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## Call for Papers

### Special Issue: Propaganda Analysis Revisited

**Abstract Deadline: Sept. 15, 2020**

**Full Paper Deadline: Jan. 8, 2021**

#### Guest-Editors

- Dr. A.J. Bauer, Department of Media, Culture & Communication, New York University
- Dr. Anthony Nadler, Department of Media & Communication Studies, Ursinus College

The four long years since 2016 have been a boon for scholars of propaganda, misinformation, and right-wing media around the globe, as funders and publishers rushed to fill gaps in the scholarly literature. This has resulted in a bumper crop of astute studies of our present political communication conjuncture. Somewhat lost in the flurry: We've been down this road before.

The First World War wrought a similar epistemological crisis, and yielded a similar flourishing of creative and academic work. Between 1919 and 1937 an interdisciplinary array of humanists, educators, and social scientists produced countless studies focused on how to identify, understand, and defuse propaganda. This scholarly trend, known as Propaganda Analysis, was bolstered by countless funders and played a foundational role in establishing the academic discipline of mass communication studies — although it was later eclipsed by a new research paradigm focused less on the imperatives of social progress than on methodological sophistication and practical utility to policymakers and commercial interests.<sup>1</sup> While Propaganda Analysis became a marginal concern within the social sciences, it has long lingered among a cadre of anti-capitalist activist scholars, and its impulse has driven media criticism and media activist initiatives, both left and right, around the globe.

We invite concise (3000 words), empirical papers from all disciplines, rooted in archival research methods or which otherwise draw upon historical data in considering contemporary problems concerning propaganda and misinformation. What might earlier scholarly and political responses to the problem of propaganda tell us about our current “post-truth era”? What conceptual or strategic mistakes have been made in the past, which we might avoid? What forgotten practices or theoretical frameworks might bolster our understanding of the present epistemological impasse?

<sup>1</sup> See J. Michael Sproule, “Propaganda Studies in American Social Science: The Rise and Fall of the Critical Paradigm,” *Quarterly Journal of Speech* 73 (1987): 60-78.

Additional topics of particular interest include, but are not limited to:

- Cold War era propaganda and counter-measures
- Frankfurt School or psychoanalytic models of propaganda
- Historical debates surrounding propaganda research methods
- History of media policy responses to propaganda concerns
- History of media literacy initiatives
- History of computational propaganda
- Participatory propaganda, astroturfing and grassroots politics
- Propaganda before mass media (e.g. early colonial propaganda, slavery propaganda, etc.)
- De-colonial propaganda analysis
- Racist and xenophobic propaganda and counter-measures
- Propaganda analysis in the Global South

All papers will be widely distributed to a variety of stakeholders, including politicians, journalists, and researchers. Papers must adhere to the HKS Misinformation Review format and highlight real-world implications and applications. We estimate that papers will be published one month after submission.

We will prioritize work that foregrounds historically and structurally marginalized perspectives, and welcome contributors of all races, ethnicities, genders, ages, abilities, religions, and sexual orientations.

**Abstract Submission Guidelines:** Abstracts of no more than 500 words should be e-mailed to guest editors A.J. Bauer and Anthony Nadler at [PropagandaAnalysis@gmail.com](mailto:PropagandaAnalysis@gmail.com) as Microsoft Word files no later than Sept. 15, 2020. Abstracts should clearly describe their empirical basis and contemporary implications. Invitations for full papers will be sent by Oct. 15, 2020.

**Paper Submission Guidelines:** The deadline for full papers (3,000 words max) is Jan. 8, 2021. Authors need to follow our template and submission guidelines closely. Our templates can be found [here](#). All submissions need to be fully anonymized.

**Important Dates:**

Abstract Submission Deadline: September 15, 2020

Paper Submission Deadline: January 8, 2021

Publication: February 2021 (Tentative)

**About the HKS Misinformation Review:**

The HKS Misinformation Review is an open-source, interdisciplinary, scholarly journal focused on all aspects of misinformation and featuring methodologically diverse, peer-reviewed, empirical research and cutting-edge commentary. Articles published by the HKS Misinformation Review are edited to be accessible to practitioners in journalism, public policy, and other fields affected by misinformation campaigns. The journal operates on an innovative “fast-review” model, which ensures that timely research is peer reviewed and published within one month of submission. For more information: [misinfo@hks.harvard.edu](mailto:misinfo@hks.harvard.edu).