

# Democracy in Flux: Political Communication across Borders and Boundaries

## *Virtual Symposium*

The Media School, Indiana University, Bloomington (USA) and Freie Universität Berlin's Institute for Media and Communication Studies (Germany)

Friday, January 19, 2024

Hosted by Indiana University's Europe Gateway, the Media School at Indiana University, Bloomington and Freie Universität Berlin's Institute for Media and Communication Studies have co-organized the virtual symposium, "Democracy in Flux: Political Communication across Borders and Boundaries." Scholars will convene on January 19 for this cross-national exchange on political communication research across multiple dimensions. The symposium's research presentations will include faculty and graduate student work that illuminates the diverse ways in which communication and media interface with political attitudes, behaviors, systems, and cultures. Event sessions will be geared towards the workshopping of ideas for future initiatives and collaborations between Freie Universität Berlin and Indiana University, serving to advance a more global understanding of political communication.

### Schedule Overview

**EDT** | **CET**

8:00am | 2:00pm Opening remarks

#### Session 1 – Political Ideology / Conspiracy Theories

(Discussion Facilitator: Shobha S V, Indiana University-Bloomington)

8:20am		2:20pm	Florian Primig & Julia Lück-Benz (Freie Universität Berlin) <i>Online Monitoring Activism: Civic Surveillance Practices as a Reaction to the Rise of the Far-right in the COVID-19 Pandemic</i>
8:30am		2:30pm	Lisa D. Lenoir & Bianca Pugliesi (Indiana University -Bloomington) <i>Trump's "Make America Great Again" Hat: Dissecting its Meaning and Symbolism in Today's Political Climate</i>
8:40am		2:40pm	Steffen Göths (Freie Universität Berlin) <i>Conspiracy Theories: A Critical Perspective on Common Concepts</i>
8:50am		2:50pm	Meaghan Murphy (Indiana University -Bloomington) <i>Loose Change, Joe Rogan, and Conspiracy Theory Entertainment</i>
9:00am		3:00pm	Questions/Discussion for Session 1 presentations

9:30am | 3:30pm BREAK (5 minutes)

### Session 2 – News & Perceptions

(Discussion Facilitator: TBA , Freie Universität Berlin)

9:35am | 3:35pm Zeynep Altundağ (Freie Universität Berlin)  
*Use and Evaluation of Foreign News Media by Young Adults with Turkish Migration History*

9:45am | 3:45pm Mike Gryszczynski & Haley Pierce (Indiana University -Bloomington)  
*Where Do You Go For News When The News Goes?*

9:55am | 3:55pm Felix Gaisbauer & Jakob Ohme (Freie Universität Berlin)  
*Sharing the Alternative: The Role of Digital Platforms for Alternative News-Sharing Behavior*

10:05am | 4:05pm Junghyun Moon (Indiana University -Bloomington)  
*Developing a New Measure of Polling Distrust*

10:15am | 4:15pm Questions/Discussion for Session 2 presentations

10:45am | 4:45pm BREAK (15 minutes)

### Session 3 – Social Media

(Discussion Facilitator: Kevin Mudavadi, Indiana University-Bloomington)

11:00am | 5:00pm Ana Makhashvili (Freie Universität Berlin)  
*Networks of Rage? Understanding Affect in Far-Right Mobilization on Social Media*

11:10am | 5:10pm Miriam Milzner & Anna Litvinenko (Freie Universität Berlin)  
*Twiplomacy and the War: Russia's Strategic Narratives on Twitter During the Full-scale Invasion of Ukraine*

11:20am | 5:20pm Jason Peifer (Indiana University -Bloomington)  
*A Cross-national Examination of the Perceived Importance of News and Social Media Information Sources*

11:30am | 5:30pm Martin Emmer, Chadidjatu Faye, Mor Faye (Freie Universität Berlin)  
*Social Media Use and the Spread of Disinformation in the Global South*

11:40am | 5:40pm Questions/Discussion for Session 3 presentations

12:10pm | 6:10pm BREAK (5 minutes)

### Session 4 – Group Discussions/Future Steps

12:15pm | 6:15pm Small Group Break-out Discussions (30 minutes)

12:45pm | 6:45pm Concluding Discussion (15 minutes)