



Whistling at the Fake

The Crucial Role of Whistleblowers in Countering Disinformation

International Final Conference
5-6 May 2022
(Online - Free registration)



***Whistling at the Fake: The Crucial
Role of Whistleblowers in
Countering Disinformation***



International Final Conference

DAY 1

5th of May 2022

Zoom Registration Link

https://mmu-ac-uk.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_PyrPH1glQ7WftOzJrEWPDQ

Please note that the registration links for day 1 and day 2 are different; also, all times indicated are in British Summer Time (UTC +1).

2:15 pm  **OPENING SESSION**

- **Prof. Andrew Francis** - Dean of Manchester Law School at The Manchester Metropolitan University
- **Dr. Costantino Grasso** – Project Principal Investigator, Associate Professor in Law at The Manchester Metropolitan University

2:45 pm  **FIRST PANEL - Whistleblowers as gatekeepers of the truth in the age of disinformation**

- Chair
- **Prof. Diane Ring** - Interim Dean of Faculty, Professor of Law at Boston College Law
 - **Dawn Wooten** – Nurse, Whistleblower
“Disinformation affecting society’s most vulnerable individuals”
 - **Samantha Feinstein** – Staff Attorney and Director of the International Program at Government Accountability Project
“Disinformation and whistleblowing in the public sector: a reflection on the project outcomes”
 - **Mary Inman** – Lawyer and Partner at Constantine Cannon LLP
“Disinformation and whistleblowing in the private sector: a reflection on the project outcomes”

4:00 pm  **SECOND PANEL - Disinformation in times of crisis**

- Chair
- **Dr. Branislav Hock** – Senior Lecturer in Economic Crime at the University of Portsmouth



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- **Hélène Papper** – Global Communications and Advocacy Director for the UN International Fund for Agricultural Development
“Disinformation as a silent/not so silent but deadly pandemic”
- **Dr. Pietro Maria Sabella** – Adjunct Professor in Criminal Law at the University LUISS Guido Carli
“Disinformation during the COVID-19 pandemic: The Italian case”
- **Dr. Ammar Naji** – Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature and Arabic at Colorado College
“The Weaponization of Media Disinformation in the Yemen Crisis”
- **Goran Georgiev** – Analyst, Security Program, at the Center for the Study of Democracy
“Disinformation during wartime: Focus on the invasion of Ukraine”
- **Dr. Eliana Lauretta** – Assistant Professor in Finance at Coventry University
“Misperception of financial risk and market misinformation”

5:25 pm
6:15 pm



**THIRD PANEL - Disinformation and the
Corporate World**

Chair

- **Stephen Holden** – Project Senior Research Associate, PhD Candidate at The Manchester Metropolitan University
- **Cleander Yu** – CSR Blog Contributor, NCA Candidate
“A lesson from Cambridge Analytica: How to avoid the social media trap?”
- **Bianca Oprea** – CSR Blog Contributor, Junior Labour & Social Relations Specialist at ENGIE Romania
“Corporate disinformation and the environment: the Volkswagen emissions scandal”
- **Celia Mokhtari** – CSR Blog Contributor, LPC Candidate
“Suppression of information to cover corporate harmful operations: The Takata case”

6:15 pm
6:30 pm



CONCLUSIVE REMARKS

Prof. Diane Ring - Interim Dean of Faculty, Professor of Law at Boston College Law



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**DAY 2
6th of May 2022**

Zoom Registration Link

https://mmu-ac-uk.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_K5SQLjwkQgyKjwcCoelVcQ

2:10 pm  **INTRODUCTION**

- **Dr. Costantino Grasso** – Project Principal Investigator, Associate Professor in Law at The Manchester Metropolitan University

2:15 pm 
3:25 pm **FIRST PANEL - Disinformation, Scientific Integrity, and Whistleblowing**

