

Contributors

Ani Baghumyan is a research assistant and PhD student at the Institute of Communication and Media Studies at the University of Bern. She holds an MSc in Communication Science from the University of Vienna and a BA in English and Communications from the American University of Armenia. Her research interests focus on political psychology, political communication, misinformation and conspiracy theories, intergroup communication, and media effects.

Miglė Bareikytė is Professor and the Chair of Digital Studies at the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder), where she is a dual member of the Faculty of Social and Cultural Sciences and the European New School of Digital Studies (ENS), and PI of the War Sensing project within the SFB “Media of Cooperation”. She has been researching digitization for many years, with a particular focus on Central and Eastern Europe. Since 2022, she has been conducting research on the digital dimension of war during Russia’s war in Ukraine. In addition, Miglė’s research extends to the study of historical and contemporary disinformation practices and conflicts in platform economies.

Olga Boichak is a Senior Lecturer in Digital Cultures at the University of Sydney, Australia. She is an award-winning media sociologist researching the role of information and communication technologies in shaping public perception and outcomes of wars. Currently, she is an Australian Research Council DECRA Fellow working on a project that maps colonial topographies of digital sovereignty in Ukraine, as well as chief investigator on a suite of research projects that explore digital and social media in geopolitical context.

Kateryna Boyko is a PhD student in Media and Communication Studies at the Institute for Russian and Eurasian Studies (IRES) at Uppsala University, Sweden. Her doctoral research explores civic cultures of pirate online communities in Ukraine. She focuses on conjunctions and interplays between civic and torrent practices, in particular, how and under what conditions piracy becomes embedded in the civic

context. She has recently contributed to the anthologies *Post-Soviet Women: New Challenges and Ways to Empowerment* (Palgrave Macmillan) focusing on representations of Ukrainian women during the Russo-Ukrainian war and *Media and the War in Ukraine* (Peter Lang) where she co-authored the chapter about changes of Ukrainian media landscape in the wake of the Russian full-scale invasion.

Oksana Domina is a grant-funded researcher at the University of Helsinki, Finland, and Executive Director of the NGO “Ukrainian Union of Marketing Experts”. Her research interests include market research, marketing development models, the modern stage of marketing in Ukraine, digital community networks, coping strategies, and the experience of Ukrainian scientists during the war.

Matthew Ford is Associate Professor at the Swedish Defence University. He is the author of three books all published with Oxford University Press. His most recent book *War in the Smartphone Age* reflects on how connected devices have changed the conduct and representation of war and in ways that have produced new patterns of participation in conflict. Matthew is a former Strategic Analyst at the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory, an agency of the UK Ministry of Defence and has worked in the consulting divisions for PwC and IBM.

Roman Horbyk is Research Lecturer in Media and Communication Studies at the University of Zürich and is known for his work in media, language, politics, modern history, and war studies. He worked as postdoctoral researcher at Södertörn University and Umeå University after defending two dissertations, on illustrated press in the 1920s Weimar Republic and Soviet Ukraine (Kyiv National Taras Shevchenko University, 2015) and on media power in representations of Europe in Ukraine, Russia and Poland during Euromaidan (Södertörn University, 2017); the latter was shortlisted for the best Swedish dissertation in media studies award. He has also worked at Swedish Defence University, as a Senior Lecturer at Örebro University, as a Visiting Researcher with Institute for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Uppsala University, and as an URIS Fellow at the University of Basel, among other academic affiliations he has held in recent years.

Dr Horbyk’s studies are interdisciplinary and focus on various aspects of post-colonial and mediatization theories, sociolinguistics, history of representations and ideas. Roman has also extensively worked as journalist, publishing articles in Ukraine, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, and Brazil. He is active as playwright and screenwriter whose most notable credits include *Pryputni* (2017). Recent notable publications by Dr Horbyk include works on fake news and viral disinformation as a genre, the history and techniques of Soviet and Russian propaganda and disinformation, public diplomacy and nation branding during the Russo-Ukrainian War, and military communication. One of his most important projects focused on

the use of mobile phones by Ukrainian soldiers and civilians in war. A study based on it received a Top Paper award at International Communication Association's annual conference in Paris, 2022. Dr Horbyk currently leads a team of researchers in a three-year project funded by the Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation and focused on continuities and discontinuities between Soviet propaganda and current Russian information warfare.

