

# NEWS MEDIA, PLATFORM POLITICS, AND CHANGING INFORMATION “ORDER” IN EUROPE

HOSTED BY



ASSOCIATE

**DIGIRES**  
Baltijos skaitmeninio atsparumo  
tyrimų centras

**EUROPEAN MEDIA  
AND PLATFORM POLICY**  
The Euromedia Research Group

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**EuromediApp Dissemination Conference**  
Organized in collaboration with the DIGIRES initiative  
and the EuroMedia Research Group network

Hybrid Conference (all time are EET):

- Venue: V.Putvinskio st. 23, Room 311, Kaunas, Lithuania (Vytautas Magnus University)
- Online platform MS Teams: Registration is required and open until May 10, 2022 - <https://forms.gle/kytqqHKF6LYREqT39>

## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

THURSDAY

16:00–16:05

**WELCOME AND AGENDA**

Auksė Balčytienė and Josef Trappel

16:05–16:10

**PANEL INTRODUCTION**

Hannu Nieminen and Auksė Balčytienė

16:10–18:30

**Panel 1:**  
Disinformation  
and propaganda  
in the times of high-  
choice and rich  
media  
environment:  
aims, methods,  
successes,  
countermeasures

*Manipulation of information space as a tool for  
hybrid threat operations*

Teija Tiilikainen

*Changing disinformation toolkit: practical aspect*  
Romanas Judinas

*Vulnerabilities to disinformation: How are they to be  
understood?*

Steven Livingston

*Weaponization of information – the experience from  
a small state*

Nora Biteniece

*Russia's propaganda failures in the war against  
Ukraine*

Nerijus Maliukevičius

17:50–18:30 **Q&A**

Hannu Nieminen and Auksė Balčytienė

**Moderators:**  
Hannu Nieminen  
Kristina Juraitė

10:00–10:10

## PANEL OVERVIEW

Ignas Kalpokas and Barbara Thomass

10:10–12:00

**Panel 2:**  
Platformization  
and reactions  
to social/political  
crises in Europe

*Platform policy responses to Russia's war in Ukraine*  
Tanya Lokot

*The dark side of the social media: disinformation as a by-product*

Mažvydas Kunevičius

*Fostering resilience to platform effects in a small and rapidly changing news market – multi-stakeholder collaborations for mitigating online disinformation*

Ieva Ivanauskaitė, Auksė Balčytienė

*Beyond fact-checking: Restoring trust in Central Europe*

Adriana Dergam

**Moderators:**  
Ignas Kalpokas  
Barbara Thomass

11:30–12:00 Q&amp;A

Ignas Kalpokas and Barbara Thomass

## LUNCH BREAK

13:00–13:10

## PANEL OVERVIEW

Epp Lauk and Auksė Balčytienė

13:10–15:00

**Panel 3:**  
Information  
disequilibria in  
contemporary  
Europe: responses  
to information  
disorders

*Pseudoscience and pro-Russian disinformation: Best friends forever?*

Peter Kreko

*Croatia: An information environment in exploration*

Dražen Hoffmann

*Assessing information disorder in the digital media welfare state: A Rights-based approach*

Minna Aslama Horowitz

*The method to their madness: Kremlin disinformation*

Lukas Andriukaitis

**Moderators:**  
Epp Lauk  
Auksė Balčytienė

14:30–15:00 Q&amp;A

Epp Lauk and Auksė Balčytienė

# COFFEE BREAK

15:30–15:40

## PANEL OVERVIEW

15:40–18:00

**Panel 3:**  
EuromediApp  
Dissemination  
Workshops'  
session

Platformization and  
changes in the  
European news  
ecosystem: Results  
from the national  
workshops  
reviewed in the  
light of the  
manyfold crises

Josef Trappel and Aukse Balčytienė

*Hungary*

Peter Bajomi-Lazar

*Portugal*

Helena Sousa

*Finland*

Hannu Nieminen

*The Dutch part of Belgium*

Leen D'Haenens and Hanne Vandenberghe

*Austria*

Tales Tomaz

*Lithuania*

Aukse Balčytienė and Hannu Nieminen with Dominyka Lapelytė, Rimgailė Kasparaitė, Aistė Turčinavičiūtė and Patricija Naujanytė

17:30–18:00 Q&A

Josef Trappel and Aukse Balčytienė



**Moderators:**  
Josef Trappel  
Aukse Balčytienė

## SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS (in alphabetical order)



### LUKAS ANDRIUKAITIS

is an Associate Director at the Atlantic Council's Digital Forensic Research Lab (DFRLab) based in Belgium.



### MINNA ASLAMA HOROWITZ

is a docent at the University of Helsinki, Finland, a researcher at the Nordic Observatory for Digital Media and Information Disorder (NORDIS), a Fellow at St. John's University, New York, and an Expert on Advocacy and Digital Rights at the Central European University, Vienna. She researches (public media) policies, digital rights, and media activism.

## PETER BAJOMI-LAZAR

is professor of Mass Communication at the Budapest Business School University of Applied Sciences.

## AUKSĖ BALČYTIENĖ

is a professor of journalism and communication and UNESCO Co-Chair on MIL for Knowledge Inclusive Societies at VMU, Lithuania. She is PI for the EU funded project DIGIRES, which is a national association (<http://digires.lt>). Her research focus is on digital media infused social changes, and democratic forms of resilience against information disorders.

