



## Call for Papers

### **Understanding and Countering Disinformation and Propaganda**

#### **Guest Editors**

Christopher Bail, Duke University

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This special issue of *Behavioral Science & Policy* (BSP) aims to enhance both scholarly understanding of and policy measures to counteract disinformation and propaganda. Disinformation refers to the intentional and strategic dissemination of false information, while propaganda encompasses the dissemination of half-truths, false, or misleading information in the service of persuading the public of a particular viewpoint or (political) agenda. Specifically, the special issue seeks to foster a dialogue on the origins of disinformation and propaganda, people's susceptibility to them, their spread dynamics, effects on public opinion, and behavioral interventions to counteract them.

We envision this special issue as a platform for comprehending and mitigating the impact of disinformation and propaganda spread by industry actors, governmental authorities and government-sponsored political actors, special interest groups, individual agents (e.g., influencers, elites) on social media platforms, and others. We are particularly interested in submissions examining rhetoric related to politicized social issues.

We welcome submissions from a broad spectrum of behavioral sciences, including economics, sociology, psychology, communication, computational, and political science. Similarly, we encourage papers from various methodological traditions, including experimental and field empirical research, formal and computational modeling, and qualitative research. We also encourage submissions that explore the application of artificial intelligence, machine learning, and other advanced technological developments in producing and disseminating disinformation and propaganda. Additionally, we are open to essays that synthesize existing research on disinformation and propaganda while presenting a novel perspective, even if they lack original data.

It is imperative that submitted papers not only advance a scientifically grounded understanding of issues related to disinformation or propaganda but also offer concrete practical implications for mitigating their effects or addressing their consequences. Interested authors are encouraged to submit their abstracts by **December 31, 2024**. Full papers will be requested for selected abstracts following the initial review.

Accepted papers will be published in *Behavioral Science & Policy*, and promoted on our partner blog, *The Behavioral Scientist*. In addition, selected authors will be invited to present their work at an online policy briefing, facilitating knowledge transfer to policymakers, industry leaders, and other stakeholders.

**Submissions must include:**

Corresponding Author Name  
Contact information  
500-word abstract of their proposed article

**Submission Deadline: December 31, 2024**

**Upload Submissions Here:** <https://behavioralpolicy.org/call-for-papers-understanding-and-countering-disinformation-and-propaganda/>

For any inquiries or additional information, please contact [bsp@behavioralpolicy.org](mailto:bsp@behavioralpolicy.org).

**Important Dates:**

- Abstract submission deadline: December 31, 2024
- Notification of abstract acceptance: January 15, 2025
- Full paper submission deadline: Spring 2025
- Publication in *Behavioral Science & Policy*: Fall 2025
- Briefing: Fall/Winter 2025

***Behavioral Science & Policy*** is a unique peer-reviewed journal that seeks to help address significant social challenges by facilitating thoughtful application of rigorous empirical social and behavioral science. Thus, *BSP* publishes research from a broad spectrum of cognitive, social, organizational, and management science disciplines that is currently actionable by policy makers and other practitioners. *Behavioral Science & Policy* features a broad range of topical areas, including (but not limited to) diversity & inclusion, education, energy & the environment, financial decision making, health and health care, happiness and well-being, justice & ethics, management & organizations, poverty & development, public safety. We seek content that is concise, accessible, immediately applicable, and exhibits high standards of scientific integrity. *BSP* is a co-publication of Sage Publishing and the Behavioral Science & Policy Association, an educational nonprofit membership organization.

*BSP* seeks submissions that are clearly written, rigorous, concise, and actionable. Submissions are reviewed by both disciplinary scientists for their rigor and policy experts for their current actionability. Professional writing editors work with authors of accepted manuscripts to enhance the accessibility of their work to a broad general audience that includes both specialists and nonspecialists. Publications may also be supported by *BSP* through media promotions, public workshops, and briefings of policy makers and other practitioners.

## Manuscript Formats

Manuscripts can be submitted in a number of different formats, each of which must clearly explain specific implications for (public and/or private-sector) policy and/or practice:

*Proposals* (up to 2,000 words) specify scientifically grounded policy proposals and provide supporting evidence including concise reports of relevant studies. This category is most appropriate for describing new policy implications of previously published work or a novel policy recommendation that is supported by previously published studies.

*Essays* (up to 2,000 words) articulate a perspective on applied behavioral science for a general audience. For example, essays may refer to use or application of behavioral insights to policy and practice, ethical considerations, or comment on recent developments in the field.

*Reports* (up to 3,000 words) provide a summary or overview of a body of recent work by an institution or organization involved in applied behavioral science. This may include an overview of processes, meta-analysis or broad summary of empirical results, and a description of lessons learned.

*Findings* (up to 3,000 words) report on results of new studies and/or substantially new analysis of previously reported data sets (including formal meta-analysis) and the policy implications of the research findings. This category is most appropriate for presenting new evidence that supports a particular policy recommendation. The additional length of this format is designed to accommodate a fuller account of methods, results, and/or analysis of studies that have not been previously reported elsewhere (though some finer details may be relegated to supplementary online materials).

*Reviews* (up to 4,000 words) survey and synthesize the key findings (particularly field studies), recent developments, and policy implications of research in a specific disciplinary area or on a specific policy topic. This could take the form of describing a general-purpose behavioral tool for policy makers or a set of behaviorally grounded insights for addressing a particular policy challenge. Reviews should be presented in a way that provides an easy entry point for the uninitiated and also a good summary of developments for researchers in that area.

*Field Reviews* (up to 5,000 words) practitioner-focused review of field tested studies - also clears the empirically-based rigor hurdle - on a particular actionable issue. Address whether there are new actionable implications for organizational policy makers (in other words, do they know all of this already?), new insights you can mine from the data, a new way of organizing the literature that is aimed at practice implications?