



UNIVERSIDADE
CATÓLICA
PORTUGUESA



Truth in the Age of Disinformation

How it affects democracy and what to do about it

Agenda

14h00 **OPENING REMARKS**

- **Professor Isabel Capelo Gil** | President of Universidade Católica Portuguesa
- **Élise Racicot** | Ambassador of Canada to Portugal

VIDEO 'DISINFORMATION IN CHILE'

Aisén Etcheverry | Minister of Science, Technology, Knowledge, and Innovation of Chile

14h10 **1ST PANEL**

What is the impact of disinformation on democracies, including growing effects of AI and technology?

MODERATOR

Rebecca Abecassis

PANELISTS

- **Alina Bargoanu** | Romanian National School of Political Studies and Administration; Member of the Advisory Board of the European Digital Media Observatory
- **Jeta Xharra** | Head of Balkan Investigative Reporting Network's office
- **Simon Thibault** | University of Montréal
- **Shenglan Zhou** | Universidade Católica Portuguesa

VIDEO 'IMPACT OF MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION ON DISASTER AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE'

Jodie Wrigley | Senior Communication Advisor to the United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism Global Programme on PCVE.

15h30 **2ND PANEL**

What to do about growing disinformation?
What are the policies, strategies and solutions?

MODERATOR

Arif Lalani

PANELISTS

- **Minna-Liina Lind** | Undersecretary for Global Affairs, Estonian MFA
- **Maria Kucherenko** | Head of Russian Studies Direction, Analytical Department, Come Back Alive Initiatives Center
- **Pedro Calado** | Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian
- **Jessica Roberts** | Universidade Católica Portuguesa

16h50 **OVERVIEW**

Professor Nelson Costa Ribeiro | Vice-Rector

17h00 **CLOSING REMARKS**

Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa | President of the Republic

17h20 **NETWORKING COFFEE**





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Panelists

ESTONIA

Mrs. Minna-Liina Lind | MFA the Undersecretary for Global Affairs

Policies to ensure the internet remains free, credible and safe, and that technology, including AI, respects human rights. In 2025 Estonia chairs the Freedom Online Coalition (FOC).

CANADA

Mr. Simon Thibault | University of Montreal

Disinformation, foreign interference, and media politicization in the Canadian context.

KOSOVO

Mrs. Jeta Xharra | Head of Balkan Investigative Reporting Network's office

Media freedom and countering disinformation with large geographic coverage in Eastern Europe.

UKRAINE

Mrs. Maria Kucherenko | Head of Russian Studies Direction, Analytical Department, Come Back Alive Initiatives Center

Insight on Russian disinformation in Ukraine, but also in the rest of Europe and in Africa.

ROMANIA

Mrs. Alina Bargoanu | Romanian National School of Political Studies and Administration / member of the Advisory Board of the European Digital Media Observatory

Contemporary influence and interference operations. Understanding the threat.

USA

Mrs. Jessica Roberts | Universidade Católica Portuguesa

Disinformation in the U.S. context and its impact on public opinion and journalism

CHINA

Mrs. Shenglan Zhou | Universidade Católica Portuguesa

Disinformation in Asia, with a focus on China, including the production of fake content for social media

EU/PORTUGAL

Mr. Pedro Calado | Gulbenkian

Practical examples of strategies, trainings, etc that can help fight disinformation

Panelists – Videos

CHILE

Mrs. Aisén Etcheverry | Minister of Science, Technology, Knowledge, and Innovation, and current Government spokesperson.

Moderators

CANADA

Amb. Arif Lalani | U of Toronto / CIGI / New America / Strategycorp
Insights on North America, Middle East, polarisation democracies and disinformation.

PORTUGAL

Rebecca Abecassis | Journalist
Editor of International News and European News programmes at RTP Portugal since 2001.

