



CAS^{LMU} Research Group

“Messaging Apps, Encryption and the Enticement of Extreme Speech”

**The Encryption Debate: Disinformation and Extreme Speech on
WhatsApp, Telegram and Global Messaging Apps**

2 to 4 April 2025

Symposium

Wednesday, 2nd April

10.00 Registration and Coffee

10.30 Welcome Note – CAS and Sahana Udupa (LMU Munich)

Session 1 Framing Disinformation, Hate Speech and Extreme Speech

Chair: Ruth Mari-Moon

10.45-11.00 **Joseph Walther** (University of California, Santa Barbara)
Fomenting Fun, Acquiring Approval, Riffing on Replies: Framing Online Hate as a Social Process

11.00-11.05 Q&A

11.05-11.20 **Jakob Johan Demant** (University of Copenhagen)
Crime Refracted? Digital Deviance in the New Platform Ecosystem

11.20-11.25 Q&A

11.25-11.40 **Yotam Shmargad** (University of Arizona)
Comparing Comparisons: Collective and Perceived Norms in Toxic Language Use Across Platforms

11.40-11.45 Q&A

11.45-12.00 Discussion

12.00-13.15 Lunch Break

Session 2 Ethnographies – How do Ground Realities Look?

Chair: Dani Madrid-Morales

13.15-13.30 **Kim Schumann** (University of Cologne)
Delete This Message: Media Practices of Anglophone Cameroonian WhatsApp Users in the Face of Counterterrorism

- 13.30-13.35 Q&A
- 13.35-13.50 **Caroline Parreiras** (University of São Paulo)
Violence, Intolerance, Polarization and Terror in WhatsApp and Telegram Channels: Ethnographic Examples from Brazilian Favelas
- 13.50-13.55 Q&A
- 13.55-14.10 **Sergio Barbosa** (University of Geneva)
The Dark Side of WhatsAppers: the 2022 Brazilian General Elections
- 14.10-14.15 Q&A
- 14.15-14.30 Discussion
- 14.30-15.00 Coffee break
- Session 3** **Encrypted Messaging in Political Campaigns**
Chair: Herman Wasserman
- 15.00-15.15 **David Nemer** (Virginia State University)
The Human Infrastructure of Misinformation: A Case Study of Brazil's Heteromated Labor
- 15.15-15.20 Q&A
- 15.20-15.35 **Ruchira Chaturvedi** (Indian National Congress)
Role of Encrypted Messaging Platforms in Spreading Disinformation, Its Impact on Elections & Democracy
- 15.35-15.40 Q&A
- 15.40-15.55 **Osho Sanjay Chhel** (Political Consultant)
How Encrypted Messaging Helped Shift the Overton Window in India
- 15.55-16.00 Q&A
- 16.00-16.15 Discussion
- 16.15-17.00 Coffee Break
- Public Event**
- 17.00-17.10 Welcome Note – CAS and Sahana Udupa
- 17.10-17.20 Policy Report Launch – **Anmol Alphonso** (Boom Factcheck) and **Martin Riedl** (University of Tennessee)
- 17.20-17.40 WhatsApp Book Launch – **Sahana Udupa** (LMU Munich) and **Herman Wasserman** (Stellenbosch University)
- 17.40-17.55 **Naomi Miyashita** (United Nations Peace Operations)

- 17.55-18.10 **Courtney Cooper** (Meta)
- 18.10-18.25 **Katharina Goede** (HateAid)
- 18.25-18.40 Audience Q&A
- 19.00 Conference Dinner for Symposium Speakers

Symposium

Thursday, 3rd April

Session 1 Perceptions and Usage Patterns

Chair: Yotam Shramgad

- 09.30-09.45 **Herman Wasserman** (Stellenbosch University)
Engaging and Disengaging With Political Disinformation on WhatsApp:
A Study of Young Adults in South Africa
- 09.45-09.50 Q&A
- 09.50-10.05 **Dani Madrid-Morales** (University of Sheffield)
Messaging Apps and Electoral Disinformation in Namibia and Ghana
- 10.05-10.10 Q&A
- 10.10-10.25 **Jakob Johan Demant** (University of Copenhagen)
Subcultures of Cyberhate. Chockbased Humor and the Microsociological Landscape
Between Far Right and Open Groups for Young People
- 10.25-10.30 Q&A
- 10.30-10.45 Discussion
- 10.45-11.15 Coffee Break

Session 2 WhatsApp and the Extreme Speech Ecosystem

Chair: Kim Schumann

- 11.15-11.30 **Ruth Mari-Moon** (Louisiana State University)
Placing WhatsApp in the Authoritarian Surveillance State
- 11.30-11.35 Q&A
- 11.35-11.50 **Marcelo Alves Dos Santos Junior** (PUC Rio de Janeiro)
WhatsApp and the Extreme Speech Ecosystem: Considerations About
January 8
- 11.50-11.55 Q&A
- 11.55.12.10 **Martin Riedl** (University of Tennessee, Knoxville)
Identity-Based Harms: WhatsApp and Infrastructural Platform Violence

12.10-12.15 Q&A
12.15-12.30 Discussion
12.30-13.30 Lunch Break

Session 3 Computational Disinformation, Mapping and Tooling

Chair: Yotam Shramgad

13.30-13.45 **Joseph Bullock** (United Nations Peacekeeping)
Information Integrity in UN Peacekeeping Setting
13.45-13.50 Q&A
13.50-14.05 **Kiran Garimella** (Rutgers University)
Misinformation on WhatsApp - Insights From a Large Scale Data Donation Study
14.05-14.10 Q&A
14.10-14.25 Discussion
14.25-15.00 Coffee Break

Session 4 Factchecking and Data Access

Chair: David Nemer

15.00-15.15 **Tai Nalon** (Aos Fatos)
AI for Monitoring and Fact-Checking Disinformation on Conversational Apps
15.15-15.20 Q&A
15.20-15.35 **Anmol Alphonso** (Boom FactCheck)
Fact-Checking Resources and Combating Misinformation on Encrypted Platforms
15.35-15.40 Q&A
15.40-15.55 **Tarunima Prabhakar** (Tattle)
Difficulty of Collecting Data and Conducting Research on WhatsApp
15.55-16.00 Q&A
16.00-16.15 Discussion

Round Table (closed-door/members of the CAS Research Group)

Friday, 4th April

Roundtable Policy and Future Research Directions

10.00 - 11.15 **Research** (Opening comments – 5 mins each)

Moderation: Sahana Udupa

- Marcelo Alves Dos Santos Jr
- Jakob Johan Demant
- Daniel Madrid-Morales
- David Nemer
- Caroline Parreiras
- Martin Riedl
- Kim Schumann
- Yotam Shmargad
- Joseph Walther
- Herman Wasserman

11.15-12.00 **Policy** (Opening Comments - 5 mins each)

Moderation: Ruth Mari-Moon

- Anmol Alphonso
- Katharina Goede
- Tarunima Prabhakar
- Taina Nalon Xavier