

How to Govern Big Tech in a Trustworthy Way

PERITIA Special Issue

We study, we work, we talk to our loved ones in an online world run by global, corporate platforms. To whom are they accountable? Based on which values do they design their products? How can this technology impact our lives and the way we trust media, politics or science? *How much can you trust them?*

[*Governing Trust in European Platform Societies*](#), a new Special Issue edited by PERITIA's investigator José van Dijck (University of Utrecht), explores these critical questions for European politics and citizens.

Six articles by eminent scholars examine the shift from an **institutional model of trust** ("human-made rules of power governed by publicly accountable institutions and professional norms") to a **computational model of trust** ("an obscure dynamic that mixes personalized data flows, algorithmic computation and proprietary business models").

[Read more](#)

Key Takeaways

The Special Issue was discussed in the roundtable discussion of PERITIA's conference [Trust in Expertise in a Changing Media Landscape](#). Watch the authors unpack their findings and connect them to current issues like Covid-19, internet privacy or disinformation.

PERITIA Lectures Continue!

We are ready to start the second part of the **PERITIA Lectures [Un]Truths: Trust in an Age of Disinformation**. Hosted by [University College Dublin](#) (UCD) and [American University of Armenia](#) (AUA), the series explores the concept of trust and truth in light of current events. Prominent philosophers and academics from across the globe will present their latest research on **trust in science, disinformation, vaccine hesitancy, climate action** and more.

Registration

What is Knowledge Resistance?

Åsa Wikforss | Stockholm University

21 September, 4 PM Dublin | 7 PM Yerevan

How is the notion of resistance to be understood and which are the psychological mechanisms involved? To what extent does knowledge resistance involve irrationality? And what does it mean for evidence to be available?

A War on Science? The Death of Expertise? Rethinking Vaccine Hesitancy

Maya J. Goldenberg, University of Guelph

5 October, 4 PM Dublin | 7 PM Yerevan

Is really vaccination "a victim of its own success"? Are people anti-science and anti-expertise? How should we frame public debates about vaccines and vaccination?

Technology and Democracy - Cognitive Pressure Points and Solutions

Stephan Lewandowsky, University of Bristol

19 October, 4 PM Dublin | 7 PM Yerevan

Are citizens really drenched in misinformation and are they affected by it? Do social media really polarize societies? And if so, is regulation the answer?

Why Is Climate Action So Hard?

Philip Kitcher, Columbia University

2 November, 4 PM Dublin | 8 PM Yerevan

Climate action has been sporadic, and far too slow. Why? The obvious answer: distrust of the science. Yet, even in places where the scientific findings have been accepted, and even as skepticism is waning, the response remains sluggish.

Final Lecture

Sheila Jasanoff, Harvard Kennedy School

16 November, 4 PM Dublin | 8 PM Yerevan

Sheila Jasanoff is Pforzheimer Professor of Science and Technology Studies at the Harvard Kennedy School. A pioneer in the social sciences, she explores the role of science and

technology in the law, politics, and policy of modern democracies.

[Watch Previous Lectures](#)

News from PERITIA

José van Dijck Awarded with the Spinoza Prize

PERITIA investigator [José van Dijck](#) was awarded with the prestigious 2021 Spinoza Prize. She is one of four prize winners and the only one with a background in the Social Sciences and Humanities.

[Learn more](#)

New Members Appointed to the PERITIA Advisory Board

We are honoured to welcome three new members to our [Advisory Board](#): **Heather Douglas**, Professor of Philosophy at Michigan State University, **Stephan Lewandowsky**, Professor of Cognitive Science at the University of Bristol, and **Stathis Psillos**, Professor of Philosophy of Science and Metaphysics at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. [Learn more](#)

Valorised or Vilified – Has the Pandemic Increased Trust in Science?

A recent [article on Research Europe](#) features PERITIA Work Package Leaders [Tracey Brown](#) (Sense about Science) and [Gloria Origgi](#) (Institut Jean Nicod). The publication discusses the question whether the Covid-19 pandemic will make researchers more trusted by the public.

[Learn more](#)

Events

Science, Ethics and Politics: Are Researchers Influencer or Influenced?

16 September, 14:30-16:00 CEST

PERITIA investigator Teresa Branch (Institut Jean Nicod) and Board Member Heather Douglas (Michigan State University) will join a session organised by the Centro per l'Eccellenza e gli Studi Transdisciplinari. [Registration is open.](#)

Future of Science Communication Conference

In June, PERITIA researchers joined the two-day international conference [Future of Science Communication](#) organised by [ALLEA](#) and Wissenschaft im Dialog. PERITIA's findings on trust in science, science disinformation and measuring trust in science were presented and discussed in several panels and workshops. [Learn more](#)

Trust in Science: Nurtured, Built or Earned?

Maria Baghramian (University College Dublin) and Tracey Brown (Sense about Science) joined a panel discussion with Rainer Bromme (University of Münster) and John Besley (Michigan State University). Among other aspects, the speakers debated how to create a concept of trust in science useful for science communication.

Using Experiments to Fight Science Disinformation

PERITIA researchers [Carlo Martini](#), [Folco Panizza](#) and [Piero Ronzani](#) (Vita-Salute San Raffaele University) presented the latest PERITIA research on disinformation in a workshop. John Cook (Monash University), creator of the [Cranky Uncle game](#) on climate disinformation, joined as special guest.

Trust in Science in Social Surveys: Challenges, Measurement and Case Studies

PERITIA's researchers [Kirstie Hewlett](#) and [Rebecca Benson](#) (King's College London) hosted a workshop together with Ricarda Ziegler (WID). Lead researchers and practitioners shared their input and sparked a discussion on challenges that social surveys face when measuring trust.

Online Workshop on Testimonial Injustice

On 17-18 June 2021, finalists of the 2021 *IJPS* PERITIA and Robert Papazian prizes presented the pre-final drafts of their shortlisted entries. In addition, four invited speakers discussed their work on themes from testimonial injustice and trust. [Learn more](#)

Behind the Scenes

The **American University of Armenia** (AUA) is a private independent university in Yerevan, Republic of Armenia accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior College and University Commission. The university is the first institution in Armenia modeled on Western-style higher education, committed to teaching, research, and service.

As partner in the PERITIA consortium, AUA is key to enlarge the impact of PERITIA in Armenia, helping to expand our network of experts and our dissemination activities. AUA investigators Alen Amirkhanyan, Arshak Balayan, and Yevgenya Paturyan are working on various literature reviews, data collection and survey monitoring, and providing country-specific analyses.

[Learn more](#)

Our Science Communication Corner

A Brief History of Science Communication

Do you have 10 minutes to learn about the long history of science communication? Indian science communicator Siddharth Kankaria and cartoonist Argha Manna have created a 51 flashcard course to learn about this journey with an inclusive, non-Western centred perspective which is both [enlightening and fun to read](#).

Did You Know...?

The Fine Line between Trusting Science and Pseudoscience

Asking people to *just trust science* may not be the best strategy to fight pseudoscience, according to a new paper by Thomas C. O'Brien, Ryan Palmer and Dolores Albarracín. In their experiment, people who trusted science were more likely to believe and disseminate false claims that “looked scientific”. What if you remind them to *just trust science*? Well, it did not work either. [Learn more](#)

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