


June 10

14:30 - 17:00 

PUBLIC DISCUSSION. Polling: predictions, trust and margin of error


Wellton Riverside SPA Hotel, 11. Novembra Krastmala 33

Can we trust the polls? With polls proliferating in the media and with methodological concerns increasing within the polling industry, caution is warranted. Something has changed about the way voters are willing to share their preferences with pollsters, even when those opinion polls are conducted anonymously. During this discussion, we will identify what has caused that change and, in particular, the role that 'trust' plays in voters' willingness to reveal their political preferences.


Moderator: Ms Victoria Preston (Associate Fellow at King's Centre for Strategic Communications)

Speakers: Mr Marcus Roberts (Director of International Projects, YouGov), Mr Peter Dahlgren (PhD candidate, University of Gothenburg), Ms Rita Ruduša (Project Director, journalist, Internews Network)

June 11

09:00 - 10:00 


Registration & Morning Coffee

10:00 - 10:40 

Main Stage

Opening Remarks

H.E. Mr Raimonds Vejonis, President of Latvia
Dr Arturs Krisjanis Karins, Prime Minister of Latvia
Amb Mr Tacan Ildem, NATO Assistant Secretary General for Public Diplomacy
Mr Janis Sarts, Director of the NATO StratCom COE

10:40 - 11:30 


Main Stage

Framing the future


Emerging technologies are revolutionising the way we go about our daily lives. In the future, this will have a huge impact on our communication, mental well-being, and the health of our democracies. Yet only a small fraction of us understand and are able to influence how emerging technologies are created and deployed. What are the risks associated with these developments and how should we move forward?

Mr Mikko Hypponen, Global security expert, F-Secure

Mr Justinas Jautžemis, Partner & Innovation Strategist, Hungry Scout

11:30 - 12:00 

Coffee Break

12:00 - 13:30 

Main Stage

Livestream

Regulation! Like? Share? Comment?


The development of information and communication technologies poses a growing challenge for national administrations and international organisations. The spread of artificial intelligence, machine learning, robotics and the "Wild West" of social media and on-line platforms requires a truly visionary approach in setting the appropriate level of ambition for future policies regulating these phenomena.

Moderator: Mr Edward Lucas (Senior VP, CEPA)

Speakers: Mr Damian Collins (Chair of Digital, Culture, Media and Sports Select Committee, Member of UK Parliament), Ms Yi-Ling Teo (Senior Fellow, S Rajaratnam School of International Studies), Dr Artis Pabriks (Deputy Prime Minister of Latvia, Minister of Defence), Mr Toomas Hendrik Ilves (former president of Estonia, Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the Hoover Institution and the Global Digital Policy Incubator, Stanford University)

13:30 - 15:30 

Lunch

15:30 - 17:00 

Main Stage

Livestream

Beyond intelligence: how to make AI accountable


This panel will address the challenges, risks, and opportunities posed by AI technologies. Will AI-driven systems fundamentally change our current way of life? Delving further into the debate, we will discuss the question of AI accountability. How might we ensure transparency of factors leading to AI-generated decisions. Rather than only focusing on negatives, how can we use AI to our advantage?

Moderator: Dr Irena Nesterova (Postdoctoral researcher, Institute of Legal Science, University of Latvia)

Speakers: Mr Károly Zsolnai-Fehér (Doctoral Researcher, Vienna University of Technology), Mr Tim Hwang (Director, Ethics and Governance of AI Initiative, Harvard / MIT), Mr Maciej Surowiec (Director, Director, Governmental Affairs, Microsoft), Mr Elgars Goba (Latvijas Mobilais Telefons, Director of Service Systems)

17:00 - 17:30 

Coffee Break

17:30 - 18:30 


Room A

In too deep - do deepfakes pose a threat to democracy?

Machine learning technologies can be used to distort reality and twist facts like never before. Artificial Intelligence enables video and audio productions to offer a completely fabricated 'reality'. What is more, it has never been so easy or cheap to produce and share such content. The question is, to what extent these so-called "deep fakes" will influence our societies and political processes. Can "deep fakes" tip the scale in tight elections and open the doors of high public office to someone who really doesn't meet the requirements of the job?

