GLOBAL
SECURITY
FORUM

OVERVIEW & FINDINGS REPORT

GLOBAL SECURITY FORUM 2019

GLOBAL SECURITY FORUM
Security Challenges in the Era of Modern Disinformation

THE GLOBAL SECURITY FORUM

Established in 2018, the Global Security Forum is an annual international gathering bringing together a multi-disciplinary network of experts, practitioners, and policy-makers from government, security, academia, media, entertainment, international organizations, the humanitarian sector, the private sector and beyond to come together to discuss the world's most pressing topics. This invite-only event provides a unique platform for international stakeholders to convene and offer solutions that address the international community's leading security challenges.

2019 FORUM

The 2019 Global Security Forum took place from 15-16 October in Doha, Qatar. The Forum addressed the topic 'Security Challenges in the Era of Modern Disinformation' and explored the challenge posed by the proliferation of modern disinformation and the serious implications the phenomenon has on an increasingly interconnected world. The event underscored how the threat of disinformation is rampant globally and presents a whole-of-society challenge, impacting governments, communities, businesses, brands & media. Each year, the Global Security Forum is organized by The Soufan Center (TSC) and the Qatar International Academy for Security Studies (QIASS). The 2019 Global Security Forum confirmed partnerships with the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), New America, Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), Defense One, the Alliance for Securing Democracy, Qatar University, and Qatar Airways.
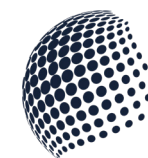
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GLOBAL SECURITY FORUM | منتدى الأمن العالمي

Thank you to all who participated in the 2019 Global Security Forum. On behalf of our 2019 partners – the Alliance for Securing Democracy, Defense One, Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), New America, Qatar Airways, Qatar University and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED) – it was our pleasure to welcome guests from around the world to join us in Doha, Qatar.

This year's Global Security Forum was a collaborative international effort to bring together key stakeholders to address the security threat of modern disinformation. Disinformation threatens the security of individual nations and global security broadly, posing a serious challenge to our collective understanding of concepts like truth, reality, and objectivity.There were representatives from almost 70 countries in attendance, a true testament to the global nature of the challenge, which has serious implications in an increasingly interconnected world.

A key objective of the 2019 Global Security Forum was to share information and best practices and set a robust research agenda to identify current shortcomings and fill critical knowledge gaps. We also hoped to share a set of policy recommendations on the next steps to address the global security threats associated with modern disinformation. Through several unique panels, tailored workshops, TED-style talks, and fireside chats, the two-day conference provided a fresh look at what lies ahead, mapping out the challenges facing the international community as it attempts to deal with disinformation in the modern era.

World-renowned experts, government officials, and policymakers explored present-day issues surrounding disinformation, including what makes the challenge so distinct today. Other topics included disinformation in the marketplace, which examined the financial effects and commercial fallout of disinformation; as well as disinformation regulation and legislation, including the policy options that exist to deal with these challenges. Experts explored the impact of cutting-edge issues such as deceptive editing of the human voice, weaponized warfare in the digital age, deep fakes, and more. This report presents the key outcomes and findings from the 2019 Global Security

Yours Sincerely,
Ali Soufan
Founder, The Soufan Center

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INSIGHTS

80%
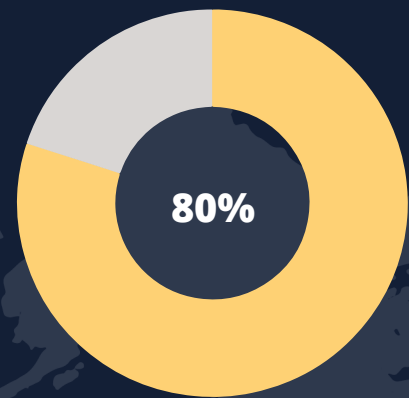
80 percent of videos and images are captured with smartphones

$1.2 trillion

videos and images posted online each year

A **cyberattack** occurs every **40 seconds,** which will cost **6 trillion** dollars by 2021

500 million

tweets per day

$6 billion

corporate losses annually due to cyberattacks and disinformation

5.1 billion

internet users

10 billion

devices connected to the internet

1.7 billion websites

78 countries

use disinformation as a tactic for competition against others

Sources: Michelle Strah (CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice), Alastair Aitken CBE (Storyful),
Jen Easterly (Morgan Stanley), Mounir Ibrahim (Truepic)

FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

INTRODUCTION

The Global Security Forum focused on the threat posed by disinformation to nations around the world. Several themes emerged, which have contributed to the development of the Forum's key findings. The threat of disinformation is exacerbated by the internet, including social media, which facilitates the rapid spread of falsified information to diverse audiences. Disinformation is also within reach of all strands of society as anyone today can create a "story" or be an "expert." Standards of journalism have deteriorated, and some experts argued these standards have become obsolete. Finally, news and the ability to manipulate information today is increasingly complex; it is difficult to discern what is real or fake without proper tools, education, and awareness of cognitive bias. The information ecosystem is expanding faster than anyone can keep up with, and at the same time populations are becoming increasingly socially and politically polarized.

DISINFORMATION IS LOCAL AND GLOBAL

Disinformation may prove difficult to impossible to debunk depending on the medium used, actors involved, the education level of a population and other local context factors involved. A local farmer in rural village in India and a college student in Hong Kong are both susceptible to disinformation campaigns, but perhaps in different ways. Some participants referred to the spread of disinformation on WhatsApp and other messaging platforms, where in many cases, a person's only interaction with media or news would be through that messaging application. Notably the world's poorest populations often rely heavily on a personal or 'community-level' mobile phone for information. In addition, content algorithms created for these individuals or communities can reinforce selective sourcing of content, often to suit their preferences, which can increase isolated and singular viewpoints.
But the problem is not limited to the digitally constrained – it also applies to the digitally overwhelmed. Communities with access to dozens of platforms and news outlets to receive information will find it increasingly difficult to decipher fact from fiction. Therefore, when discussing disinformation, it is extremely important to understand the local context, including the modes of potential transmission of disinformation, who is receiving it, etc.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IS NECESSARY TO COUNTER THE THREAT

Because disinformation is a global threat that transcends borders, solutions to address it should also be global in nature. A global platform to combat disinformation campaigns should be developed in order to unify efforts and keep accountability high by states. The Forum revealed that while many countries are exchanging threat information, sharing best practices, and participating in collaborative training exercises to address this threat, much more global cooperation is necessary and cooperation platforms should be more organized and formal. The United Nations, together with companies, governments, and civil society need to come together and determine new ways to cooperate and share information. Global threats, from addressing climate change to countering terrorism, are areas where countries regularly cooperate transnationally; disinformation should be another area of robust international cooperation.

