

Misinformation and security challenges

Today's information and communication ecosystem is marked by a deepening crisis. Powerful tech companies wield growing influence, while much of the public increasingly relies on social media as a primary source of news and information. While we have a plethora of communication technologies widely accessible, their users around the world face a more hostile online environment shaped by geopolitical competition in the digital and information space, manipulation, weaponized content, exploitative data practices, and mounting pressure on media independence and pluralism. At the same time, the development of disruptive technologies such as artificial intelligence is moving faster than the ethical safeguards and regulations designed to keep them in check.

Against this background, the course on „Misinformation and security challenges” looks at how all these interconnected trends and evolutions impact the public sphere. Political and social events in recent years highlighted the problem of mis/disinformation in the context of the digital media ecosystem, and the security challenges it entails. This course will examine the phenomenon of online disinformation by sharing relevant insights from multiple fields: technology, communication science, theories of media effects, psychology. Additionally, the course explores countermeasures and strategies for building resilience of the audience.