

1st ACIPSS Student Conference

Intelligence, Propaganda, and Security: Approaching (Dis)information From Pre-Modern Times to a Post-Truth Era

Whether it is “Snowden”, “Fake-News” or the so-called “Islamic State”, the second decade of the new millennium has brought a wide spectrum of highly controversial topics into the midst of public attention. Sparking from events like the public surveillance disclosures, the Arab Spring and its following string of civil wars and unrest in the Middle East, or the conflict in Ukraine; topics relating to intelligence, propaganda and security studies have strongly established themselves in the 24-hour news cycle and public discourse. The Trump dossier is just the latest example of how intelligence analysis, propaganda and state security are highly interconnected issues that have a deep impact on day-to-day politics. While these topics should be the subject of informed and careful analysis, far too often they are instead being used for cheap polemics and to fan resentments and conflict.

Our conference aims to provide students with a space to present their research on topics of intelligence, propaganda and security studies. This should not only show the inter-disciplinary relevance of such topics and the research into them but also promote and encourage student participation in research. Additionally, the conference should be seen as an opportunity for young researchers to connect and build networks with like-minded colleagues. Finally, the conference should act as a spotlight to show that there is considerable interest in intelligence, propaganda and security studies among young researchers and students and the need for academic analysis to counteract the uninformed discourse concerning such sensible topics.

The conference is concerned with research on topics of intelligence, propaganda and security studies. This includes a very broad variety of research and is not limited to a field of study.

Possible fields of studies of applicants may include, but are not limited to:

History, international relations, political science, law, English and American studies, cultural studies, sociology, linguistics, security studies, psychology, philosophy, information technology, journalism studies, visual studies

Possible topics may include:

Intelligence Studies

- History and development of espionage intelligence services
- Current structures and models for intelligence services
- Case studies of significant intelligence operations
- IT- and cybersecurity
- Economic espionage
- Legal or ethical questions concerning intelligence services, espionage and surveillance
- Political dimensions of intelligence

Propaganda Studies

- Propaganda from a historic perspective
- Theory and mechanics of propaganda

- Critical media analysis
- Informationwar
- Fake news
- Propaganda and the internet

Security Studies

- Questions of geopolitics
- Questions of inner security
- Challenges posed by terrorism
- Human security
- Gender, race and class as dimensions of security

The conference will take place on **19-20 May 2017** at the **University of Graz**, Austria. It is a project organized by students of the university and hosted by the Austrian Center for Intelligence, Propaganda and Security Studies. Official languages of the conference will be German and English.

Application

Deadline for submission: **20 February 2017**. Authors will be notified about the acceptance of their proposals by **28 February 2017**.

Applicants should be **active students** at a university. There are no restrictions concerning academic degrees, but bachelor-level is highly encouraged.

Proposals (3,000-4,000 characters) should include research questions, thesis, main points and conclusion. Additionally, an overview of the used **bibliography and sources** should be provided. English is strongly encouraged; German can be accepted under certain circumstances.

Reference or connection of research topics to current questions and problems is highly encouraged.

Format: Times New Roman, font size 12, 1.5 line spacing.

Support

As the conference is explicitly addressing student researcher there is no conference fee and financial support for travel-costs will be provided. Accommodation will be organized and provided by the organizational committee.

Further details will be discussed with applicants individually via email.

Contact

All correspondence, including submission of proposals, and further questions must be addressed to:

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