DIGITAL LITERACY IS AN IRREPLACEABLE TOOL TO COUNTER THE WEAPONIZATION OF INFORMATION

At almost every discussion during the forum, digital literacy was emphasized as a key tool to combat disinformation. Finding innovative ways to engage communities and encourage critical thinking, including via web-enabled and in-school literacy training, are essential. The sub-themes of digital literacy focused on the need to educate youth and the important the role of schools and universities in digital literacy. News organizations around the world should also consider training their viewers on how to detect disinformation; public policymakers should better understand how their policies may be manipulated publicly; and governments should better utilize counter-narratives to address disinformation. Ukraine, as an example, provides media literacy and information about verification in their daily curriculum to students in some topical areas. One of their programs had a 20 percent increase in students' ability to identify fake news following their program.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS WILL ADD VALUE TO COMPREHENSIVELY COUNTERING DISINFORMATION

Many speakers recognized that governments alone cannot be good at every aspect of countering disinformation and need to determine the strengths they bring and what other stakeholders, including technology companies, social media platforms, human rights organizations, and marketing agencies can contribute collectively. For example, the United States created a foreign influence taskforce (FITF) within the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The FITF pulls together several divisions and agencies within the bureau to share information with partners, including with the private sector, in briefings and meetings, in an effort to counter the extensive influence operations of foreign adversaries. Such engagement requires ensuring connective tissue between the private and public sectors to prevent disinformation campaigns and even cyberattacks. While legislation is an important element of a government intervention, any legislation should be comprehensive and not seek to violate human rights, freedom of speech, or promote censorship. Several case studies were discussed where states, in an effort to control disinformation and its spread, shut down the internet following major events and crises. When the state manages crises by controlling the situation through cutting off communication, this is a flagrant violation of human rights and a way to further marginalize communities. Such efforts can have varying and intense negative effects depending on the local context.

WE NEED A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE PSYCHO-SOCIOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS OF DISINFORMATION

Information interacts with individuals in a variety of ways, and individuals have belief systems. Their level of cognitive bias influences how an individual responds to information and the level of 'believability' of the message. An individual's vulnerability to a particular message, based on their belief systems, also plays a significant role. These cognitive and psycho-sociological factors were discussed at length during the forum, and need to be analyzed further when considering comprehensive solutions to addressing disinformation.

OPENING CEREMONY

The 2019 Global Security Forum opened under the auspices of His Excellency, Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Interior for the State of Qatar. Several ministers, senior officials, and diplomats from nations around the world attended. This year's forum explored the security challenges posed by the proliferation of modern disinformation and the serious implications it has on an increasingly interconnected world.

Christopher Graves, President & Founder of the Ogilvy Center for Behavioral Science, served as the Forum's Master of Ceremonies. Joseph Donnelly Sr., Chairman of the Board for The Soufan Center (TSC) and former U.S. Senator, delivered the opening remarks. TSC Board Chairman Donnelly expressed his hope that this year's Global Security Forum would bring about solutions to diverse challenges posed by disinformation.

"DISINFORMATION THREATENS THE SECURITY OF INDIVIDUAL NATIONS AND GLOBAL SECURITY MORE BROADLY; POSING A SERIOUS CHALLENGE TO OUR COLLECTIVE UNDERSTANDING OF CONCEPTS LIKE TRUTH, REALITY, AND OBJECTIVITY."

Joe Donnelly Sr.
Chairman of the Board, The Soufan Center

FIRESIDE CHAT

His Excellency, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani,
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, State of Qatar
Interviewed by Ali Velshi, MSNBC Anchor

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"It is very important now that people who spread any disinformation, whether state or non-state actors, need to be made accountable for the crimes they commit."

"

FIRESIDE CHATS

Ali Velshi, MSNBC anchor, started the conversation with the Qatar blockade and the disinformation surrounding it. His Excellency, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs for the State of Qatar, underscored that disinformation is one of the main cyber threats we face today, especially given how quickly information moves through the internet and to the public. Mr. Al Thani asserted that the international community needs to address the issue because it directly impacts the lives of people, and has the ability to agitate wars. He recommended that a global platform be developed to combat future disinformation campaigns in order to keep accountability high by states.

Ali Velshi also asked to better understand the terms surrounding 'disinformation,' including propaganda, fake news, and misinformation and what they mean. Mr. Al Thani shared the definitions of the terms, including disinformation, stating that disinformation is false information spread intentionally to mislead. Mr. Al Thani underscored the need to change current policy on these issues, noting that government messaging must be responsible and accountable.

Finally, Mr. Al Thani spoke of Qatar's efforts as a global mediator, serving around the world to serve as a bridge between nation states with poor relations.

FIRESIDE CHAT

His Excellency, Dr. Khalid bin Mohamed Al Attiya,
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defense Affairs,
State of Qatar
Interviewed by Steve Clemons, Editor-at-large, The Hill

Steve Clemons, Editor-at-Large at The Hill, opened the fireside chat with His Excellency, Dr. Khalid bin Mohamed Al Attiyah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defense Affairs of Qatar, highlighting that technology has created the space for deepfakes and assaults on what we normally would consider truths or facts. Mr. Al Attiyah underscored that the political situation Qatar is confronting started with disinformation; it was an active choice by some countries to twist information and create mass confusion by deceiving the public. Mr. Al Attiyah noted that disinformation has become extremely dangerous, and there is no punishment for state actors, and no laws to combat these actions.

Mr. Al Attiyah also discussed hybrid warfare and the use of disinformation as a means of economic warfare. Regarding disinformation campaigns, Mr. Al Attiyah highlighted the difficulty in distinguishing whether such campaigns are emanating from states or non-state actors, or both, because they use the same technology and platforms. Mr. Al Attiyah underscored that journalists also have a role to play in dismantling disinformation campaigns.

The conversation then shifted across other topics, including: Qatar's role as a mediator in regional issues and conflicts; the blockade of Qatar; rumors of paying ransoms for kidnapped journalists; and U.S.-Qatar relations more broadly.

> "We have worked hard to educate our people and try to fight back by showing the good cause of our steps, especially in the absence of any legal tools to go after these entities that are using disinformation."

FIRESIDE CHAT

His Excellency K. Shanmugam, Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law,
Government of Singapore
Interviewed by Peter Bergen, CNN National Security Analyst and Vice President,
Global Studies & Fellows, New America

Peter Bergen, CNN National Security Analyst and Vice President for Global Studies & Fellows at New America, kicked off the discussion asking who is waging the disinformation campaigns in Singapore. His Excellency K. Shanmugam, Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law of Singapore, responded that there have been several attempts to influence the Singapore news media. Mr. Shanmugam noted that the Singapore government came up with a strategy to combat disinformation, including (1) identifying falsehoods and releasing correction notices; (2) updating a 30-year regulation regarding religious hate speech; and (3) tracking foreign interference online. In April 2019, Singapore's government passed a law called the 'Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act,' which went into effect in October 2019.

