

Creating Chaos Online

Disinformation and Subverted Post-Publics

With the prevalence of disinformation geared to instill doubt rather than clarity, *Creating Chaos Online* unmasks disinformation when it attempts to pass as deliberation in the public sphere and distorts the democratic processes. Asta Zelenkauskaite finds that repeated tropes justifying Russian trolling were found to circulate across not only all analyzed media platforms' comments but also across two analyzed sociopolitical contexts suggesting the orchestrated efforts behind messaging. Through a dystopian vision of publics that are expected to navigate in the sea of uncertain both authentic and orchestrated content, pushed by human and nonhuman actors, *Creating Chaos Online* offers a concept of post-publics. Post-publics is reflected within the continuum of treatment of public, counter public, and anti-public. This book argues that affect-instilled arguments used in public deliberation in times of uncertainty, along with whataboutism constitute a playbook for chaos online.

Asta Zelenkauskaite is Associate Professor of Communication at Drexel University.

“This is a comprehensive analysis of Russian trolling and disinformation. Zelenkauskaite explains the aims, scope, strategy, tactics, rhetoric, policies, and mechanics of Russian trolling in the most exhaustive, comprehensive, and empirically-rooted treatment of this subject that I have seen.”

—Janis Chakars, Neumann University

“This book skillfully walks the thin line between falling through the rabbit hole of ‘dark participation’ sites, and zooming out to unpack and analyze it; taming the chaos for us, while letting us have a taste of it at the same time.”

—Carmel Vaisman, Tel Aviv University

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Asta Zelenkauskaite

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