



December 9, 2024

15:30-18

Hansa Haus, Brienner Straße 39, Munich



International Symposium

Understanding Misinformation

with Silke Beck, Marcel Boumans, Maya Goldenberg,
Kim Hajek, Sabina Leonelli, and Paul Trauttmansdorff



Hosted by the Chair in Philosophy and History of Science

Department of Science, Technology and Society - Technical University of Munich



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

Description

This workshop brings together philosophers and social students of science and technology to discuss what it means to be informed, and particularly the problems relating to misinformation in relation to scientific research and its use as evidence for decision-making. Is misinformation a matter of disseminating ‘fake news’ and false facts? Can we tackle misinformation by fixing the knowledge that is available online? We argue that understanding misinformation as the propagation of falsities and lies is counter-productive and problematic, and trying to “fix” misinformation by “telling the truth” is not helping to solve this serious problem. Come discuss this thorny issue with us, and help pave the way to alternative solutions.

Please register! It takes 30 seconds, click here:

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Attendance is free thanks to European Research Council support

Programme

- 15:30 Introduction (Sabina Leonelli, TUM, chair)
- 15:45 Panel discussion: Marcel Boumans (University of Utrecht), Maya Goldenberg (University of Guelph) and Sabina Leonelli
- 16:30 Comments: Silke Beck, Kim Hajek, Paul Trauttmansdorff (TUM)
- 17:00 Open discussion
- 17:30 Conclusion and drinks

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Speakers biographies

- Silke Beck is Professor of Sociology of science and technology at TUM. Her research focuses on interfaces between science and society. She is a pioneer in analyzing environmental assessments such as the IPCC. Her research also contributes to build up and reform global assessments such as IPBES. Current projects deal with evidence-based policymaking as well as the governance of socio-technical transformations in the field of Climate Services, Negative Emission Technologies, biodiversity and digitalization.
- Marcel Boumans is Professor of History and Philosophy of science at Utrecht University. His main research focus is on understanding empirical research practices in science outside the lab from a philosophy of science-in-practice perspective. He is particularly interested in the practices of measurement and modelling and the role of mathematics in social science. The first step in these practices is to make sense of the available data. Visualisations play an important role in this. His current research project 'Vision and Visualisation' is nearing completion with a book manuscript 'Shaping the Phenomena.'
- Maya J. Goldenberg is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Guelph. Her research in philosophy of science and medicine addresses public trust in science, the problem of expertise, and vaccine hesitancy. By reframing vaccine hesitancy as a problem of institutional trust rather than science illiteracy or anti-science sentiments, conventional thinking about mis- and dis-information are similarly challenged for misconstruing the nature of science and the status of 'facts' at the science-society interface.

Speakers biographies

- Kim M. Hajek is a historian of science currently based at the Technical University of Munich and a fellow of the Ethical Data Initiative. Her research uses tools of narrative and textual analysis to scrutinise the ways scientific and medical knowledge has been constructed and circulated in the modern era. She is co-editor of the volume *Narrative Science: Reasoning, Representing and Knowing since 1800* (CUP, 2022), and has published on topics including the history of hypnotism, case histories in psychology, and virtue-talk in postwar American science.
- Sabina Leonelli is Professor of Philosophy and History of Science and Technology and the Technical University of Munich. Her research concerns: (1) the role of technology and data in knowledge production; and (2) the institutionalisation and implementation of Open Science as a window on the methods, epistemology and political economy of contemporary forms of scientific inquiry. Her work aims to foster both understanding of these processes and strategies for intervention, including policy-facing advice, advisory roles in scientific projects and educational initiatives to support low-resourced environments and enhance responsible research practices globally.
- Paul Trauttmansdorff is a postdoctoral researcher at the Technical University of Munich and fellow at the Ethical Data Initiative. His research revolves around imaginaries and practices of datafication. His work has particularly examined the role of data and databases in the production of knowledge on mobile people. His recent book *The Digital Transformation of the European Border Regime* (BUP, 2024) explores how future visions of bordering have shaped the governance and maintenance of migration control infrastructures in Europe.