



## Call For Papers

The Space & Culture Studies Research Team of the CEDUC laboratory at the Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences, Mohammed 1st University, Oujda, organizes, in collaboration with the CERHSO, the 2nd International Online Conference on:

**Digital Media Literacy in the Age of Mis/Disinformation:**

**Addressing Current and Future Trends in Higher Education**

**Date: 18-19 June, 2021**

**Submission Deadline: 25 May, 2021**

### Background

The abundance and ubiquity of user-generated content has resulted in a constantly evolving information ecosystem, where information exchange knows no borders. The rise of the participatory web has weakened the monopoly of traditional news outlets as news gatekeepers. The democratization of media has blurred the lines between content creators, mediators, and consumers of information. The post-truth world is a divided and partisan environment in which unsubstantiated information is placed side by side with factual information.

The evolving and complex digital landscape has exposed individuals to a vast array of unfiltered information available in multiple formats. The unregulated, liberal, and open nature of the online ecosystem provides fertile ground for sowing the seeds of misinformation,

particularly in times of crisis. This has been evident during the COVID-19 global pandemic which has unleashed a tsunami of unsubstantiated information. A complex mixture of cognitive, social, and algorithmic biases contribute to our vulnerability to fake news. These dynamics testify to the mounting challenges facing youth and adults alike to assess the credibility of information online.

Against this background, scholarly research has brought the issue of false news on social networks into focus in an attempt to understand how users react to information circulating online and where they seek out information from. The mounting concern over the rise of mis- and disinformation has sparked a renewed interest in digital media literacy skills for the twenty-first century students. In an age of information abundance, students face a constant need to identify, locate, search, and synthesize various sources of information in order to meet their information needs. In a world increasingly mediated by digital technologies, the skills, competences and knowledge underpinning digital literacy are ever more important for students to survive and thrive in the complex digital media landscape. What is required in an increasingly complex information ecosystem is a vigilant information consumer and knowledge-sharing culture to mitigate the impact of false information.

### **Aims of the e-conference**

The upcoming e-conference aspires to bring together researchers, media specialists, educators, and other related practitioners from around the world to exchange knowledge and experience and discuss recent developments and current challenges in both theory and practice. The intellectual gathering will dive deep into the dynamics governing online fake news and information seeking/sharing patterns, with special focus on how higher education can position itself today to meet the global demands of the present and the future.

### **Scope of the conference**

Prospective presenters are encouraged to submit proposals for papers with new studies, researches or theoretical contributions relative to the areas of interest. The Main topics of the conference include, but not limited to the following axes:

- Fake news & alternative facts
- Misinformation and Disinformation
- Post-truth Society
- Information Seeking Behavior
- Digital Literacy Skills
- Information literacy and lifelong learning
- Confirmation Bias and Motivated Reasoning

- ❑ Research Ethics in the Digital Age
- ❑ Social media algorithms
- ❑ Filtering and fact-checking

### **Abstract Specification**

Abstract content must meet the following guidelines:

- ❑ The abstract should include a brief introduction of the topic, purpose, methods employed, main findings or practical implications, conclusions, and recommendations
- ❑ The abstract should not exceed 300 words and should be original
- ❑ Five key words relating to the topic should be supplied along with the abstract

### **Abstract submission details**

Abstracts should:

- ❑ Be relevant and contain a complete title (up to 15 words);
- ❑ Contain the full name(s), affiliation(s), email(s) of the author(s);
- ❑ Be written in Times New Romans, 12, and 1.5-spaced; and
- ❑ Be accompanied with a one-paragraph biography of the author
- ❑ be sent to the email address of the e-conference coordinator: [isam.mrah@ump.ac.ma](mailto:isam.mrah@ump.ac.ma)

### **General details**

- ❑ Emails of acceptance will be sent once the abstract has been reviewed and accepted
- ❑ The official Language of the Conference is English
- ❑ The e-conference presentation via video or audio streams should be no more than 15 minutes length
- ❑ A panel discussion will conclude each session
- ❑ The authors of the accepted abstracts will be invited to submit their full papers to be published in the post-conference proceedings.

### **Important Dates**

Abstract Submission Deadline : **Tuesday, 25 May, 2021**

Abstract Acceptance Notification: **Friday, 28 May, 2021**

### **Organizing Committee**

Dr. Isam Mrah (FLSH, Mohamed 1st University, Oujda)

Dr. Omar Bsaithi (FLSH, Mohamed 1st University, Oujda)

Dr. Abdeljabbar EL Mediouni (FLSH, Mohamed 1st University, Oujda)

Dr. Toufik Azzimani (UMP E-learning Center, Oujda)

Dr. Mohammed Zerouh (ESTK, Sultan Moulay Slimane University, Beni Mellal)

Mr. Hicham Tizaoui (CRMEF, Oujda)

Dr. Mohammed Guanguami (ENSA, Oujda)

Dr. Abdelaziz Askitou (Multidisciplinary Faculty, Nador)

### **Scientific Committee**

Dr. Omar Bsaithi (FLSH, Mohamed 1st University, Oujda)

Dr. Abdelmajid Bouziane (FLSH, Hassan II University, Casablanca)

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Dr. Mohamed Elkouche (FLSH, Mohamed 1st University, Oujda)

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