Moderator: Ms Margo Gontar (Journalist and independent media expert on disinformation)

Speakers: Mr James McLeod-Hatch (Head of Research and Evaluation, M&C Saatchi World Services), Dr Gabriele Rizzo (Lead Scientist, Strategic Innovation & Principal Futurist, Leonardo), Prof Bjorn Ommer (Professor, Heidelberg University)

17:30 - 18:30 

Room B

Macro-effects of microtargeting: the ethics of our attention economy

With the advertising industry fuelling platforms and services online, the way people consume information has changed fundamentally. Information we intentionally seek out is only part of our daily information diet. News items, products, entertainment, and opinions are increasingly selected and calibrated according to our personal preferences. Algorithms, as they are currently used on social media platforms, have shown a tendency to polarise and to reflect or even exacerbate pre-existing biases in society. So who should make the decision about what comes to our attention? And what are the criteria that should guide such decisions?

Moderator: Prof Jarno Limnell (Professor, Aalto University, Finland)

Speakers: Mr Tim Hwang (Director, Ethics and Governance of AI Initiative, Harvard / MIT), Ms Anna Vladimirova-Krjukova (Associate, Certified Data Protection Officer, COBALT)


17:30 - 18:30 

Room C

Weaponised information: what does the future hold?

In this sub-panel we present some of NATO Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence research products: *Black Market of Social Media*, red-team experiment during military exercise and *Robotrolling*. Together these products raise questions about the ease and speed with which manipulation online create tangible security threats. Ongoing hostile influence campaigns in Europe and United States have increasingly targeted the digital environment. The Kremlin's interference in presidential elections in the United States and France as well as the recent referendum in Macedonia demonstrate how large-scale foreign influence campaigns exploit the online environment. This subpanel will focus on new and existing social media vulnerabilities, repeatedly exploited by hostile actors, and what NATO should be doing to mitigate risks and limit the damage of malicious abuse of social media platforms.

Speakers: Ms Nora Biteniece (Software Engineer, NATO StratCom COE), Dr Rolf Fredheim (Principal Scientist, NATO StratCom COE), Mr Sebastian Bay (Senior Expert, NATO StratCom COE)

19:00 - 21:30 

Railway Museum

Opening Dinner

June 12

09:00 - 10:00



Registration & Morning Coffee

10:00 - 11:30



Looking outside the bubble - the global view

Main Stage

Livestream

What can we gain from taking a look beyond our own borders and learning from the experience of others? This session widens the debate beyond the Euro-Atlantic region to understand how available and emerging technologies affect social processes across the globe. As societies worldwide struggle in the face of seismic shifts brought on by new technology, governments need to balance top-down intervention and civil liberties. Fresh vulnerabilities have opened up for exploitation by malign actors wishing to influence political decision-making and public debate.

Moderator: Dr Neville Bolt (Director, of King's Centre for Strategic Communications (KCSC), Editor-in-Chief, Defence Strategic Communications journal)

Speakers: Ms Louise Marie Hurel (Cybersecurity and Internet governance researcher, Igarapé Institute), Dr Sharon Adetutu Omotoso (Research Fellow, Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan), Mr Michael Anti (CEO, Caixin Globus), Mr Fabrizio Hochschild (Assistant Secretary-General for Strategic Coordination, United Nations)

11:30 - 12:00



Coffee Break

12:00 - 13:00



PRESENTATION. Responding to Russian disinformation: lessons learned from the Salisbury incident. (*Chatham House Rules*)

Room A

In March 2018 the former Russian military officer and double-agent for the UK intelligence services Sergei Skripal was poisoned by the nerve agent Novichok, most likely at the direction of the Russian state. While the UK government was focused on the careful and systematic unearthing of facts about the incident, dozens of false and fake stories concerning the perpetrators and motivations behind the poisoning circulated the web. This session will discuss the communications lessons learned to the Salisbury incident. This session is organised in cooperation with the UK Government Communications Service.

Speakers: Mr Daniel Walpole (Head of National Security Communications, UK Government, Cabinet Office)

12:00 - 13:00



Countering disinformation: what can we learn from the world's largest democracy?

Room B

Modern technologies are continuing to change the daily lives of citizens in India, presenting various opportunities and challenges. Large social media platforms like YouTube, Facebook, and WhatsApp are making notable changes to their services due to their experience in India. Ensuring transparency of political advertising and introducing new standards for fighting extremist narratives, fake news, and disinformation will also have its effect on India's General Election in the spring of 2019.

Speakers: Ms Madhulika Srikumar (Associate Fellow, Observer Research Foundation, India-US Fellow, New America), Mr Kanishk Karan (Research Associate, Atlantic Council)

12:00 - 13:00



China's global influence - soft power, sharp power, hard power?

