



Wilton Park

## Programme

### **Digital interference in democratic processes: use and misuse of personal data**

Monday 8 – Wednesday 10 April 2019 | WP1682

Against a backdrop of concerns over recent election processes and referenda and in the run up to the 2019 EU elections, this expert roundtable will provide an opportunity to explore the interface between technology and politics, examining ways in which personal data is used and misused in campaigning and elections and the implications for democracies.

The Wilton Park dialogue will convene up to 55 people from a broad spectrum of expertise including: regional and multi-lateral bodies, policy makers, information and disinformation experts, election specialists, think tanks/academics, and companies, drawn from selected countries.

Through a mix of roundtable, group and plenary sessions and informal discussions, the meeting aims to:

- Generate and deepen understanding of the scope, scale, nature and impact of election interference and disinformation: what's happening; who is being targeted and where; and what are the implications for the integrity of democratic processes?
- Explore and develop strategies, oversight, monitoring and policy interventions which may be needed to mitigate risk, build resilience and maintain public trust and confidence in democratic processes.

**With support from Open Society Foundations (OSF) and in association with Tactical Technology Collective.**

## Monday 8 April

1300

Participants arrive and buffet lunch available

1500-1515

### **Welcome to Wilton Park and introduction to conference**

#### **Julia Purcell**

Programme Director, Wilton Park

#### **Finn Heinrich**

Division Director, Transparency, Accountability and Participation Unit, Open Society Initiative for Europe (OSIFE), Berlin

1515-1630

## 1. Digital interference in democratic processes: what is the scope and scale?

An overview of the current challenges, highlighting ways in which views or votes may be influenced or manipulated in political campaigns or processes.

How and by whom is data on citizens exchanged, analysed and used to target potential voters? What are the different tools, methodologies and trends? Who has a stake in this and what are their drivers eg political parties, tech companies? What is being done by responsible actors in response to concerns, including current elections? How to raise public awareness?

### **Brian Klaas**

Columnist, Washington Post, Assistant Professor in Global Politics, University College London

### **Tara Denham**

Director, Centre for International Digital Policy, Global Affairs Canada, Ottawa

### **Cheikh Fall**

Co-ordinator, HackTiviste, Africactivists, Dakar

1630-1715

Photograph followed by tea/coffee

1715-1830

## 2. Digital political campaigning: tools, challenges, boundaries

Where are the ethical and legal boundaries between legitimate campaigning and potentially unethical and manipulative practices? What changes are needed to policy and legal frameworks in order to strengthen resilience? What strategies and tools are available to counter disinformation and ensure fairness, transparency and accountability? How best to inform and engage potential voters?

### **Matt Stempeck**

Senior Researcher, Civic Hall, New York

### **Kate Dommett**

Senior Lecturer, Public Understanding of Politics, University of Sheffield

### **Ravi Naik**

Partner, Human Rights Lawyer, ITN Solicitors, London

1900

Reception followed by dinner

## Tuesday 9 April

0700-0800

Yoga session (optional) in Library

0800-0900

Breakfast

0915-1045

## 3. What and where: tactics and techniques

How do tools, tactics and techniques of digital interference work across different countries and regions? How far are there similar activities and commonalities of practices? What lessons can be learned from previous elections and referenda? What are the best practice examples of successful initiatives in response to digital disruption eg fact checking, investigative journalism, challenge and exposure?

How far can these insights inform responses to upcoming democratic processes, including EU elections? What remedies are needed? How to tailor responses to regional/country contexts, taking into account the transnational nature of activity?

**Chair: Stephanie Hankey**

Executive Director, Tactical Technology Collective, Berlin

**Peter Cunliffe-Jones**

Executive Director, Africa Check, London

**Grace Mutung'u**

Associate, Kenya ICT Action Network, Nairobi

**Raj Samani**

McAfee Fellow and Chief Scientist, McAfee, London

1045-1115

Tea/coffee

1115-1245

**4. Maintaining trust in democratic processes**

How to challenge and resist harmful narratives that undermine democratic processes? And through what channels? In what ways do these techniques disrupt and exploit existing societal divisions? What are the long-term effects on civil society cohesion in the digital age? What legislation is needed and how to ensure that regulatory frameworks remain relevant? How to maintain integrity and mitigate against the worse-case scenarios?

**Sophia Gaston**

Director, Centre for Social and Political Risk, Henry Jackson Society, London

**Crystal Patterson**

Global Civic Partnerships Manager, Facebook, Washington DC

**Francisco Javier Guerrero Aguirre**

Secretary for Strengthening Democracy, Organisation of American States, Washington DC

1300-1400

Lunch

1400-1430

Discussion group co-facilitators briefing in the Library

1400-1500

Free time

1500-1630

**5. Monitoring, oversight and regulation**

How do monitoring and oversight mechanisms, including national Election Commissions, the EU's Election Observation Missions and other international bodies, need to evolve? What lessons can be learnt from existing experiences of election interference? What changes are needed to current frameworks in response to risks and concerns in different regions?

**Chair: John Holmes**

Chair, The Electoral Commission, London

**Michael Meyer-Resende**

Executive Director, Democracy Reporting International, Berlin

**Sarah Connolly**

Director, Security and Online Harms, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), London

1630-1700

Tea/coffee

1700-1815

**6. Practical ways forward**

Break out groups to discuss recommendations for future strategies, policy changes, roles and responsibilities.

1815	De-brief for discussion group co-facilitators in the Library
1900	Reception followed by dinner

## Wednesday 10 April

0800-0900	Breakfast and checkout
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0915-1000	<b>7. Recommendations and proposals</b>
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Reports from break out groups

1000-1045	<b>8. Ways forward: responses to recommendations</b>
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**Chair: Stephanie Hankey**

Executive Director, Tactical Technology Collective, Berlin

1045-1115	Tea/coffee
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1115-1130	<b>9. Evaluation survey</b>
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Completion of online survey

1130-1245	<b>10. Concluding remarks</b>
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**Iskra Kirova**

Senior Analyst, Open Society European Policy Institute, Open Society Foundations (OSF), Brussels

1300	Lunch
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1400	Participants depart
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