

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### Media manipulation: ideologies of influence and political economies of intervention in a digital world

29 June 2018 | Cambridge, UK

The StoryLab Research Institute at Anglia Ruskin University and the ERC-funded “Risking Speech” project at the Department of Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge, invite paper proposals for a workshop on the topic of media manipulation.

Manipulation—of attention, opinion, action—has been a salient concern in the recent Euro-American takes on digital media and their role in politics. While the question of media and power is by no means new, attending to how manipulation is imagined and organised at various scales in diverse historical and geographical contexts promises a fresh perspective. We therefore invite contributions that explore the relationship between *vernacular ideologies* of mediated influence and *political economies* of manipulative interventions both in and beyond Western democracies.

Focusing on ideologies, we propose to examine the various ways in which people imagine agents, objects, mechanisms and media of manipulation. What cultural assumptions about agency and autonomy, freedom and constraint, causation and responsibility inform understandings of manipulation? How do cultural ideas of action frame manipulation as practice; what narratives and technologies of control do they inform? And what forms does manipulation take in response to these ideologies in the context of political orders other than contemporary liberal democracies?

The focus on political economies brings attention to the role of manipulation in capitalism, opening a view on power and profit as manipulation. How is manipulation, as an exercise of power, organised and mediated in various technological, cultural, and social settings? Who manipulates, by what means, and to what effect? What modes of manipulation do specific media technologies afford? Finally, how is manipulation articulated in relation to digital media practices and economies in non-liberal regimes, for instance, in Russia or China?

We invite abstracts from across the social sciences and humanities and encourage the contributors to submit work in progress that could be developed through the workshop with a view of further publication. Participants will be asked to deliver a 15-20 min presentation, followed by an extensive discussion; papers won't be pre-circulated.

To apply, please send a Word or PDF document containing your name, institutional affiliation, email address, your proposed paper title and abstract (max 300 words) to Taras Fedirko (tf338@cam.ac.uk) and Samuel Lengen (samuel.lengen@anglia.ac.uk) by 2 May. We will inform applicants by 10 May.

Participation is free and while our budget is limited, we'll do our best to cover participants' travel and accommodation costs.

If you wish to attend, please register here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/media-manipulation-ideologies-of-influence-and-political-economies-of-intervention-in-a-digital-tickets-45026581718>

#### Convenors:

Dr Samuel Lengen, StoryLab Research Institute at Anglia Ruskin University

Dr Taras Fedirko, Department of Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge