

Digital Resilience in Modern Elections

A Symposium on Election Security and Emerging Threats

March 27-28, 2025

Cabot Intercultural Center, 7th floor
The Fletcher School, Tufts University
160 Packard Avenue, Medford, MA 02155

We welcome you to an interdisciplinary symposium that seeks to address the complex challenges facing democratic institutions and elections in our rapidly evolving technological landscape. This intimate two-day workshop will be co-hosted by the [Hitachi Center for Technology and International Affairs](#) at The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University and the [International Foundation for Electoral Systems](#) (IFES).

The event will bring together scholars and practitioners to explore innovative approaches to protecting democratic processes in an era of unprecedented technological uncertainty and geopolitical volatility. The symposium objectives include interdisciplinary collaboration across academic and professional domains, in-depth analysis of emerging digital threats to democratic institutions, exploration of sociotechnical perspectives on technology and democracy, and focus on generating actionable insights beyond traditional research boundaries. Each workshop session will feature presentations by several speakers followed by a moderated conversation.

The symposium will be conducted under the Chatham House Rule. It will be restricted to invited Tufts University and IFES scholars, researchers, graduate students, and invited guests, and it will not be publicized. We also remind participants to be considerate and respectful to one another throughout the symposium and to practice active listening.

We are thankful for the support of our partners, sponsors, and volunteers.

Hosts

Dr. Josephine Wolff, Associate Professor of Cybersecurity Policy; Director, Hitachi Center for Technology and International Affairs, The Fletcher School

Nicole Leaver, Digital Democracy Specialist, IFES

Gabrielle Lim, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Political Science; Phd Student at the Citizen Lab, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, University of Toronto

Dr. Tarun Chaudhary, Cybersecurity and Diplomacy Advisor, IFES

AGENDA

Wednesday, March 26

TIME	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
19:00	Pre-conference dinner	Location: <u>Foundry on Elm</u> , 255 Elm Street, Somerville, MA 02144 Standing dinner reception restricted to conference participants, staff, volunteers, and invited guests

Thursday, March 27

Cabot Intercultural Center, 7th floor

TIME	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
08:30	Breakfast	Arrival and registration
09:00	Opening Remarks	Opening remarks by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Josephine Wolff, Associate Professor of Cybersecurity Policy; Director, Hitachi Center for Technology and International Affairs, The Fletcher School Anthony Banbury, President and CEO, IFES
09:30	Attack Surfaces and Vulnerabilities Across the Electoral Cycle	Presentations by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximo Zaldivar, Regional Director at IFES (Americas) Vladimir Misev, Independent Consultant (Virtual) Samson Itodo, Executive Director of Yiaga Africa (Nigeria); Member, African Union Advisory Group on AI Moderator: Tarun Chaudhary, Cybersecurity and Diplomacy Advisor, IFES
10:45	Coffee Break	
11:00	Biometrics and Digital Identity	A panel discussion featuring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grace Mutung'u, Research Fellow, Centre for Intellectual Property and Information Technology, Strathmore University (Kenya) Cade Diehm, Co-Founder, The New Design Congress (Germany) (Virtual) Gelila Bayable, Program Officer at National ID Ethiopia Eyob Alemu Buba, Technical Director at National ID Ethiopia Moderator: Moses Karanja, Research Affiliate, Citizen Lab, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy; Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Political Science, University of Toronto (Canada)

12:30	Lunch and Keynote Address by Cait Conley, Former Senior Advisor to the CISA Director on Election Security	
14:00	Beyond Elections: Political Participation Under Authoritarianism	<p>A panel discussion featuring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Thomas Cao, Assistant Professor of Technology Policy, The Fletcher School • Eva Gil, Country Director of West Bank/Gaza, IFES • Irene Poetranto, Senior Researcher at Citizen Lab and Doctoral Candidate in Political Science at the University of Toronto (Canada) • Marianne Díaz Hernández, Campaign Lead, Digital ID and Digital Public Infrastructure, Access Now (Virtual) • Moderator: Dean Jackson, Principal, Public Circle Research and Consulting
15:30	Coffee Break	
16:00	Trust and Polarization at the Polls	<p>A panel discussion featuring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Eitan Hersh, Professor, Department of Political Science, Tufts University • Brian Friedberg, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Anthropology, Harvard University; Senior Researcher, Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics, and Public Policy, Harvard Kennedy School • Natasha Goel, Research Fellow, Policy, Elections, and Representation Lab (PEARL), Department of Political Science, University of Toronto • Isabella Picón, Activist and Research Fellow, Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation, Harvard Kennedy School • Moderator: Costanza Sciubba Caniglia, Anti-Disinformation Strategy Lead, Wikimedia Foundation
17:30	Closing Remarks	
18:00	Dinner	

Friday, March 28

Cabot Intercultural Center, 7th floor

TIME	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
09:00	Breakfast	Arrival and registration
09:30	Transparent Technology: Building Trust in Election Systems	<p>A guided, critical Q&A period with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ben Adida, Founder, Voting Works • Matt Heuman, CEO, VoteNote/NeuVote • Ryan Macias, Founder, RSM Election Solutions; Former Acting Director of Testing and Certification, U.S. Election Assistance Commission • Moderator: Nicole Leaver, Digital Democracy Specialist, IFES
10:30	Coffee Break	
11:00	Emerging Technologies and Threats to Democratic Processes	<p>A panel discussion featuring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Samantha Bradshaw, Director, Center for Security, Innovation, and New Technology; Assistant Professor of Foreign Policy and Global Security, American University • Gabrielle Lim, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Political Science; Citizen Lab PhD Student, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, University of Toronto • Dr. Bruce Schneier, Security Technologist and Lecturer, Harvard Kennedy School • Matt Bailey, Senior Global Advisor on Cyber and Digital Democracy, IFES • Moderator: Dr. Ian Johnstone, Professor of International Law, The Fletcher School
12:30	Lunch	
13:30	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Josephine Wolff, Associate Professor of Cybersecurity Policy; Director, Hitachi Center for Technology and International Affairs, The Fletcher School • Anthony Banbury, President and CEO, IFES <p>Group Photo</p>	
14:00	End	

Participants

Josephine Wolff, Associate Professor of Cybersecurity Policy; Director, Hitachi Center for Technology and International Affairs, The Fletcher School

Anthony Banbury, President and CEO, IFES

Ben Adida, Executive Director, VotingWorks

Bruce Schneier, Security Technologist and Lecturer, Harvard Kennedy School

Brian Friedberg, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Anthropology, Harvard University; Senior Researcher, Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics, and Public Policy, Harvard Kennedy School

Cade Diehm, Co-Founder, The New Design Congress

Cait Conley, Former Senior Advisor to the CISA Director on Election Security

Costanza Sciubba Caniglia, Anti-Disinformation Strategy Lead, Wikimedia Foundation

Daniel Votipka, Lin Family Assistant Professor of Computer Science, Tufts University

Dean Jackson, Principal, Public Circle Research and Consulting

Eitan Hersh, Professor, Department of Political Science, Tufts University

Eva Gil, Country Director of West Bank/Gaza, IFES

Eyob Alemu, Technical Director at National ID Ethiopia

Gabrielle Lim, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Political Science; Phd Student at the Citizen Lab, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, University of Toronto

Gelila Bayable, Program Officer, National ID Ethiopia

Grace Mutung'u, Research Fellow, Centre for Intellectual Property and Information Technology, Strathmore University (Kenya)

Ian Johnstone, Professor of International Law, The Fletcher School

Isabella Picón, Activist and Research Fellow at Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation, Harvard Kennedy School

Irene Pasquetto, Assistant Professor, College of Information, University of Maryland and Senior Editor of *Misinformation Review* at The Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics, and Public Policy at Harvard Kennedy School

Irene Poetranto, Senior Researcher at Citizen Lab and Doctoral Fellow, Department of Political Science, University of Toronto

Judith Kelley, Professor, Department of Political Science, Duke University

Liliya Khasanova, Postdoctoral Scholar, The Fletcher School

Lilly Lee, Doctoral Fellow, The Fletcher School

Lisa Poggiali, Global Digital Democracy Advisor, IFES

Mailyn Fidler, Assistant Professor of Law, University of New Hampshire

Marianne Diaz Hernandez, Campaign Lead, Digital ID and Digital Public Infrastructure, Access Now

Matt Bailey, Senior Global Advisor on Cyber and Digital Democracy, IFES

Matt Heuman, Founder of Neuvote Systems Inc.

Maximo Zaldivar, Regional Director of Americas, IFES

Moses Karanja, Research Affiliate, Citizen Lab, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy; Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Political Science, University of Toronto

Natasha Goel, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Political Science, University of Toronto

Nicole Leaver, Digital Democracy Specialist, IFES

Nicola Lawford, MSc Candidate in Technology and Policy, MIT

Nyamal Tuor, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Anthropology, Harvard University

Patrick Gage Kelley, Trust & Safety, Google

Pavel Nabutovsky, Director, Salus CM

Rachel Ann Hulvey, Incoming Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Indiana University

Ryan Macias, Founder of RSM Election Solutions and Former Acting Director of Testing and Certification, U.S. Election Assistance Commission

Samantha Bradshaw, Director of the Center for Security, Innovation, and New Technology and Assistant Professor of Foreign Policy and Global Security at American University

Samson Itodo, Executive Director of Yiaga Africa and Member, African Union Advisory Group on AI

Tarun Chaudhary, Cybersecurity and Diplomacy Advisor, IFES

Thomas Cao, Assistant Professor of Technology Policy, The Fletcher School

Vladimir Misev, Independent Consultant, Former Senior Advisor on New Voting Technologies, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights