonizing human life and appropriating it for capitalism, culture and economic life. Stanford University Press, Stanford, California.
- Henschke, A., 2017. Ethics in an age of surveillance: personal information and virtual identities. Cambridge University Press, New York.
- Lyon, D., 2011 (Ed.). Theorizing surveillance: the panopticon and beyond. Routledge, New York.
- Lyon, D., 2018. The culture of surveillance: watching as a way of life. Polity, Cambridge, UK.
- O'Neil, C., 2016. Weapons of math destruction: how big data increases inequality and threatens democracy. Crown, New York.
- Smith, R.E., 2019. Rage Inside the Machine: The Prejudice of Algorithms, and How to Stop the Internet Making Bigots of Us All. Bloomsbury Publishing Plc, London.
- Véliz, C., 2020. Privacy is power: why and how you should take back control of your data. Bantam Press, London.
- Waldman, A.E., 2018. Privacy as trust: information privacy for an information age. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom ; New York, NY.

Week 3: Information & the public sphere

- Andrejevic, M., 2020. Automated media. Routledge, London ; New York, NY.
- Bronner, G., 2015. Belief and misbelief asymmetry on the internet. ISTE Ltd/John Wiley and Sons, London.
- Diakopoulos, N., 2019. Automating the news: how algorithms are rewriting the media. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- Howard, P.N., 2020. Lie machines: how to save democracy from troll armies, deceitful robots, junk news operations, and political operatives. Yale University Press, New Haven.
- Muirhead, R., Rosenblum, N.L., 2019. A lot of people are saying: the new conspiracism and the assault on democracy. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey, pp. 17-78.
- Phillips, W., Milner, R.M., 2021. You are here: a field guide for navigating polluted information. The MIT Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- Pomerantsev, P., 2019. This is not propaganda: adventures in the war against reality. PublicAffairs, New York.

Week 4: Organizational behavior & relations

- Angwin, J., 2015. *Dragnet nation: a quest for privacy, security, and freedom in a world of relentless surveillance*, Times Books/Henry Holt & co., New York.
- Coleman, E.G., 2014. *Hacker, hoaxer, whistleblower, spy: the many faces of Anonymous*. Verso, London; New York.
- Eubanks, V., 2019. *Automating inequality: how high-tech tools profile, police, and punish the poor*. St. Martin's Press, New York.
- Gillespie, T., 2018. *Custodians of the internet: platforms, content moderation, and the hidden decisions that shape social media*. Yale University Press, New Haven.
- Sagar, R., 2013. *Secrets and leaks: the dilemma of state secrecy*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, N.J.
- Scott, C.R., 2013. *Anonymous agencies, backstreet businesses, and covert collectives: rethinking organizations in the 21st century*. Stanford Business Books, an imprint of Stanford University Press, Stanford, California.

Week 5: Domestic politics

- Benkler, Y., Faris, R., Roberts, H., 2018. *Network propaganda: manipulation, disinformation, and radicalization in American politics*. Oxford University Press, New York.
- Choudry, A. (Ed.), 2019. *Activists and the surveillance state: learning from repression*. Pluto Press, London.
- Howard, P.N., Hussain, M.M., 2013. *Democracy's fourth wave? digital media and the Arab Spring*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.
- Jackson, S.J., Bailey, M., Welles, B.F., 2020. *#hashtagactivism: networks of race and gender justice*. The MIT Press, Cambridge.
- Jamieson, K.H., 2018. *Cyberwar: how Russian hackers and trolls helped elect a president— what we don't, can't, and do know*. Oxford University Press, New York.
- Jefferson, B.J., 2020. *Digitize and punish: racial criminalization in the digital age*. University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis.
- Persily, N., Tucker, J.A. (Eds.), 2020. *Social media and democracy: the state of the field, prospects for reform*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
- Sauter, M., 2014. *The coming swarm: DDoS actions, hacktivism, and civil disobedience on the Internet*. Bloomsbury, New York.
- Schradie, J., 2019. *The revolution that wasn't: how digital activism favors conservatives*. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts ; London, England.
- Tufekci, Z., 2017. *Twitter and tear gas: the power and fragility of networked protest*. Yale University Press, New Haven; London.
- Woolley, S., Howard, P.N. (Eds.), 2019. *Computational propaganda: political parties, politicians, and political manipulation on social media*. Oxford University Press, New York.

Week 6: Comparative policymaking

- Crawford, K., 2021. *Atlas of Ai: power, politics, and the planetary costs of artificial intelligence*. Yale University Press, New Haven.

