



Bad Beliefs and Polarization workshop

Epistemology and Psychology on Propaganda and Echo Chambers

– Program –

Organization: Olena Komar, Nikola Kompa, Sergii Rudenko

Date: 25th of October

Link:

Venue: Kyiv, Ukraine; Osnabrück, Germany (details below)

talks will be hybrid

Zoom ID: 868 7806 6695

Zoom Code: 133006

Schedule

TIME (UA)	TIME (DE)	TYPE	SPEAKER	TITLE
14:00 – 14:15	13:00 – 13:15	Opening Remarks	Olena Komar	
14:15 – 14:50	13:15 – 13:50	Talk	Olena Komar	Bad beliefs and social polarization. How language contributes to echo chambers
14:50 – 15:25	13:50 – 14:25	Talk	Dmytro Iarovyj	Resilience to Propaganda and Disinformation: How Critical We Are in Self-Assessment?
15:25 – 16:00	14:25 – 15:00	Talk	Tobias Kretschel & Daniele Valentini	Using Users' Votes to Detect Echo Chambers in Social Media
16:00 – 16:30	15:00 – 15:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>		
16:30 – 17:05	15:30 – 16:05	Talk	Rebecca Watzlawek	Language in Echo Chambers – How Metaphors intensify Affective Phenomena
17:05 – 17:40	16:05 – 16:40	Talk	Illia Yahiiaiev	Conspiracy Theories and Shared Worldviews: Differences in Russian Citizens' Beliefs Based on Their Attitudes Towards the Russia-Ukraine War
17:40 – 18:00	16:40 – 17:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>		
18:00 – 19:00	17:00 – 18:00	Final Discussion and Q&A Panel	Prof. Dr. Nikola Kompa & Prof. Dr. Achim Stephan	



Description

Climate change denial, the anti-vax movement, Pizza Gate, and political propaganda — what unites these seemingly disparate phenomena?

They are related to inappropriately formed, unfounded beliefs that contradict available evidence and expert consensus. In essence, they are manifestations of what we refer to as "bad beliefs." Some of these bad beliefs are persistent, proving resistant to revision, and expressed by a group of like-minded people. Within such groups, an echo chamber effect takes hold, amplifying these beliefs and creating a resonance that binds the group together while isolating them from opposing viewpoints.

Propaganda perfectly manipulates the echo chamber effect, leading to extreme social polarization. In this workshop, our aim is to delve into the language of propaganda, and explore whether specific language is a means of polarization and a mechanism for creating an echo chamber or simply a symptom and result of polarization.

We will also discuss the issue of the persistence of bad beliefs and the selective effect of propaganda from both philosophical and psychological perspectives.

Venue

This is a bi-local workshop taking place in person both in Kyiv, Ukraine, as well as in Osnabrück, Germany.

Kyiv, Ukraine

Volodymyrska Street 60
01033, Kyiv
Room 327

Osnabrück, Germany

Albrechtstraße 28A
49076, Osnabrück
Room 69/E15

Project

This workshop is part of the research project of Prof. Dr. Olena Komar supported by the Philipp Schwartz Initiative of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.

The project "Bad beliefs, echo chambers, and the epistemic conditions of moral responsibility" is a philosophical study of group beliefs by applying moral philosophy, epistemology and cognitive science.



Alexander von
HUMBOLDT
STIFTUNG