- Chair
- **Dr. Laure Ognois** – Director of Research Services at the University of Geneva
 - **Dr. Virginia Burkett** – Chief Scientist for Climate and Land Use Change at the United States Geological Survey
“Silence over science: Unethical political interference in government science”
 - **Dr. Babak Babakinejad** – Research Scientist, Whistleblower
“Integrity and disinformation risks in elitist academic environments”
 - **Prof. Frits Rosendaal** – Professor of Clinical Epidemiology and chairman of the Department of Clinical Epidemiology at the Leiden University Medical Center
“Whistleblowers as safeguards of scientific truth: The position of academic institutions”
 - **Dr. Peter Doshi** – Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy, Senior Editor at The British Medical Journal.
“Improving the integrity of science: the role of investigative journalism”
 - **Dr. Dawn Carpenter** – Practitioner Fellow at Georgetown University, Host of the “What Does It Profit?” podcast
“The value of truth in science”





3:35 pm
4:35 pm



SECOND PANEL - Whistleblowing and Disinformation: Exploring the Legal Challenges

- Chair
- **Prof. Maurizio Bianchini** – Associate Professor of Business Law at the University of Padova
 - **Prof. Francesca Benatti** – Associate Professor of Comparative Law at the University of Padova
“The whistleblowing dilemma between ethics and law”
 - **Katherine Eban** – Investigative Journalist and Author
“Dinesh Thakur: the perilous journey of a whistleblower”
 - **Prof. Silvia Bertocco** – Associate Professor of Labour Law at the University of Padova
“Whistleblowing in the workplace: the Italian case”

4:40 pm
5:10 pm



THIRD PANEL - Poster Competition

- Chair
- **Prof. Mark James** – Professor of Sports Law and Law School Research Lead at The Manchester Metropolitan University
 - **Benedetta Sartor** – Poster Competition – First Prize
“Fake news and social networks: an overview on the periods before and after the pandemic”
 - **Demet Altunay** – Poster Competition – Second Prize
“Silenced Democracy”
 - **Beatrice Sartori** – Poster Competition Third Prize
“How disinformation can affect rating systems on platform workers”
 - **Benedetta Barozzi** – Poster Competition Special Mention
“Whistling at contract secrecy in a pandemic scenario”

5:15 pm
6:15 pm



FOURTH PANEL - Innovative Strategies for Countering Disinformation

- Chair
- **Dr. Donato Vozza** – Lecturer in Law at the University of Roehampton
 - **Georgina Halford-Hall** – CEO of WhistleblowersUK, Director of Strategy/Policy, All Party Parliamentary Group for Whistleblowing
“The Whistleblowing Bill: Protecting whistleblowers to counter disinformation”





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- **Brittany Nicole Kaiser** – Former Business Development Director for Cambridge Analytica, Co-Founder Own Your Data Foundation
“Empowering Individuals Through Digital Intelligence Education”
- **Louise Hisayasu** – The Glass Room project coordinator at Tactical Tech, Researcher
“Exploring misinformation: The Glass Room project”

6:15 pm
6:30 pm



CONCLUSIVE REMARKS

Prof. Diane Ring - Interim Dean of Faculty, Professor of Law at Boston College Law



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The Crucial Role of Whistleblowers in Countering Disinformation

Project Coordinator: Dr. Costantino Grasso,
Associate Professor (Reader) in Business and Law

Manchester Metropolitan University

“Whistling at the Fake: The Crucial Role of Whistleblowers in Countering Disinformation” is an international research project funded by the NATO’s Public Diplomacy Division.

The project enjoys the participation of renowned experts and academics from several universities including Boston College, Manchester Metropolitan University, University of Tilburg, and the University of Padova.

By exploring the means and mode of spread of mis/disinformation and disinformation, and how this affects individuals’ perceptions and decision-making ability, the project aims at increasing knowledge, awareness, and understanding amongst citizens on methods of identifying false information, and providing a set of practical suggestions individuals may be able to use when countering disinformation, propaganda, and other hostile information activities more broadly. Further, the project considers the role and effectiveness of whistleblowers and knowledgeable insiders as a means of exposing hostile information activities and increasing public resilience to acts of this nature.

