

## Short Program

### ECREA Pre-Conference 2024

#### The Informational Influence of Autocracies Abroad

##### Time & Venue

Date: 23.09.2024

Time: 9 am – 6 pm

Location: City Hotel, Dalmatinova 15, SI-1000 Ljubljana

Room: Meeting room CI

Full program of the preconference is available online at  
<https://www.rusinform.uni-passau.de/en/ecrea24preconf/>



The event is organised by the European Research Council (ERC) consolidator project RUSINFORM on "The Consequences of the Internet for Russia's Informational Influence Abroad" (2019-2025), under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (Grant agreement No. 819025) conducted at the University of Passau, Germany.  
Website: <https://www.rusinform.uni-passau.de/en/ecrea24preconf/>

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## Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September

9:00 – 09:15 Welcome note by Florian Toepfl (University of Passau, Germany)

### 09:15 – 10:45 Panel I: Theories, Conceptualizations and (Counter-)Tactics

Vera Tolz, Stephen Hutchings (University of Manchester, UK)  
*Russia and COVID-19: Modelling the Disinformation Lifecycle*

Christiern Santos Okholm (European University Institute, Italy)  
*Conditions of Subversive Reach Comparing societal factors for Russian propaganda outlets*  
Online presentation

Tommaso Valastro, Sergio Splendore (University of Milan, Italy)  
*The political leaning of fact-checking: countering Italian disinformation on the war in Ukraine*

Roman Horbyk (Södertörn University, Sweden)  
*Propaganda: What's in a Name? Towards Clearing the Conceptual Quagmire around Information Influence, Persuasion and Strategic Communication*

Florian Toepfl, Arista Beseler, Julia Kling, Daria Kravets-Meinke, Serge Poliakov, Anna Ryzhova (University of Passau, Germany)  
*The Kremlin's Foreign Propaganda Network: Consequences of Russia's Full-Scale Invasion of Ukraine*

Chair: Florian Toepfl (University of Passau, Germany)

### 10:45 – 11:15 Coffee break

### 11:15 – 12:30 Panel II: Social Networks as Intermediaries of Authoritarian Propaganda

Aytalina Kulichkina (University of Vienna, Austria)  
*Cross-border coordination: Analyzing multilingual Twitter communication during China's COVID-19 Protests*

Jakob Bæk Kristensen, Frederik Møller Hansen, Eva Mayerhöffer (Roskilde University, Denmark)  
*How Authoritarian Regimes can Influence Anti-system Counterpublics on Social Media Platforms in Foreign States*

Justin Chun-ting Ho, Fabio Votta (University of Amsterdam, Netherlands)  
*China's Digital Propaganda on Meta*  
Online presentation

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Daria Dergacheva (University of Bremen, Germany)

*Governing Russian Disinformation: very large social media platforms policies in the context of Russian invasion and war in Ukraine*

Chair: Daria Kravets-Meinke (Bavarian Research Institute for Digital Transformation (bidt), Germany)

### 12:30 – 13:30 Lunch break

### 13:30 – 14:45 Panel III: The Language of Authoritarian Propaganda

Yuliya Krylova-Grek (Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Ukraine)

*Understanding Media Language. The extension of Pro-Russian narratives in Europe*

Radu-Mihai Meza, Alina Mogos (Babes-Bolyai University, Romania)

*Propaganda on Demand. Framing and Agenda Setting of Foreign Affairs in Czech, Polish and Romanian Sputnik News (2017-2022) – An Analysis of Headlines*

Oleksandra Kozlova, Michael Johann (University of Augsburg, Germany)

*Firehose of Falsehood on Telegram: How Russian Political Influencers Frame the War against Ukraine*

Olena Melnykova-Kurhanova (National Aviation University, Ukraine)

*The peculiarities of Russian propaganda spreading under the siege of Mariupol*

Chair: TBA

### 14:45 – 16:00 Panel IV: Strategies of and Responses to Authoritarian Propaganda

Ana Stojiljković, Sabina Mihelj (Loughborough University, UK)

*Between global influence and local appropriation: Understanding the impact of China's COVID-19 diplomacy in Serbia*

Yingqi Huang, Carl Zhou (University of Amsterdam, Netherlands), Xin Zhou (Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Germany)

*Political Disillusionment in Xi's Era: Comparing Chinese Youth Political Participation in White Paper Protest 2022*

Online presentation

Ruty Korotaev (University of Toronto, Canada)

*A Mediatized Diaspora: Analyzing the Russian Diasporic Experience in Latvia*

Maxim Alyukov (University of Manchester, UK)

*One person's belief is another's propaganda: Disinformation discourse and motivated reasoning in authoritarian Russia*

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Chair: Sophia Winkler (Zentrum für Osteuropa- und internationale Studien (ZOiS), Germany)

**16:00 – 16:30 Coffee break**

**16:30 – 17:45 Panel V: The Audiences of Propaganda**

Jānis Juzefovičs, Diāna Kalniņa (Riga Stradins University, Latvia)

*Transformations of news repertoires of Baltic Russian-speakers after the ban of Kremlin-aligned Russian news providers*

Dani Madrid-Morales (University of Sheffield, UK), Herman Wasserman (Stellenbosch University, South Africa)

*Assessing the persuasiveness of China's external communication towards Africa*

Alexandra Brankova (Uppsala University, Sweden)

*The Role of Nationalist Actors in Authoritarian Propaganda: The Russian Imperial Movement's Media Ecology, Conservative Transnationalism, and Wartime Mobilization*

Sophia Winkler (Zentrum für Osteuropa- und internationale Studien (ZOiS), Germany)

*Online Lives Between Russia and Germany: Transnational Scrolling and Spaces of Belonging*

Chair: Anna Ryzhova (University of Passau, Germany)

**17:45 – 18:00 Final remarks**

**18:30 – Meeting at the restaurant**