DEMOCRACY REPORTING INTERNATIONAL

DISINFO RADAR

DisinfoCon, 26 September 2024 Programme

Maschinenraum (Zionskirchstraße 73a) 10119 Berlin, Germany

08:30 **Registration and Check-In**
Doors Open

09:00 **Welcome coffee**

09:30 **Opening remarks**
Welcoming you to DisinfoCon!

With Heather Dannyelle Thompson, Democracy Reporting International

09:45 **Keynote Speech**

10:15 **Beyond engagement: algorithmic design and new strategies to countering harmful content online**
Content moderation is a challenging issue. Despite numerous advances in technological approaches, harmful content continues to proliferate on all major platforms. To address this issue at its core, we need to reconsider the inherent implications of engagement-based business models for the spread of such content and develop new solutions. In this session, we discuss the limitations of current approaches used for content moderation by VLOPs, the potentials and challenges of creating alternative recommendation systems that could better counter harmful content and the effectiveness of recent EU regulatory frameworks.

Incl. Q&A with our on-site and online audience.

Speaker:
- Paula Gori, Secretary-General and Coordinator of EDMO

Moderator: Ognjan Denkovski, Digital Democracy Research Coordinator
Format: Initial Remarks Style Panel

11:15 **Coffee break and networking**

DEMOCRACY REPORTING INTERNATIONAL

DISINFO RADAR

11:45 **Auditing generative AI models: identifying and mitigating risks to democratic discourse**

As AI technologies become increasingly central to digital communication, assessing their impact on democratic discourse is crucial. This panel will explore advancements in these technologies and their potential threats to online information integrity, balancing democratization benefits against risks of misuse. Experts will discuss the importance of training data quality and diversity, and provide insights on effective auditing methods in light of recent European regulations such as the AI Act.

Incl. Q&A with our on-site and online audience.

Speaker:

- Brando Benifei, Member of the European Parliament

Moderator: Francesca Giannaccini, Digital Democracy Research Associate
Format: Panel

12:45 **Future-proofing digital Europe: DSA and AI Act synergies**

The EU's Digital Services Act and AI Act set new standards for transparency, accountability, and ethical AI use. Navigating these, alongside earlier regulations, poses a variety of challenges for policymakers and civil society advocates. To better inform such advocacy on digital democracy issues, this session will analyse three scenarios where the intersections between the DSA and AI Act are particularly challenging.

Incl. Q&A with our on-site and online audience.

Speakers:

- Beatriz Botero Arcila, Assistant Professor, Science Po Law School
- Daniel Holznagel, Judge, Appellate Court of Berlin (Kammergericht)

Moderator: Daniela Alvarado Rincón, Digital Democracy Programme Officer
Format: Moot court style

13:30 **Lunch**

14:30 **Disinformation and the US 2024 presidential elections: risks and vulnerabilities**

As the November 2024 elections approach, the U.S. faces significant challenges in safeguarding its democratic processes from disinformation. Sophisticated deepfake technologies and coordinated bot networks, used by both domestic and foreign actors, threaten public trust and electoral integrity. This panel will explore vulnerabilities in the U.S., the impact of institutional issues on combating disinformation, and the role of generative AI in spreading false information.

Incl. Q&A with our on-site and online audience.
Speaker:

- Brandi Geurkink, Executive Director, Coalition for Independent Tech Research

Moderators:
Heather Dannyelle Thompson, Digital Democracy Programme Manager**;**
Duncan Allen, Digital Democracy Research Associate
Format: Fishbowl Panel

15:30 **Concluding remarks**

Thank you for attending DisinfoCon!

With Michael Meyer Resende, Democracy Reporting International

15:45 – 17:30 **Happy Hour**