Nadiya Ivanenko is an Honorary Norham Research Fellow at the University of Oxford. Her research interests include higher education, citizenship linguistics, language identity, cultural and media studies. Nadiya has been involved in various international programmes, research internships and collaborative projects: UNESCO project 'Education as a Humanitarian Response'; American-Ukrainian project 'Education for Democracy'; internship at the Department of Educational Programmes at Shakespeare's Globe, UK; Open Society Institute, Hungary; ERASMUS+ project "Retraining in the Field of Teaching Excellence", Bayreuth University, Germany; British Council Mobility Grant 'Internalizing Higher Education in Ukraine' with 2 internships at Durham University, UK. Ukrainian Academic Support Scheme, University of Cambridge (2022) and Visiting Research Fellowship, University of Oxford (2022–2024) demonstrate her dedication to cross-disciplinary engagement and internalization of academic perspectives.

Bojidar Kolov is a member of the international research project "Values-Based Regime Legitimation in Russia" based at the University of Oslo. Last year, he defended his doctoral dissertation on the contemporary political theology of the Russian Orthodox Church as part of this project. Subsequently, he taught East Slavic and Russian history at the Arctic University of Norway in Tromsø. In addition to his PhD, Kolov holds a Master's degree in EU-Russia Studies from the University of Tartu in Estonia and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Sofia University in Bulgaria. His research focuses primarily on church-state relations, religious nationalism, and post-secularism. Kolov has published articles in peer-reviewed journals such as *Religions* and *Politics, Religion & Ideology*. His op-eds and commentaries have been featured in media outlets such as *New Eastern Europe* and *Lossi* 36.

Elena Korowin is a researcher, curator and publicist of contemporary art and visual culture. Her field of research includes feminist and dissident approaches towards environmental and political issues since the early beginnings of avant-garde movements in the 20th century. Other interests are coexistence and transfers in contemporary culture. She teaches at the University of Art in Braunschweig (Germany) and the Center for Transcultural Studies in Heidelberg (Germany). In 2016–2022 she was a postdoctoral fellow at the International Graduate School "Cultural transfer and

‘Cultural Identities’”. She was awarded the *ifa Research Award for Foreign Cultural Policy* in 2016. Korowin was a curatorial assistant at Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden (2010–2014) and wrote her thesis on Soviet art exhibitions as a means for cultural diplomacy in the Cold War Era.

Elizaveta Kuznetsova is a senior researcher working at the intersection of Communication Studies and International Relations. She leads a research group ‘Platform Algorithms and Digital Propaganda’ at Weizenbaum Institute in Berlin. Her research focuses on digital propaganda, social media platforms and international media. Elizaveta holds a PhD in International Politics from City, University of London. She is a former fellow at the Davis Center, Harvard University and the Center for the European Studies at Boston University.

Jacob Lassin is Assistant Professor of Regional and Cultural Studies (Russia) at the Air Force Culture and Language Center at Air University. His research focuses on the intersection of religion, politics, literature and new media in Russia and the former Soviet Union. He is currently working on a book project titled *Sacred Sites: Russian Orthodox Cultural Politics Online*, which explores how websites run by the Russian Orthodox Church and its allies reinterpret Russian culture to attract a new educated elite that supports the Church and the State. He received his PhD in Slavic Literatures and Cultures from Yale University in 2019. Prior to working at the Air Force Culture and Language Center, he held postdoctoral appointments at Harvard University, Arizona State University, and Miami University of Ohio.

Mykola Makhortykh is an Alfred Landecker lecturer at the Institute of Communication and Media Science (University of Bern), where he studies the impact of algorithmic systems and AI on politics- and history-centered information behavior in online environments. His other research interests include trauma and memory studies, armed conflict reporting, disinformation and computational propaganda research, cybersecurity and critical security studies, and bias in information retrieval systems. Recently, Mykola published in *PloS One* on automated detection of politics-related content in cross-platform digital data, *Telematics and Informatics* on censorship in large language models, and *Eastern European Holocaust Studies* on the role of AI in instrumentalizing Holocaust memory in the context of Russia’s war against Ukraine.

