EXPERT PANEL

DEMOCRACY UNDER PRESSURE

Countering Information Manipulation and Building Resilience

8 Dec • 15:00

FAB0.03, Faculty of Arts



DEMOCRACY UNDER PRESSURE

HOW CAN DEMOCRACIES FIGHT BACK?

Hostile actors exploit social divisions, erode trust and shape public opinion — and AI is making influence operations more sophisticated and scalable than ever.

Experts in behavioural science, information operations, cognitive defence and societal resilience share evidence-based lessons from the UK, Ukraine and international initiatives.

1. **Strengthening public resilience**
2. **Detecting and disrupting hostile campaigns**
3. **Proactive responses to AI-enabled threats**

OPENING & MODERATION



OPENING REMARKS

PROFESSOR GEORGE CHRISTOU

Deputy Pro-Vice Chancellor Europe, University of Warwick



MODERATOR

DR HALYNA PADALKO

Visiting Professor, University of Warwick; Research Affiliate, MIT

PANELLIST

DR RAKOEN MAERTENS

Research Fellow, Department of Experimental Psychology, University of Oxford



Behavioural scientist specialising in the psychology of misinformation, psychological inoculation and prebunking, and evaluating which interventions against misinformation actually work.

PANELLIST

VICTORIA SMITH

CEO, DISARM Foundation



Specialist in influence operations, threat analysis and attribution, and in the frameworks used to identify information manipulation and coordinate responses to it.

PANELLIST

VALERIA KOVTUN

Founder, Resilience Lab; Founder and Former Head, Filter (Ukraine)



Expert in cognitive and societal resilience, strategic communications and public interventions against disinformation — including building Ukraine’s national media literacy infrastructure.

PANELLIST

SVIATOSLAV HNIZDOVSKYI

Founder and CEO, OpenMinds



Technology entrepreneur specialising in AI-driven cognitive threat intelligence, hostile influence analysis and audience research, and in designing and evaluating counter-influence campaigns.

SEE YOU THERE

DATE & TIME

Tuesday 8 December 2026, 15:00

LOCATION

FAB0.03, Faculty of Arts Building
6 University Rd, Coventry CV4 7EQ

FORMAT

Expert panel discussion

CO-ORGANISED BY

We’re grateful to have this panel co-organised by:

Centre for Studies in Democratisation,
International Security Cluster at PAIS,
Institute of Advanced Study at the University of Warwick

Register your interest via the link in our bio

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WHEN	WHERE	FORMAT
Tue 8 Dec · 15:00	FAB0.03, Faculty of Arts Building	Panel · 90 min



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CO-ORGANISED BY Centre for Studies in Democratisation · International Security Cluster, PAIS · Institute of Advanced Study, University of Warwick · Warwick Ukrainian Society