## NORA BITENIECE

is a consultant at the Strategic Communication Coordination Department of the State Chancellery, Latvia where she monitors information environment and works on various national and international efforts to identify and counter disinformation.

## ADRIANA DERGAM

is a project manager at the national Hub CEDMO Central European Digital Media Observatory (<https://cedmohub.eu>).

## LEEN D'HAENENS

is Full Professor at the Institute for Media Studies (IMS) and Vice-dean International Relations of the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Leuven (KU Leuven).

## DRAŽEN HOFFMANN

works on the development and implementation of educational activities for teachers, youth and other target groups in the fields of political and media literacy, and on improving the implementation of Civic Education in the formal education system at the democracy watchdog organisation Gong from Zagreb, Croatia. He works on Gong's EDMO-funded project "ProFact" on media literacy and awareness-raising activities.

## IEVA IVANAUSKAITĖ

is Head of Business Development at DELFI ([www.delfi.lt](http://www.delfi.lt)) which is one of the biggest digital news media groups in Lithuania and the Baltic countries.

## KRISTINA JURAITĖ

is a professor and Head of the Department of Public Communications at VMU, Lithuania; she is also UNESCO Co-Chair on MIL for Knowledge Inclusive Societies. Her interests include media and information literacy, cultural communication and participation, news media discourses, visual communication and culture.

## ROMANAS JUDINAS

is advisor to Threats Management and Crisis Prevention Group Chancellery of the Government of Lithuania.

## IGNAS KALPOKAS

is an Associate Professor and program chair for the graduate program on Future Media and Journalism at VMU. His research encompasses identity formation through communication, particularly focusing on post-truth; algorithmic governance of social life; more broadly, the attention economy and the platform ecosystem.

## RIMGAILĖ KASPARAITĖ

is a graduate student of Future Media and Journalism at VMU, and junior researcher at DIGIRES (<http://digires.lt>).

## PETER KREKO

is a Hungarian economist, political psychologist, political scientist, and professor. He currently serves as the Director of the Political Capital Institute, and as a senior external researcher for the Center for European Policy Analysis.

## MAŽVYDAS KUNEVIČIUS

is a former officer of the Lithuanian Military StratCom.

## DOMINYKA LAPELYTĖ

is communications specialist at VMU, and junior researcher at DIGIRES (<http://digires.lt>).

## EPP LAUK

is professor emerita of journalism at Jyväskylä University, Finland, and professor at the Department of Public Communications at VMU, Lithuania. Her research interests are in media democratization and media systems transformation, and also a broad spectrum of questions linked with journalism change and professionalization.

## STEVEN LIVINGSTON

is a Founding Director of the Institute for Data, Democracy, and Politics (IDDP) and Professor of Media and Public Affairs at the George Washington University, the US. His expertise is in media and information technology's role in foreign affairs policy making, including economic development, governance, and human rights advocacy and security.

## TANYA LOKOT

is Associate Professor in Digital Media and Society at the School of Communications, DCU, Ireland. She researches threats to digital rights, networked authoritarianism, internet freedom, and internet governance in Eastern Europe

## NERIJUS MALIUKEVIČIUS

is a lecturer in the Institute of International Relations and Political Science at Vilnius University, Lithuania. His research focuses on information warfare, strategic communication, conflict management as well as Russian studies.

## PATRICIJA NAUJANYTĖ

is a PhD student with a focus on media literacy at the Department of Public Communications at VMU, and junior researcher at DIGIRES (<http://digires.lt>).

## HANNU NIEMINEN

is professor emeritus of media and communications at Helsinki University, Finland, and professor at the Department of Public Communications at VMU, Lithuania. His expertise is in media and public sphere, European media and communications policy, digital rights.

## HELENA SOUSA

is professor of communication sciences at the Communication and Society Research Centre and dean of the Social Sciences School at the University of Minho, Portugal.

## BARBARA THOMASS

is retired professor for International Comparison of Media Systems at the Institute for Media Studies, Ruhr-University in Bochum, Germany, and Senior Researcher at Leibniz-Institute for Media Research | Hans-Bredow-Institut (HBI). Her main fields of interests are media systems in Western and Eastern Europe, media politics, media and journalism ethics.

## TEIJA TIILIKAINEN

is a political scientist and director of the European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats at Helsinki, Finland.

## TALES TOMAZ

is a senior researcher at the Department of Communication Studies at the University of Salzburg. His research interests are in political economy of the digital media.

## JOSEF TRAPPEL

is a professor for media policy and media economics and head of the Department of Communication Studies at the University of Salzburg, Austria. He leads the Erasmus Jean Monnet network project EuromediApp (<http://euromediapp.org>).

## AISTĖ TURČINAVIČIŪTĖ

is a graduate student of Future Media and Journalism at VMU, and junior researcher at DIGIRES (<http://digires.lt>).

## HANNE VANDENBERGHE

is a senior researcher and lecturer at the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Leuven and the Faculty of Political and Social Sciences at the Ghent University. Her main research interests are media policy, the relationship between news and democracy and the representation of diversity issues in the news.