> "Disinformation can affect the people in a negative manner and there is a need for more community awareness. The youth are especially prone to be impacted negatively by such news."

The discussion touched on several topics – from extremist elements in Singapore to relations with neighboring countries, and broader geopolitical issues. Mr. Shanmugam concluded the conversation underscoring his belief that information warfare is a primary tactic for several countries. Mr. Bergen asked if there are any forms of information warfare that are acceptable. Mr. Shanmugam responded: "Interference in other countries affairs is as old as setting up the Greek polities." In closing, Mr. Shanmugam noted that the key to determining real news versus disinformation is uncovering facts and helping to lead people to them.

FIRESIDE CHAT

Her Excellency, Lolwah Rashid Al-Khater, Spokesperson, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
State of Qatar
Interviewed by Kimberly Dozier, Global Affairs Analyst, CNN

FIRESIDE CHAT

Vice Admiral Alexandros Diakopoulos, National Security Advisor,
Government of Greece
Interviewed by Mr. Kevin Baron, Executive Editor, Defense One

Her Excellency Lolwah Rashid Al-Khater, Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Qatar, was interviewed by Kimberly Dozier, Global Affairs Analyst at CNN. They discussed the effects of disinformation on the State of Qatar and society as a whole.

Ms. Al-Khater began her introductory remarks discussing Truth Decay, a book published by the RAND Corporation, which highlights the main drivers of disinformation: (1) cognitive biases; (2) the rise of social media and other changes to the information environment; (3) demands on the educational system that limit its ability to keep up with changes in the information ecosystem; and (4) political and social polarization. She noted that social media can transcend borders in ways that the other mediums never could. She underscored that platforms should aim to be objective when looking at potential disinformation to verify facts.

Ms. Al-Khater explained that disinformation has been incredibly problematic and damaging in Qatar, referencing the blockade. She said some of the neighbors in the region are trying to control the narrative, but the rest of the world should pay attention to which countries have closed borders and those that have open borders.

"As much as possible in the State of Qatar we try to deviate from what we call the 'politics of axis' in the region. As a small state, we are in a good position to defuse the 'politics of axis,' and hence polarization."

Ms. Dozier closed the session asking Mr. Al-Khater for her advice on how to determine real news from fake news. Ms. Al-Khater responded that we need to use our reasoning skills all the time regardless of who is spreading the news, underscoring that journalists have a huge responsibility on their shoulders to verify facts, and often times the public confuses opinions and facts.

Vice Admiral Alexandros Diakopoulos, National Security Advisor for the Government of Greece, was interviewed by Kevin Baron, Executive Editor at Defense One. Vice Admiral Diakopoulos began his remarks describing what he refers to as an arc of instability around Greece that runs from Ukraine through Northern Africa to Libya. Vice Admiral Diakopoulous underscored that Greece has good relations with many countries, and the best way forward is to focus on problems collectively and not bilaterally. He noted that Greece wants to maintain strong ties and relationships with its neighbors and emphasized that relationships should be based on international law and the law of the seas. "When you take a rules-based international system and cooperate, things get better for all parties. When you see the world as a zero sum game, one side will always lose." Vice Admiral Diakopoulos underscored that Greece envisions a world of cooperation.

Mr. Baron then turned the topic to disinformation. Vice Admiral Diakopoulos stated that Europe has been the target of misinformation campaigns, and the common denominator is populism, which promotes the destruction of the European Union (EU). He noted that Greece has had to face unrest and upheaval after the crisis in 2010, which created a vacuum of misinformation campaigns. Mr. Baron asked whether or not these campaigns will reign for an extended period of time. Vice Admiral Diakopoulus responded noting that one example of Greece's success in this area is how it has handled relations with Northern Macedonia. Other conflicts still exist like those in Palestine and Cyprus, but Greece has maintained multilateralism.

"We're in a period of fluidity, instability and unpredictability."

FIRESIDE CHAT

His Excellency, Hassan al-Thawadi, Secretary-General, Supreme Committee For Delivery and Legacy, State of Qatar
Interviewed by Mr. Mark Mazzetti, Washington Investigative Correspondent, The New York Times

His Excellency Hassan Al-Thawadi with

His Excellency Hassan Al-Thawadi, Secretary-General for the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy, was interviewed by Mark Mazzetti, Washington Investigative Correspondent for the New York Times. Mr. Al-Thawadi opened the conversation by discussing Qatar's planning and preparedness for the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar. Mr. Mazzetti raised questions around how the blockade of Qatar by its neighbors had affected Qatar's preparation efforts. Mr. Al-Thawadi noted that Qatar has chosen to turn to non-Gulf Cooperation Council countries to assist with project development, and this has benefited Qatar in terms of cost and resources. He added that from the beginning of Qatar's bid for the World Cup, the country's intention was inclusivity, with an aim to focus on the World Cup for the region, not just Qatar.

Mr. Al-Thawadi explained that in 2017 when the blockade began, the government of Qatar learned that a number of countries were taking part in a disinformation campaign to isolate Qatar. Despite the blockade, he emphasized that Qatar is not isolated and has made strides to remain engaged, especially in the global sports community.

Mr. Mazzetti then raised labor rights in Qatar. Mr. Al-Thawadi discussed Qatar's response to labor concerns, including how Qatar developed a system for medical check-ups, reducing risks and unsafe environments to workers across all stadiums, and introduced a minimum wage for workers. "The 2022 FIFA World Cup served as a catalyst for Qatar to implement needed labor reforms", he said.

In closing, Mr. Al-Thawadi stated that Qatar is hoping the 2022 FIFA World Cup will serve as a catalyst for improvement in the region. He underscored that the focus should be on what unites people and he expressed hope that Qatar hosting the World Cup will contribute to the region and have benefits for Qatar beyond 2022.

"When we won the right to host the world cup there was a campaign that was waged against us. In 2017 we came to discover that certain parties contributed to that disinformation"

"INFORMATION IS A WEAPON MOST OFTEN USED ASYMMETRICALLY. IT IS USED TO CREATE GENUINE RESPONSE AND POLICY DILEMMAS FOR GOVERNMENTS."

Nicholas J. Rasmussen
Former Director, National CounterterrorismCenter and Acting Executive Director of The McCain Institute for International Leadership

PANELS & WORKSHOPS

PANEL I
GENERAL OVERVIEW ON DISINFORMATION: EXPLORING THE CORE CONCEPTS AND THREAT LANDSCAPE

The general overview panel discussed the multifaceted threats and complexities faced by governments, journalists, and societies as a whole in combatting disinformation. The panel was moderated by Peter Canellos, Editor-at-Large at Politico.