- Deibert, R (Ed.), 2010. Access controlled: the shaping of power, rights, and rule in cyberspace. MIT Press, Cambridge, Mass.
- Deibert, R. (Ed.), 2008. Access denied: the practice and policy of global Internet filtering. MIT Press, Cambridge, Mass.
- Deibert, R. (Ed.), 2012. Access contested: security, identity, and resistance in Asian cyberspace. MIT Press, Cambridge, MA.
- El-Ariss, T., 2019. Leaks, hacks, and scandals: Arab culture in the digital age, Translation/transnation. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ.
- Farrell, H., Newman, A., 2019. Of privacy and power: the transatlantic struggle over freedom and security. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey.
- Griffiths, J., 2019. Great Firewall of China: how to build and control an alternate vision of the internet. ZED Books LTD, London.
- Mandel, R., 2019. Global data shock: strategic ambiguity, deception, and surprise in an age of information overload. Stanford University Press, Stanford, California.
- Murphy, M.H., 2019. Surveillance and the law: language, power, and privacy. Routledge, New York.
- Peixoto, T., Sifry, M.L., 2017. Civic Tech in the Global South: Assessing Technology for the Public Good. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Washington, D.C.
- Yeung, K., Lodge, M. (Eds.), 2019. Algorithmic regulation. Oxford University Press, New York.

Week 7: IR & power politics

- Buchanan, B., 2017. The cybersecurity dilemma: hacking, trust and fear between nations. Oxford University Press, Oxford.
- Buchanan, B., 2020. The hacker and the state: cyber-attacks and the new normal of geopolitics. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- Greenberg, A., 2019. Sandworm: a new era of cyberwar and the hunt for the Kremlin's most dangerous hackers. Doubleday, New York.
- Landau, S.E., 2017. Listening in: cybersecurity in an insecure age. Yale University Press, New Haven.
- Levine, Y., 2018. Surveillance valley: the secret military history of the Internet. PublicAffairs, New York.
- Lin, H., 2021. Cyber threats and nuclear weapons. Stanford University Press, Stanford, California.
- Lindsay, J.R., Cheung, T.M., Reveron, D.S. (Eds.), 2015. China and cybersecurity: espionage, strategy, and politics in the digital domain. Oxford University Press, New York.
- Maurer, T., 2018. Cyber mercenaries: the state, hackers, and power. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
- Perkovich, G., Levite, A. (Eds.), 2017. Understanding cyber conflict: 14 analogies. Georgetown University Press, Washington, DC.
- Perloth, N., 2021. This is how they tell me the world ends: the cyberweapons arms race. Bloomsbury, London.
- Sanger, D.E., 2018. The perfect weapon: war, sabotage, and fear in the cyber age, First edition. ed. Crown Publishers, an imprint of the Crown Publishing Group, New York.

Week 8: Online sociability

- Benjamin, R., 2019. Race after technology: abolitionist tools for the new Jim code. Polity, Medford, MA.
- Guo, S. 2021. The evolution of the Chinese Internet: creative visibility in the digital public. Stanford University Press, Stanford, California.
- Han, B.-C., 2015. The transparency society. Stanford Briefs, an imprint of Stanford University Press, Stanford, California.
- Marwick, A.E., 2013. Status update: celebrity, publicity, and branding in the social media age. Yale University Press, New Haven.
- Noble, S.U., 2018. Algorithms of oppression: how search engines reinforce racism. New York University Press, New York.
- Phillips, W., 2015. This is why we can't have nice things: mapping the relationship between online trolling and mainstream culture. The MIT Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- Quinn, Z., 2017. Crash override: how Gamergate (nearly) destroyed my life, and how we can win the fight against online hate. PublicAffairs, New York.
- Turkle, S., 2017. Alone together: why we expect more from technology and less from each other. Basic Books, New York.

Week 9: Political economy & visibility

- Brunton, F., 2019. Digital cash: the unknown history of the anarchists, utopians, and technologists who created cryptocurrency. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ.
- Hwang, T., 2020. Subprime attention crisis: advertising and the time bomb at the heart of the internet. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, New York.
- Jones, P., 2021. Work without the Worker: Labour in the Age of Platform Capitalism. VERSO Books, London.
- Mejias, U.A., 2013. Off the network: disrupting the digital world. University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis.
- Odell, J., 2019. How to do nothing: resisting the attention economy. Melville House, Brooklyn, NY.
- Srnicek, N., 2017. Platform capitalism, Theory redux. Polity, Cambridge, UK ; Malden, MA.
- Turow, J., 2017. The aisles have eyes: how retailers track your shopping, strip your privacy, and define your power. Yale University Press, New Haven.
- Wu, T., 2016. The attention merchants: the epic scramble to get inside our heads. Alfred A. Knopf, New York.
- Zuboff, S., 2018. The age of surveillance capitalism: the fight for a human future at the new frontier of power. PublicAffairs, New York.

Week 10: Present & future challenges

- Costanza-Chock, S., 2020. Design justice: community-led practices to build the worlds we need, Information policy. The MIT Press, Cambridge, MA.
- D'Ignazio, C., Klein, L.F., 2020. Data feminism, Strong ideas series. The MIT Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

- Doctorow, C., 2014. Information Doesn't Want to Be Free: Laws for the Internet Age. McSweeney's, New York.
- Steele, C.K., 2021. Digital Black feminism, Critical cultural communication. New York University Press, New York.
- Webb, M., 2020. Coding democracy: how hackers are disrupting power, surveillance, and authoritarianism. MIT Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts.