Research Talks

Monday, 7 November 2022, 11:30 – 13:00 / online

Visual Misinformation in Global Perspective
Cristian Vaccari, Loughborough University

The spread of misinformation online is a key challenge for contemporary public discourse. Visual or multimodal misinformation may be particularly harmful, but we know little about its effects because most misinformation research to date has analyzed textual content. To fill this gap, we test preregistered hypotheses with a large-scale experiment in a diverse set of countries. Results suggest that participants’ likelihood to believe and share, but also fact-check, misinformation increased when they saw misinformation presented with a combination of text and images compared with text only. By shedding light on the distinctive function of images in facilitating the spread of misinformation on these platforms, this study expands our knowledge of one of social media’s most problematic contributions to contemporary politics.

Monday, 21 November 2022, 12:00 – 13:00 / online

Public Service Media under Pressure
Challenges and Opportunities of a Societal Institution in Times of Media and Social Change
Annika Sehl, Universität der Bundeswehr München

The talk discusses the challenges of public service media (PSM) in times of media and social change. It will present findings from three international comparative empirical studies: (1) on right-wing populist attacks on public service media, (2) on the accusation of crowding-out of private-sector news providers, and (3) on social media strategies of PSM, and will place them in a larger context.

Monday, 5 December 2022, 11:30 – 13:00 / SR3

How Scientific is Communication Science? Metascience as a Mirror
Ye Sun, City University of Hong Kong

Whereas “crisis” has featured in many titles in recent psychology research, communication science is still awaiting more evidence from the discipline’s self-inspection. Amidst the field’s protean profusion of publications, the scientific validity of our knowledge claims remains an open question. This talk holds up a mirror on our research practices on two fronts, statistical power in experimental research and publication bias in meta-analysis, as low power and high positive bias have been shown to plague other social science disciplines. I present my research that assesses publications from top communication journals. These glimpses invite further critical reflections on our current research practices as well as our collective responsibilities in reshaping them.

Austrian Corona Panel Project

Monday, 9 January 2023, 11:30 – 13:00 / SR3

Media and (Mis-)Information during the Pandemic
Hajo G. Boomgaarden, Jakob-Moritz Eberl, Noëlle Lebernegg (University of Vienna)

For the time being, the interdisciplinary Austrian Corona Panel Project (ACPP) has come to a close. 32 survey waves have recently been archived in the Austrian Social Science Data Archive (AUSSDA). During the second research talk on this project, we are going to present the main findings of first publications and current working papers dealing with questions such as media use, science skepticism, and (dis)information during the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, we want to take some time, to make our audience more acquainted with the openly accessible data in the hopes of promoting reusability.

link to the event publizistik.univie.ac.at