In his opening remarks, Edward Stroz, Executive Chairman at Stroz Friedberg, indicated that human beings observe what is fact through stimuli to the five senses. He stated that we are living in an age where misinformation in computerized environments is bypassing our natural observation mechanisms and deceiving people all around the world. Facts observed through the five senses do not always tell you the complete story.

FRAMING REMARKS:
Edward Stroz, Founder and Executive Chairman, Stroz Friedberg

MODERATOR:
• **Peter Canellos,** Editor-at-Large, Politico

PANELISTS:
• **Michael Isikoff,** Chief Investigative Correspondent, Yahoo! News
• **J.D. Maddox,** Technology Advisor for the Global Engagement Center, U.S. State Department
• **Dr. Hessa S. Al-Jaber,** former Minister of Communications and Technology for the Government of the State of Qatar, Commissoner, United Nations ITU Broadband Commission for Digital Development and Chairperson of Es'hailSat
• **Jivan Gjorgjinski**, Chair of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems, United Nations

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Peter Canellos, Jivan Gjorgjinski, Michael Isikoff, DR. Hessa S. Al-Jaber, J.D. Maddox

FRAMING REMARKS: Edward Stroz, Founder and Executive Chairman, Stroz Friedberg

Michael Isikoff, Chief Investigative Correspondent at Yahoo! News, stated that in a 2017 interview with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, Assad used President Donald's Trump's rhetoric on fake news when he said, "You can fake anything these days. We're living in a fake news era." Isikoff continued with the murder of Seth Rich and the disinformation that spread regarding the circumstances of the case. Those rumors spread from 4Chan and were quoted up by several mainstream media outlets and administration officials.

Dr. Hessa Al-Jaber, former Minister of Communications and Technology for the Government of Qatar, emphasized the importance of what a country and government can do to lessen the risks associated with fake news, disinformation, etc. from entering the national bloodstream. She noted that at least 70 countries use social media for the spread of disinformation and 87 percent use humans to share this information. Dr. Al-Jaber noted that in the MENA region, 154 million people use Facebook, which tends to be the primary distributor of disinformation. Dr. Al-Jaber highlighted that there is a fine line between strict laws operating to address disinformation while also permitting freedom of expression.

She recommended that social media companies focus on detecting deepfakes and similar technology, and underscored that media literacy can also help mitigate mis- and dis- information.

Mr. J.D. Maddox, Technology Advisor for the Global Engagement Center at the U.S. State Department, agreed with Dr. Al-Jaber's point that at least 70 countries are engaged in disinformation campaigns online. He emphasized two major issues: laziness and limitations. Laziness refers to not checking the legitimacy of information and sources and limitations refers the filtering of information we consume. The solution is finding better ways to critically engage. He recommended web-enabled literacy training; dark web monitoring tools, censorship circumvention tools; social listening; web annotation; crowdsourcing content assessments and blockchain-based content validation fingerprinting.

Dr. Hessa S. Al-Jaber

Mr. Jivan Gjorgjinski, Chair of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems at the United Nations, discussed the use of autonomous weapons systems within the context of distinguishing disinformation and facts. Mr. Gjorgjinski explained that autonomous weapons systems encompass land, sea, underwater, space, and cyber environments. He noted that the use of artificial intelligence in warfare for offensive or defensive capabilities always keeps the use of nuclear weapons within the realm of possibility. Emphasizing the importance of the current diplomatic order, Mr. Gjorgjinski underscored that in an environment of distrust and ambiguity, reaction time reduces, so we cannot let the traditional forms of communication collapse.

Concluding the panel, J.D. Maddox explained that we are now at a point where all information is going to be second guessed, so we must be agile. Deepfakes and propaganda will be stronger and more difficult to detect. Dr. Al-Jaber stated that diplomats need to remain the champions of truth and good communication. "Spouting falsehoods ruins reputations," she said. "So diplomats are critical to keeping truth intact, especially when the media makes mistakes." She underscored that diplomats are the gatekeepers to effectively conveying messages and outlining a country's intent.

PANEL II
DISINFORMATION IN EFFECT:
EXPLORING CASE STUDIES

Chase Untermeyer, Chairman of the Qatar-America Institute and former U.S. Ambassador to Qatar, gave introductory remarks on the importance of utilizing case studies to learn about the effects and variations of disinformation campaigns.

Mark Power, Deputy Ambassador of the British Embassy in Tel Aviv, began the conversation by analyzing Russia's response to the Novichok case in Salisbury, England. He stated Russia's responses were intended to disinform and deny, including on the world stage at the UN Security Council. He concluded that many memes came after the event, especially due to the emphasis on spreading disinformation. Deputy Ambassador Power noted, in the aftermath of that case, more than 150 Russian intelligence operatives were asked to disband around the world.

FRAMING REMARKS:
- **Chase Untermeyer,** Chairman, The Qatar-America Institute and Former United States Ambassador to Qatar

MODERATOR:
- **Rebecca Skippage,** Senior Editor, BBC Monitoring

PANELISTS:
- **Mark Power,** Deputy Ambassador, British Embassy in Tel Aviv
- **Olga Robinson,** Senior Journalist, BBC Monitoring
- **Priyank Mathur,** Founder and CEO, Mythos Labs
- **David Scraven,** Founder and Publisher, Correctiv

FRAMING REMARKS: Chase Untermeyer, Chairman, The Qatar-America Institute and Former United States Ambassador to Qatar

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Rebecca Skippage, Mark Power ,Olga Robinson, Priyank Mathur, David Scraven

Olga Robinson, Senior Journalist at BBC Monitoring, seconded that the Salisbury case was a textbook campaign of Russia trying to create contradicting lines of narratives and alternative explanations of what actually happened. She stated that it was purposefully done to undermine the very concept of the truth. Conspiracy theories around the event were rampant and Russia's propaganda confused people to the point where they believed anyone could have been behind the Novichok attack.

Priyank Mathur, founder and CEO of Mythos Labs, spoke of a massive riot in Baduria, India, in 2017. Mr. Mathur stated there was a single meme posted on Facebook by a 16-year-old with accusations against a Muslim man in the community. The police arrested the 16-year-old, but at the same time someone posted online an image of people skirmishing, saying Muslims in the community were attacking the teen's family. Mr. Mathur said this post spread like wildfire, and soon trucks of people from outside the town came in to fight.