Room C

2018 marked the 40th anniversary of China's economic reform and opening up. Today China's investments are global, enabled by new mechanisms and initiatives such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the trillion-dollar Belt-and-Road initiative. The country's strategic investment in communication infrastructure positions China as one of the leading players in future technologies. These developments have brought economic benefits to countries, among other positive externalities. At the same time, they have cast China's global influence apparatus in the spotlight. Examples include various countries' intelligence assessment of Chinese political influence and newly-enacted laws targeting foreign influence. What can we learn about China's influence in countries near and far? In what form will it manifest itself in the information environment?

Moderator: Dr Mareike Ohlberg (Research Associate, Mercator Institute for China Studies, Berlin)

Speakers: Prof Clive Hamilton (Professor of Public Ethics, Charles Sturt University), Prof Anne-Marie Brady (Professor in Political Science and International Relations, University of Canterbury)

13:00 - 15:00



Lunch

14:30 - 16:30



WORKSHOP. The 360/OS Riga Breakaway

Room D

Digital Forensic Research Lab (@DFRLab), an Atlantic Council programme, hosted at the NATO StratCom COE, is at the forefront of open source, social media, and digital forensic research in the digital engagement age. As part of @DFRLab's goal to build digital resilience worldwide, @DFRLab's experts will organise a pop-up training as part of the Riga StratCom Dialogue 2019. The pop-up event will focus on the power of open source and digital forensic research to expose disinformation online and track military developments in real time. The participants will get a chance to learn the latest techniques, new skills, and take their abilities to the next level through interactive, expert-led workshops in a collaborative group environment.

15:00 - 16:00



Russian information confrontation 2.0

Main Stage

Since the beginning of 2019 Russia has embraced a more aggressive rhetoric towards NATO, the European Union, and Western leaders. The Kremlin communicates its narratives both to domestic audiences via state-controlled media, and to international audiences via Kremlin-backed outlets like RT and Sputnik. The West is presented as weak and vulnerable in the face of Russian hybrid threats (from warfighting to cyber aggressions), while at the same time Russia is being framed as a victim of such attacks from the 'aggressive West'. In this discussion we will analyse what steps should be taken to set us on a desirable path in terms of cyber and digital security policy.

Moderator: Mr Keir Giles (Senior Consulting Fellow, Chatham House)

Speakers: Mr Mark Laity (Director Communications, SHAPE), Mr Pavel Felgenhauer (Defense analyst & columnist, Novaya Gazeta; Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Jamestown Foundation), Mr Siim Alatalu (Strategy Researcher, NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence)

15:00 - 16:00



5G misinformation: what you should know about the new network

Room B

Livestream

Too often, technological innovation is met with fear by the general population. This fear can be exacerbated by mis-/disinformation. The development of fifth generation (5G) wireless networks stands out as a clear example of this mechanism. 5G is convenient, but critics are concerned about its ability to protect users' privacy. These networks are set to become the backbone of communication systems across the EU, our societies and economies will depend on this architecture. Therefore, the implementation of 5G technology is an issue that deserves to be discussed by politics and civil society.

Moderator: Mr Dario Cavegn (Managing Editor, ERR News)

Speakers: Mr Ingmars Pukis (Vice President, Member of the Board, Latvijas Mobilais Telefons), Mr Uldis Cernevskis (LTE/5G project leader, MikroTik)

16:00 - 16:30



Coffee Break

16:30 - 18:00



Recognising the whole: integrating information in defence management

Main Stage

Livestream

There is a growing awareness in Western defence forces that operation planning must evolve, making it necessary to understand the environment in its totality. This will require close cooperation across all possible domains both within and between countries. How do military commanders envisage their place and role within this realm? What will their requirements be for the information preparation of the environment they will be operating in? Developing practical ways to integrate influence activities into combined arms planning and assessment will improve the effectiveness of combined and joint operations. How must commanders change their strategic communication approach to have an effect in their operating environment?

Moderator: General (Retired) Hans-Lothar Domroese (Consultant, NATO)

Speakers: Brigadier General Vesa Virtanen (Chief of Plans and Policy Division, Defence Command Finland), Lieutenant General Laurent Kolodziej (Commander, French Rapid Reaction Corps), Major General Bill Seymour (Deputy Commander, Canadian Joint Operations Command)

18:00 - 18:30



Closing Remarks by Janis Sarts, Director of the NATO StratCom COE

18:30 - 19:00



Transfer to Closing Party

19:00 - 21:30



Closing Party

Botanical Garden