Alina Mozolevska is Associate Professor in the Faculty of Philology at Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University (Mykolaiv, Ukraine). In 2015, she earned her PhD in Linguistics, specializing in Romance languages, from Taras Shevchenko National University (Kyiv, Ukraine). She has held research fellowships at the University of Reims Champagne-Ardenne (France, 2017) and the UniGR-Center for Border Stud-

ies at Saarland University (Germany, 2022). Mozolevska was also a visiting fellow of the VolkswagenStiftung at Saarland University (Germany, 2022–2023). She is a member of the Prisma Ukraïna research group *War, Migration, and Memory* (Forum Transregionale Studien, Germany, since 2022) and the HEPP Research Group (University of Helsinki, Finland, since 2022). Currently, she is an academic guest fellow at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin (Germany, 2024–2025). Her research interests include media studies, discourse analysis, and border studies, and she has published extensively on topics related to borders and identity in both literary and political discourse.

Nuppu Pelevina is a project researcher at the University of Vaasa, School of Marketing and Communication and a doctoral researcher at the University of Helsinki, the Faculty of Social Sciences (political history). She studies changing dynamics of global political communication, and in her doctoral dissertation, she focuses on social media influencers' politicization and propaganda. Drawing from International Relations scholarship and communications studies, she examines Brazilian, Russian, and Ukrainian social media influencers' roles during the Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Orest Semotiuk is Assistant Professor at the Institute of Slavic Studies PAS and a MAXQDA Professional Trainer (computer-aided content analysis). His research interests cover political humor, medialization of armed conflicts, hybrid warfare, weaponization of media culture. Recent publication: *Crime and Punishment: Prigoshin's Mutiny and Putin's Revenge in Ukrainian and Russian Cartoons and Memes* (2024). Orest Semotiuk is the Principal Investigator of the research project "Laughter during the war: Russian aggression in Ukraine in political cartoons and memes" (2023–2025), co-funded by the European Commission and the National Science Center (Poland) under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant.

Christian Stöcker is Professor, psychologist, journalist and course director for Digital Communication at Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (HAW Hamburg). He writes a weekly column for DER SPIEGEL (one of the most widely read German-language news websites) where he previously worked as a technology journalist. Stöcker has published several books about digitization's impact on society.

Fiete Stegers is a research associate at Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (HAW Hamburg), focusing on fostering media literacy amongst high school students and teachers along with disinformation research. As a journalism trainer, he specializes in verification and fact-checking. In the past, he worked as a technology editor for public broadcaster NDR and a news editor for ARD's Tagesschau.de.

Maryna Sydorova is a data engineer and a scientific programmer at the Institute of Communication and Media Science at the University of Bern. Before working at the Institute, Maryna worked as a data scientist and cloud architect with a particular emphasis on AI. Currently, Maryna is a full-stack developer responsible for implementing a cloud-based cross-platform algorithm audit infrastructure. She is involved in several projects evaluating bias in text- and image-generative AI models. Her main research interests are artificial intelligence, deep learning, cloud computing, cybersecurity, privacy, and ethics in data science.

Victoria Vziatysheva is a PhD student at the Institute of Communication and Media Studies, University of Bern. She researches how users interact with algorithm-driven platforms, such as search engines or AI chatbots, to find political information. Her research interests also include misinformation, propaganda, and factors that influence trust in digital content. Victoria is part of an SNSF-funded project on the influence of user- and system-side factors on web search bias in the context of federal popular votes in Switzerland. She has also been participating in studies on the ability of generative AI to recognize Russian disinformation and on beliefs in Russian propaganda narratives among alternative media users in Germany (together with researchers from the Weizenbaum Institute in Berlin).

Nadia Zasanska is a research fellow at the Interdisciplinary Center for European Studies at Europa-Universität Flensburg, Germany. Her interests involve digital religion, media, and religious studies. She researches the digital transformations of Ukraine's religious landscape regarding the emergence of new religious actors, online spiritual practices and female faith activism. Nadia currently carries out a research project "*War as Spiritual Mission*" funded by the Philipp Schwartz-Initiative (Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung) and focuses on the role of the Russian Orthodox media in legitimation of Russia's war against Ukraine.

Jonas Ziock is a research associate at Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (HAW Hamburg). As a member of the NOTORIOUS project, he analyzes disinformation on the internet. He studied digital communication and political science in Hamburg and Göttingen. His focus was on the investigation of virtual reality as a modern medium as well as on international tensions and conflicts and their historical and contextual classification.