David Schraven, founder and publisher at Correctiv, spoke of a case involving a Breitbart article that used an image of a church burning to accompany an article about Syrian people burning down the oldest church in Germany. He noted there was no such church in that town, and Syrians were celebrating in the streets because it was New Year's Eve. Fireworks had gone off near a church and hit a small structure that was barely damaged. The story was debunked by Correctiv, and Mr. Schraven noted that the narrative was the same used by Pope Urban II when calling for the Crusades. Mr. Schraven used these examples to underscore how disinformation spreads, causes disruption, distraction, and further polarizes society to build up populist movements.

The panel concluded with discussions of potential solutions. Mr. Schraven noted that Germany has a law against hate speech and social media, and while it does not stop fake news and hate speech, it does help with debunking mis- and dis-information. The panel also recommended expanding media literacy programs. Ukraine, as an example, provides media literacy and information about verification in their daily curriculum to some students. The program has had a 20 percent increase in students' ability to identify fake news.

Rebecca Skippage, Senior Editor, BBC Monitoring

PANEL III
DISINFORMATION IN THE MARKETPLACE: FINANCIAL EFFECTS AND COMMERCIAL FALLOUT

FRAMING REMARKS: Phil Cowdell, Consulting & Strategic Planning Division, The Soufan Group

FRAMING REMARKS:
• **Phil Cowdell,** Consulting & Strategic Planning Division, The Soufan Group

MODERATOR:
• **Bobby Ghosh,** Journalist and Member of the Editorial Board, Bloomberg

PANELISTS:
• **Bret Schafer,** Media and Digital Disinformation Fellow, Alliance for Securing Democracy
• **Marie-Michelle Strah,** Professor and Researcher at CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice, ICJ Program
• **John Montgomery,** Head of Brand Safety, GroupM

Phil Cowdell, President of Consulting and Strategic Planning at The Soufan Group, stated that disinformation is moving from a political context by rogue states into a commercial context by rogue organizations and organized crime. Some of these threats can be seen as white-collar crime or as existential where business brands are attacked and markets are disrupted. Mr. Cowdell expressed his hope that lessons learned in the public sector can be applied to the private sector.

Bobby Ghosh, Journalist at Bloomberg, opened the panel by introducing how information warfare and economic warfare intersect. Bret Schafer, Media and Digital Disinformation Fellow at the Alliance for Securing Democracy, gave examples of disinformation in the marketplace.

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Bobby Ghosh, Bret Schafer, Marie-Michelle Strah, John Montgomery, Alastair Aitken CBE

Mr. Schafer discussed instances of how easily the marketplace was manipulated online to make small businesses and multinational corporations lose money through fake reviews and fake marketing reports. The industries ranged from local restaurants to 5G service providers. Mr. Schafer continued by noting that there is a particular foreign news outlet that publishes and features stories alleging harmful health and environmental effects of 5G abroad, while simultaneously promoting its use in its own home country.

Dr. Michelle Strah, Professor and Researcher for the International Criminal Justice Program at CUNY John Jay College, discussed the risks nation states are now facing in economic terms. She claimed cyberattacks with disinformation result in over 6 billion dollars per year in corporate losses: "When we look from a criminological perspective, election fraud is a problem. Yet, in 2016 more instances of disinformation were attached to crime and campaigns, financial fraud (cryptocurrency), content and advertising fraud, cyber trafficking (wildlife and drugs), and violent crimes/assault."

John Montgomery, Head of Brand Safety at Group M, spoke of the appeal of ad impressions and the ability to target consumers directly. "There is a reputational risk for brands, which involves mitigating the appearance of legitimate advertising adjacent to inappropriate content and misinformation." He indicated that consumers will hold the brand responsible rather than those who post disinformation, therefore hurting the brand and profits. Mr. Montgomery continued that one of the recent threats that exists is nefarious actors inserting malware into the java script of ad content.

Bobby Ghosh, Journalist, Bloomberg

Alastair Aitken CBE, Global Managing Director at Storyful, mentioned that he noticed similarities in the problems of disinformation and propaganda in the government sector and in private sector commerce. Mr. Aitken highlighted that in terms of maligned actors and maligned activity, there is no divide between economic and information warfare. The tactics used today are disinformation and information manipulation or anything that is true but is manipulated. He stated that the manipulation of information is far more an issue than disinformation; and cited a report that said 78 countries use this tactic against economic competitors.

The panel went on to discuss the need for businesses to integrate intelligence, cyber and communications engagement to remove boundaries in minimizing risk. Moving forward, the panel underscored the need to educate people on understanding the threats and risks of social media. Mr. Montgomery suggested that news organizations could train their viewers to educate themselves on disinformation and digital literacy. The panel concluded recognizing the protections given to digital media companies by Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act (CDA), which gives platforms safe harbor from malign activity that occurs on their sites. The panel noted that the current law creates a reluctance to share information with law enforcement and is hampering progress on addressing disinformation.

PANEL IV
DISINFORMATION AND LEGISLATION: EXPLORING POLICY OPTIONS

FRAMING REMARKS: Nicholas J. Rasmussen, Former Director, National CounterterrorismCenter and Acting Executive Director of The McCain Institute for International Leadership

FRAMING REMARKS:
- **Nicholas J. Rasmussen,** Former Director, National Counterterrorism Center and Acting Executive Director of The McCain Institute for International Leadership

MODERATOR:
- **Karen J. Greenberg,** Director of the Center on National Security, Fordham Law School

PANELISTS:
- **Keit Pentus-Rosimannus,** Member of Estonian Parliament, Former Estonian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Environment, Government of Estonia
- **Mikael Tofvesson,** Head of Global Monitoring and Analysis Section, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB)
- **Charles Spencer,** Assistant Director of the International Operations Division, U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation
- **Jason M. Blazakis,** Senior Research Fellow at The Soufan Center, Professor of Practice and Director, Center on Terrorism, Extremism, and Counterterrorism at Middlebury

The session began with opening remarks by Nicholas Rasmussen, Former Director of the National Counterterrorism Center and Acting Executive Director of The McCain Institute for International Leadership. He discussed how weaponized information threatens our social fabric. To combat this weaponization, governments need a toolkit filled with new policy and legal frameworks.

The panel was moderated by Dr. Karen Greenberg, Director of the Center on National Security at Fordham Law School. Charles Spencer, Assistant Director of the International Operations Division for the FBI, talked about the larger stakes for disinformation. He said that foreign influence is warfare against the sovereignty of a nation, especially with countries that value democracy.

Director Spencer underscored that malign actors come to attack the democratic process, which is a threat to all free countries. In closing, he stated that the United States has created a foreign influence taskforce (FITF) and shares information with partners to try and push out that information for a strong defensive line.

Keit Pentus-Rosimannus, Member of the Estonian Parliament, said that people tend to confuse disinformation and believe it is a cyber problem. She stated it is important to note that disinformation does not necessarily take form in a cyberattack, but may still result in lives lost or damage to infrastructure. Ms. Pentus-Rosimannus continued saying the goal for a cyberattack is to create tensions and that is something more than meddling. She concluded by mentioning that Estonia has learned that a country can only be successful in its defense if the entire society is engaged, including the private sector and the media.

Mikael Tofvesson, of the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB), stated that the aggressor in war tries to keep its activities on a level that the other cannot respond to. He noted that when an aggressor uses information with a malign intent in a deceptive way, there will be negative effects on national security objectives and consequences.

Charles Spencer, Assistant Director of the International Operations Division, U.S.Federal Bureau of Investigation

At the same time, Mt. Tofvesson underscored the need tolook at our toolbox to see what is proportionate, and cannot wage war on someone for spreading rumors.

Jason Blazakis, Senior Research Fellow at The Soufan, highlighted that neutral net powered language models pose a unique threat to information and social network security. Mr. Blazakis noted that they represent a step-function increase in sophistication of fake content generation, and are easy to modify. Consumers and companies need to work together to combat tools like this from illicit actors.

The panel discussed several solutions and ways to proceed against disinformation. Mr. Tofvesson stated that 13,000 Swedish civil servants have been trained in awareness and how to counter disinformation and a handbook available to support this training. The panel concluded with an emphasis on media literacy as a way to combat susceptibility to disinformation and not depending on social media platforms because they usually do not make decisions to take down content unless they have a reputational or financial risk. Director Spencer highlighted that partnerships across borders have helped establish a more secure environment, but we need to learn from each other as fast as possible.

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Karen J. Greenberg , Charles Spencer, Keit Pentus-Rosimannus, Mikael Tofvesson, Jason M. Blazakis

WORKSHOP I
WEAPONIZED INFORMATION AND THE CHANGING CHARACTER OF WARFARE

FRAMING REMARKS: Dr. Sharri Clark, Senior Advisor for Cyber and Countering Violent Extremism, U.S. Department of State

Peter Bergen moderated a discussion on the use of disinformation as a weapon in conflict and the evolution of modern warfare.

The U.S. State Department's Dr. Sharri Clark provided opening remarks on the changing character of warfare and use of the online space for such tactics. She also noted that the U.S. government takes a holistic approach to tracking and monitoring extremism online.

HOSTED BY:
New America

FRAMING REMARKS:
- **Dr. Sharri Clark,** Senior Advisor for Cyber and Countering Violent Extremism, U.S. Department of State

MODERATOR:
- **Peter Bergen,** Vice President Global Studies & Fellows, New America

SPEAKERS:
- **Jen Easterly,** Former Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Counterterrorism, Managing Director at Morgan Stanley
- **Col. Christopher P. COSTA, USA, (RET),** Former Special Assistant to the President for Counterterrorism, National Security Council, Executive Director, International Spy Museum
- **Candace Rondeaux,** Senior Fellow with the Center on the Future of War, New America
- **Joshua Geltzer,** Former Former Senior Director for Counterterrorism and Deputy Legal Advisor, National Security Council, Georgetown University Law Center

Hosted by

While other governments take more restrictive actions, restrictive laws might actually make the internet more closed and less open. She also considered the outcomes of banning offensive speak to be counterproductive. On banning offensive speech, Dr. Clark considered the outcomes can be counterproductive.

Col. Christopher Costa opened the discussion noting that polarization coupled with state and non-state actors deploying disinformation creates a potent mix. Col. Costa stated that radicalization on social media and disinformation is what drew people to the Islamic State in the first place. What was created was a juxtaposition of a promised utopia, yet what was found was a dystopia. One way to mitigate this issue is increased counterintelligence and a public, outward-facing source to show the weaponization potential of social media.

Candace Rondeaux narrowed the focus to a discussion on Russia's investment in disinformation campaigns and how there is a considerable investment in underscoring its deceptive operations (military engagement that is often coupled with denial campaigns). She stated that there are small collectives aimed at changing the politics of evidence. Truth can be challenged by information warfare and the inability to properly attribute or even control a narrative.

Dr. Joshua Geltzer discussed the interplay between developments online and in the physical world. Circumstances are different depending on malign actors, so some campaigns can be incredibly effective and influential.

Dr. Geltzer referred to ISIS and how they tried to build a viral following online, which was directly connected to what they built offline. Each feeds into the other in a feedback loop. Dr. Geltzer continued by stating that white supremacy, on the other hand, was pushed to the darkest areas of the web for quite some time. Eventually, they found enough of a foothold online to come together for the 'Unite the Right' rally in Charlottesville, Virginia. That catapulted them into the physical world again, which allowed them to create their own feedback loop online.

Jen Easterly touched on computational propaganda, which leverages algorithms and big data, currently allowing propaganda to significantly impact businesses. She stated that there are 5.1 billion people on the Internet, 10 billion devices connected to the internet, and 1.7 billion websites. Because there is so much volume, the hackability of sites and devices has greatly increased. A cyberattack occurs every 40 seconds, which will cost 6 trillion dollars by 2021.

Peter Bergen concluded underscoring the role of governments to combat this challenge. The panel was in agreement about the need to collaborate to remove disinformation from platforms. Collaboration between governments and the private sector is crucial.

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Peter Bergen, Jen Easterly, COL Christopher P. COSTA, USA, (RET), Candace Rondeaux, Joshua Geltzer.

WORKSHOP II
THE NEXUS BETWEEN COUNTERTERRORISM AND DISINFORMATION

David Scharia, Chief of Branch for the UN's Counterterrorism Executive Directorate, moderated a discussion on the nexus between counterterrorism and disinformation. The panelists discussed the use of disinformation by extremist groups and the effect that technology has had on exacerbating the problem.

On the nexus between counterterrorism and disinformation, Maya Mirchandani, Senior Fellow at the Observer Research Foundation, began by discussing the connection between the attacks in New Zealand, India and Pakistan-administered Kashmir, and Sri Lanka. She highlighted the continuous loop we are seeing with technology, violent ideologies, and acts of violence perpetrated because of propaganda.

David Scharia, Chief of Branch, Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directive (CTED)

HOSTED BY:
United Nations Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate's Global Research Network (GRN)

MODERATOR:
• **David Scharia,** Chief of Branch, Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directive (CTED)

SPEAKERS:
• **Maya Mirchandani,** Senior Fellow, Observer Research Foundation; Assistant Professor, Department of Media Studies, Ashoka University
• **Milo Comerford,** Senior Manager, Policy, Institute for Strategic Dialogue
• **Michael Masters,** President, The Soufan Center
• **Bettina Rottweiler,** Research Assistant, Department of Security and Crime Science, University College London

The Nexus Between Counterterrorism and Disinformation

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: David Scharia, Maya Mirchandani, Milo Comerford, Michael Masters, Bettina Rottweiler.

