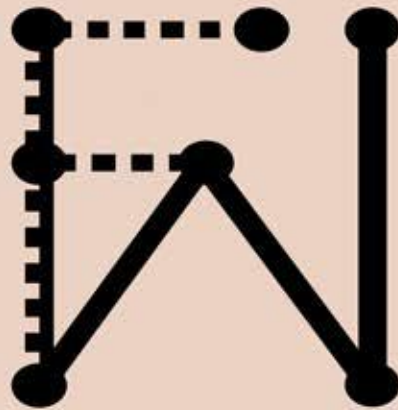


False Webs Network Seminar

**On human-based fake news spreading,
detecting, and fact checking**



**1st Seminar
23 February
11:00-17:00**

**Edinburgh Napier
Merchiston Campus
Room H11**

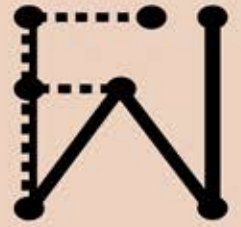
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Seminar Information



This seminar takes place at Edinburgh Napier University
Merchiston Campus, in room H11
10 Colinton Rd, Edinburgh EH10 5DT

Starting from 11 AM (GMT; Coffee available from 10:30)
and ending at 5 PM

15-minute talks are related to the topic of the seminar:
“Human-based fake news spreading, detecting, and fact checking”
and include research presentations and topic discussions
given by researchers and science communicators

Two panel discussions between talks will begin the conversation
towards policy recommendations from the False Webs network.

If you have any questions about the seminar, please email
the network assistant at:
theodore.carlsonwebster@napier.ac.uk

There are two nearby bus
stops:

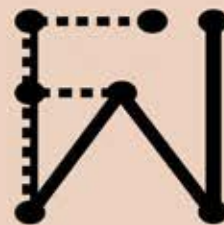
Napier University 

Bus 45

Holy Corner 

Buses 11, 15, 16, 23,
36, 45, and 101/102





Seminar Schedule

11:00 - Introduction (Marina Wimmer)

Speakers Slot 1

11:10 - Graham Wright

11:30 - Alice Howarth

11:50 - Stephan Lewandowsky (Online)

Panel Discussion 1

12:15 - Connecting Research to Policy: Do they align?

13:00 - Lunch

Speakers Slot 2

14:00 - David Robertson, Mark Shepard, Narisong Huhe, and Tony Anderson

14:20 - Santosh Vijaykumar (Online)

14:40 - Ariana Modirrousta-Galian

15:00 - Henry Otgaar

Panel Discussion 2

15:20 - Possible Policy Recommendations from Research

Speakers Slot 3

16:00 - Ted Carlson Webster

16:20 - Chantal den Daas

16:40 - Natalia Pasternak (Online)

17:00 - End of Seminar, Pub Social

Detailed Schedule



11:00 - Introduction (Marina Wimmer)

Speakers Slot 1

11:10 - Graham Wright

Title: Anti-Vax: A Brief Exploration of Science and Scepticism

From the early 19th century smallpox inoculations to the recent rollout of SARS-CoV-2 vaccines, vaccination has been a cornerstone of public health, dramatically reducing morbidity and mortality from infectious diseases. Despite this, vaccine hesitancy and active resistance movements persist. What drives this dichotomy between the proven efficacy of vaccines and the scepticism they encounter? In this short talk I will offer a brief exploration of the achievements and controversies of vaccines, contrasting the myths with the scientific evidence.

11:30 - Alice Howarth

Title: From Oddities to Extremities: Unmasking the Conspiracy Continuum

Embark on a thought-provoking journey as we delve into the intriguing realm of quirky beliefs and their unexpected connections to radical ideologies. In this eye-opening talk, we explore how seemingly innocuous ideas, like the belief in a flat Earth, can act as gateways to a labyrinth of more extreme conspiracy theories. Join us as we unravel the mechanisms that propel individuals down the rabbit hole, tracing the path from seemingly harmless ideas to the adoption of radical beliefs. Gain insights into the slippery slope of conspiratorial thinking and discover the surprising connections that tie the seemingly unrelated threads of unconventional beliefs to the fabric of extremism. Are these beliefs merely eccentricities, or do they serve as indicators of a deeper vulnerability to radicalisation?

11:50 - Stephan Lewandowsky (Online)

Title: Boosting people's information discernment skills through inoculation.

There are numerous ways to respond to misinformation, ranging from debunking of specific falsehoods to accuracy nudges and inoculation. I discuss the principles of inoculation, which equips people with the skills necessary to discern poor-quality information from information that is more likely to be accurate. I review the broad range of studies that show how brief educational interventions can reliably boost people's information discernment skills.

Panel Discussion 1

12:15 - Connecting Research to Policy: Do they align?

The first of two panel talks, this group discussion will start the conversation for future policy recommendations.



13:00 - Lunch

Speakers Slot 2

14:00 - David Robertson, Mark Shepard, Narisong Huhe, and Tony Anderson

Title: Detecting and Sharing Fake News: An Individual Differences Approach

Here we present the findings from some recent work which has focused on assessing whether individual differences in cognitive measures are associated with fake news detection ability and the news sharing propensity.

14:20 - Santosh Vijaykumar (Online)

Title: Online Health Infodemics: The Need for a Public Health Agenda

This subject talk will discuss problems pertaining to the intersection of infodemics and health inequalities, the role of health volunteers in combating infodemics, and incorporating infodemic considerations into future pandemic preparedness efforts

14:40 - Ariana Modirrousta-Galian

Title: An Inductive Learning Approach to News Veracity Discernment: Mixed Evidence and Future Directions

We found mixed evidence for an inductive learning intervention aimed at improving news veracity discernment. I will discuss potential explanations for these conflicting findings as well as future research directions.

15:00 - Henry Otgaar

Title: The Dark Side of False and Repressed Memories/Countering an egregious form of misinformation: repressed memory

In this talk, I will explain the relative ease by which false memories can be created, compare forensic and media-based false memories, and show the disastrous consequences they can have in the courtroom. Furthermore, I will show that some of these false memories are caused by a belief in the existence of one of the most controversial topics in psychological science: repressed memory.



Panel Discussion 2

15:20 - Possible Policy Recommendations from Research

The second of two panel discussions will focus on the early stages of possible evidence-based policy recommendations. This conversation aims to lead to the creation of an outline for future False Webs collaborative outputs.

Speakers Slot 3

16:00 - Ted Carlson Webster

Title: A Metamemory and Neuroscience Look at Fake News

Memory is tricky to measure, even before adding the biases that follow news. I will explain considerations for measuring memory, show research on why general misinformation warnings may not work effectively, and expand on some recent findings that use fNIRS brain scanning to gain some early insight into the brain's response to fake news when warned.

16:20 - Chantal den Daas

Title: (Mis)information in behaviour change

To change behaviour, Health Psychologists determine the determinants (predictors) of behaviour. Then, based on theory select Behaviour Change Techniques (BCT), the smallest active components of interventions, to change the determinants that will then change the behaviour. I will present an overview on some BCTs related to information, for example '5.1 Information about health consequences'. I will theorise about misinformation, the BCTs should work whether information is correct or not as long as people believe the information.

16:40 - Natalia Pasternak (Online)

Title: When science is ignored

History is full of examples of what happens when science is ignored, misused or distorted in public policies. From Lysenko in Russia to HIV/AIDS denialism in South Africa, it is time we learned from past mistakes. incorporating science into policy requires funding not only for the development of science and technology, but for the promotion of science literacy and understanding.

17:00 - End of Seminar, Pub Social