



Thursday 11 May | Bloomberg Center | Room 161/165

1.00 - 1.15pm Welcome

Introductions, overview of questions motivating the workshop, structure of coming discussions.

1.15 - 2.45pm Panel 1 | Manipulation on the Ground

The workshop begins on the ground, exploring concrete cases of online manipulation and mis- and dis-information, as well as strategies for mitigating them. What specific technologies are involved? How can we more carefully study these practices? How should we tackle them?

Speakers: [Jasmine McNealy](#) (Univ. of Florida), [Sarah Rajtmajer](#) (Penn State), [Alice Marwick](#) (Univ. of North Carolina); *Moderator:* [Lee McGuigan](#) (Univ. of North Carolina)

2.45 - 3.00pm Break

3.00 - 4.30pm Panel 2 | Politics of Online Manipulation

Online manipulation is both cause and effect—input and output—of broader political contexts. This panel explores the political dynamics contributing to online manipulation, such as conspiracy theories and right-wing identity politics, manipulation in legal and political institutions, and efforts by political activists to resist online manipulation.

Speakers: [Azadeh Akbari](#) (Univ. of Twente), [Ari Waldman](#) (Northeastern), [Anthony Nadler](#) (Ursinus College); *Moderator:* [Matthew Crain](#) (Miami Univ.)

4.30 - 4.45pm Break

4.45 - 6.15pm Panel 3 | Conceptualizing Online Manipulation

Understanding and combating online manipulation requires coordinating efforts among researchers, policymakers, advocates, and the public. To do that we must, to some extent, agree on terms. How should we conceptualize manipulation generally and online manipulation specifically? Many definitions have been put forward—how should we arbitrate between them? What should a concept of online manipulation do?

Speakers: [Rob Noggle](#) (Central Michigan Univ.), [Anne Barnhill](#) (Johns Hopkins), [Thomas Nys](#) (Univ. of Amsterdam); *Moderator:* [Daniel Susser](#) (Penn State)

6.45pm Dinner @ Au Za'atar

1063 1st Ave, New York, NY 10022 | [Map](#) >

9.00 - 10.00am Coffee

10.00 - 11.30am Panel 4 | Ethics and Values in Online Manipulation

Online manipulation—and efforts to mitigate or manage it—implicates a range of social, ethical, and political values, from privacy and transparency to autonomy and democratic legitimacy. How should we understand and navigate these values, both at the individual level and at scale?

Speakers: [Sylvie Delacroix](#) (Univ. of Birmingham), [Yafit Lev-Aretz](#) (CUNY Baruch College), [Marijn Sax](#) (Univ. of Amsterdam); *Moderator:* [Tal Zarsky](#) (Univ. of Haifa)

11.30 - 11.45am Break

11.45am - 1.15pm Panel 5 | Designing Against Manipulation

The health of our information environments is, in part, a function of their design. Do users engage thoughtfully or reflexively? Does mis- and dis-information spread virally or peter out? Can design and engineering approaches—such as introducing friction into user experiences—reduce or contain online manipulation, and if so, how should law and policy leverage these strategies?

Speakers: [Laura Brandimarte](#) (Univ. of Arizona), [Brett Frischmann](#) (Villanova), [Paul Ohm](#) (Georgetown); *Moderator:* [Karen Yeung](#) (Univ. of Birmingham)

1.15 - 2.00pm Lunch

2.00 - 3.30pm Panel 6 | Legal and Regulatory Horizons

How should lawmakers and regulators tackle the challenges of online manipulation—in the US, Europe, and elsewhere? Should the focus be on particular technologies (such as recommender systems), digital practices (such as targeted advertising or dark patterns), or perhaps on platforms and digital firms more broadly?

Speakers: [Kirsten Martin](#) (Notre Dame), [Frederik Zuiderveen Borgesius](#) (Radboud University), [Natali Helberger](#) (Univ. of Amsterdam); *Moderator:* [Sarah Myers West](#) (AI Now)

3.30 - 3.45pm Break

3.45 - 5.00pm Panel 7 | Reflections: Throughlines and Paths Forward

The questions motivating this workshop are familiar, but they have taken on new urgency and—as the preceding panels demonstrate—are attracting multifaceted research from scholars across diverse fields. What are the important throughlines in the work discussed? How do they connect with, build on, or challenge previous understanding? What concepts, methods, and approaches are most promising for carrying this research program forward?

Speakers: [Rediet Abebe](#) (Harvard Society of Fellows), [Frank Pasquale](#) (Brooklyn Law School), [Joe Turow](#) (Univ. of Pennsylvania); *Moderator:* [Helen Nissenbaum](#) (Cornell Tech)

5.00 - 5.30pm Wrap-up