A de-facto response has been to shut down the internet. She questioned whether in the 21st century an internet shutdown response would realistically address the larger problem. Ms. Mirchandani underscored that the use of online platforms and technologies to propagate and glorify terrorists is well known, but in India, there is a lack of recognition of the impact platforms like WhatsApp can have on the spread of disinformation. "There is an unchecked means of spreading disinformation, which is what is driving these deadly incidents," she noted.

Bettina Rottweiler, from University College London, discussed her research on conspiracy mentality and radicalization. Her research found that predictors at the individual level of radicalization identify early risk and protective factors within a population. She concluded in stating that this helps with understanding the relationship and similarities of the psychological processes underlying conspiracy beliefs and radicalization.

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UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL
COUNTER-TERRORISM COMMITTEE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTORATE (CTED)

Maya Mirchandani, Senior Fellow, Observer Research Foundation; Assistant Professor, Department of Media Studies, Ashoka

Milo Comerford, from the Institute for Strategic Dialogue, discussed the recurring theme of global forces of disinformation and how the internet has hyper-charged this phenomena. He indicated there is a nexus between terrorism and disinformation in that they are both tactics that can be used for mobilization purposes and they fundamentally undermine democratic processes.

Michael Masters, President of The Soufan Center, emphasized that framing in the United States around counterterrorism has largely focused on Salafi-Jihadism. However, white supremacy extremism in the United States has outpaced other forms of terrorism and threats to the homeland. He quoted the FBI Director's comments of there being at least 850 terrorism investigations open currently. Mr. Masters emphasized the transnational nature of the white supremacist threat, highlighting the Christchurch attack as a prime example, and how 17,000 foreign fighters, many of whom are white supremacists, are using Ukraine as a base for training and recruitment.

The session concluded with the panelists agreeing that public trust in journalism is at an all-time low because opinion has been masquerading as news. When states attempt to manage conflicts and crises through cutting off communications, that is a flagrant violation of human rights and can also result in marginalizing communities. The challenge of conspiracy theories and disinformation remains extremely complex and will need to be managed through global cooperation.

WORKSHOP III
"A WAR OF WORDS, DISINFORMATION IN TRANSNATIONAL CHALLENGES"

Hosted by

جامعة
حمد بن خليفة
HAMAD BIN KHALIFA
UNIVERSITY
عضو في مؤسسة قطر
Member of Qatar Foundation

Ms. Susan L. Karamanian, Dean of the College of Law at Hamad Bin Khalifa University noted how disinformation can be perpetrated on behalf of state actors and non-state actors. Amplifying disinformation can cause serious harm, especially the negligence of online readers sharing disinformation without doing any due diligence. She spoke of how disinformation is as old as the nation-state; however, the internet enables anyone to be engaged in disinformation or to be affected by it.

His Excellency Sheikh Saif bin Ahmed Al Thani, Director of the Government Communications Office of Qatar, discussed the ramifications of fake news and how it can have social and community level effects.

HOSTED BY:
Hamad Bin Khalifa University
MODERATOR:
- **Susan L. Karamanian,** Dean, College of Law, Hamad Bin Khalifa University
SPEAKERS:
- **H.E. Sheikh Saif bin Ahmed Al Thani,** Director, Government Communications Office, Chairman of The Media City. State of Qatar
- **Leslie Pal,** Dean, College of Public Policy, Hamad Bin Khalifa University
- **Ahmed Elmagarmid,** Executive Director, Qatar Computing Research Institute, Hamad Bin Khalifa University
- **Carlo Nardi,** Strategy Manager, Counter Daesh Strategic Communications Cell

Dr. Ahmed Elmagarmid, Executive Director of the Qatar Computing Research Institute at HBKU, disclosed that there is a section within his office that specializes in social media analytics. The section has developed technologies that can combat fake news, misinformation, and disinformation.

Dr. Elmagarmid claimed that the technology can identify stances of Twitter messages as either negative or positive, and recognize if an account is being used to spread propaganda. Since the Qatar News Agency hack, 3,000 foreign propaganda accounts were detected using the developed technology.

Mr. Carlo Nardi, Strategy Manager of the Counter Daesh Strategic Communications Cell, noted that in the post-WWII environment, the term propaganda was not well accepted.

"Today, 'fake news' is a term that has become part of our daily work," he noted. Mr. Nardi said that we need to be careful when using the term fake news, that we use it only to refer to disinformation and not misinformation because misinformation is involuntary. Mr. Nardi noted that there are elements of strategic disinformation campaigns that are not spread via the internet.

Dr. Leslie Pal, Dean of the College of Public Policy at HBKU, advocated for firm definitions of the problem of disinformation. He indicated that in order to properly respond to the problems that exist at the national and global levels, the terms need to be defined with specificity. In response to a question on how to address the problem of a regulatory framework to the private sector, Dr. Pal stated that there are two problems:

(1) the sheer size and scope of cyberspace, and the capacity of the private sector or governments to regulate the amount of communication; (2) the business models of private sector companies are designed to maximize attention, exacerbate echo chambers and viral communication.

The session closed with advice for how to manage weaponized information, including: providing resources for children to learn about how to approach knowledge and truth; encouraging international collaboration on educating people about disinformation; applying digital forensics; and being cautious about linking media activities to the intelligence community.

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Susan L. Karamanian, H.E. Sheikh Saif bin Ahmed Al Thani, Ahmed Elmagarmid, Leslie Pal, Carlo Nard

PRESENTATIONS

DECISION MAKING IN THE DISINFORMATION AND DEEPFAKES ERA
By Mounir Ibrahim, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives, Truepic

Mounir Ibrahim, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives at Trupic, delivered a presentation on the manipulation of digital media. Mr. Ibrahim began by stating there are 1.2 trillion digital videos and images posted a year, a number that increases by 10 percent annually, and 80 percent are captured on a smartphone. He noted that the highest levels of geo-political decisions are made from videos and images. Manipulation of images, videos and text files has reached unprecedented levels and deepfakes and cheapfakes are becoming threats. Mr. Ibrahim stated that today the world has the ability to create deceptive content and amplify it around the world in a matter of seconds. Mr. Ibrahim underscored that Truepic has developed new technology to combat fake media, known as controlled capture, using data sensors combined with cellular networks, computer vision and blockchain.

FIVE YEARS OF FIGHTING AGAINST RUSSIAN DISINFORMATION IN UKRAINE: LESSONS FROM STOPFAKE
Yevhen Fedchenko, Co-founder and Chief Editor of StopFake.org

Yevhen Fedchenko, Director of the Mohyla School for Journalism at the National University of Kyiv and co-founder and chief editor for Stopfake.org, highlighted that the conflict in Ukraine created a need for his organization. Stopfake saw an opportunity to take back the news in Ukraine by performing a series of activities: monitoring, archiving, and debunking to stop disinformation. Mr. Fedchenko emphasized that the purpose of StopFake is to build resilience, expand media literacy and develop a holistic approach to increasing awareness of disinformation.

DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGNS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.
By Dr. Mia Bloom, Professor of Communication and Middle East Studies, Georgia State University

Dr. Mia Bloom, Professor of Communication at Georgia State University, discussed disinformation campaigns across several countries that were perpetrated by government actors to further political agendas. Dr. Bloom emphasized the critical role of social media, underscoring that social media has no concept of checks and balances, so it allows for the spread of malign information. In her conclusion, Dr. Bloom advised that there is still an offline dissemination of disinformation coming from a complex infrastructure of media and publishing houses.

WENT THERE TO FIGHT AMERICAN IMPERIALISM AND NOW, AM ALL FOR THE U.S. AND NATO: DISINFORMED FOREIGN FIGHTERS IN UKRAINE
By Kacper Rekawek, Head of National Security Programme, GLOBSEC

Kacper Rekawek explored the language of foreign fighters in Ukraine and highlighted the disinformation in their narratives, which range from anti-American sentiment to both far right and far left ideologies. He also explored shared symbols, such as the pagan symbol of the spinning wheel, which is used by neo-Nazis on the separatist side, by Azov Battalion, and by the Christchurch attacker – which Mr. Rekawek says is an indication of a meeting of these hate narratives. He urged organizations and governments to recognize these connections in confronting these issues.

YOU'RE THE F@KE! WHY FACT CHECKING OR RED FLAGS WON'T WORK WHEN IDENTITY TRUMPS TRUTH
By Christopher Graves, President & Founder, Ogilvy Center for Behavioral Science

Christopher Graves opened his session by arguing that because people have so much information at their fingertips, they are virtually their own authority on everything. Mr. Graves asserted that the human brain is so old, we create cognitive biases when we are trying to figure out deepfakes. The confirmation bias – humans resisting all assertions, facts, or evidence that do not fit within what they already know – creates confusion. What is really strong is the idea of identity and belonging. The moment people feel they are going to be thrown out of a group, they will do anything to fit in, even deny evidence.

DEFENDING AGAINST DISINFORMATION AND ELECTION HACKING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

By Jan Neutze, Senior Director of Digital Diplomacy, Microsoft

Jan Neutze, Senior Director of Digital Diplomacy at Microsoft, discussed the evolving threat landscape of disinformation and stressed the importance of partnerships to find solutions. He expressed the need to understand how to focus efforts on information disorder. Mr. Neutze emphasized the need to define the terms - misinformation, disinformation and malinformation. Mr. Neutze also discussed the threat of deepfakes – or synthetic media – and showed video examples of world leaders who words and images have been altered to spread disinformation. To fight disinformation, Microsoft is involved in several initiatives, the first, Defending Democracy, which is used to combat disinformation by protecting campaigns, safeguarding elections; and providing tools for overall disinformation defense. Microsoft is also involved in a program called AccountGuard, designed to protect thought leaders and think tanks against cyberattacks. Lastly, The Partnership for Artificial Intelligence is a public-private partnership created for deepfake detection.

THE HUMAN VOICE: DECEPTION AND MISINFORMATION

By Rita Singh, Professor & Research Faculty, The School of Computer Science, Carnegie Mellon University

Dr. Rita Singh, Professor at the School of Computer Science at Carnegie Mellon University, opened her presentation with an example of a machine-generated voices and and outlined cases from 2016 where fake voices were used to make kidnapping for ransom claims. She emphasized how this phenomenon has the potential to mislead and confuse globally. Professor Singh provided potential solutions in using safeguards such as signal verification, speaker verification, speaker identification and speaker profiling as ways to protect against this.

HOW TO IDENTIFY, QUANTIFY AND RESPOND TO MODERN DISINFORMATION

Phil Cowdell, Consulting & Strategic Planning Division, The Soufan Group

Phil Cowdell, President of Consulting & Strategic Planning at The Soufan Group, began his presentation by discussing how Project Trust looks aims to build societal and corporate resilience against the persuasion of rogue actors. Mr. Cowdell discussed the objectives of rogue actors engaging in disinformation campaigns to create and use a seed message, distribute it, and create the right environment for it to grow or decline. He concluded that effective responses to disinformation campaigns requires a foundation of data, benchmarking, validation and truth.

16 YEARS OF SOCIAL MEDIA: HOW FACEBOOK (AND OTHERS) MOVED FAST AND BROKE THINGS

By Jeffrey Cole, Director and Research Professor, Center for the Digital Future at the USC Annenberg School for Communication

Jeffrey Cole, Director and Research Professor at the USC Annenberg School for Communication, discussed how social media platforms, particularly Facebook, have been used to spread disinformation. He noted the 2.4 billion users of Facebook have caused marketing companies to shift advertising strategies from television, print and radio to Facebook and Google. He gave the example of 5G infrastructure and disinformation surrounding it. For example, RT news has regularly pushed false 5G public health claims while simultaneously promoting its expansion in Russia.

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF MISINFORMATION

Shuki Cohen, Director of the Center on Terrorism at the City University of New York's John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Dr. Shuki Cohen, Director of the Center on Terrorism at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, began his presentation expressing the difficulty of changing the mind of a person who is cognitively rigid. Dr. Cohen explained there are degrees of cognitive rigidity depending on a person's range of negativity bias. he provided several solutions to counter disinformation and radicalization: de-platforming fake content; working on web literacy and critical thinking; and fighting alienation by encouraging political engagement and increasing tolerance for complexity.

MEDIA COVERAGE

MEDIA COVERAGE

QATAR'S FOREIGN MINISTER ON HOW TENSIONS ARE IMPACTING MIDDLE EAST
NBC News

QATAR'S FM ON SYRIA INCURSION: TURKEY FACES 'IMMINENT THREAT'
MSNBC

LIVESTREAM: 2019 Global Security Forum
Defense One

QATAR DEFENDS TURKEY'S NORTHERN SYRIA OPERATION
AFP

FAKE NEWS THREATENS GLOBAL SECURITY: FOREIGN MINISTER
The Peninsula

PM OPENS GLOBAL SECURITY FORUM IN DOHA
Gulf Times

منتدى الأمن العالمي | GLOBAL SECURITY FORUM