

**Colloque Médias
& Nouvelles littératies**

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**S'informer à l'ère de la post-vérité :
des pratiques ordinaires aux cadrages
publics**

**Getting informed in the post-truth
era: from ordinary practices to public
framing**

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The public framing of getting informed in a post-truth era

European discourse on information in disinformation mitigation public policies

- **Emergence of the problem of disinformation:** Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea in 2014, election of Trump in 2016, Brexit referendum, Cambridge Analytica scandal, Covid-19 pandemic (Oleart & Theuns, 2023).
- The European institutions have developed **a series of initiatives to "tackle disinformation"**, presented as a threat to our democracies (Navarro et al., 2019; Oleart & Theuns, 2023; Stasi & Parcu, 2021; Zajęczkowski et al., 2023):
 - **2015:** Task force to detect and respond to disinformation campaigns from outside using strategic communication (Zajęczkowski et al., 2023).
 - **2018:** Communication presenting the European approach to "tackle online disinformation" (European Commission, 2018/236), Action Plan against Disinformation (2018/36) in anticipation of the European and national elections taking place in 2019 (Zajęczkowski et al., 2023).
 - **The following years:** various Communications **on the defence of democracy**, highlighting the challenges of disinformation for democracies (2020: European Democracy Action Plan, 2023: Communication on the defence of democracy, 2025: European Shield for Democracy).

- Emergence of **multiple public policies relating to the fight against disinformation** with a multiple and integrative response to disinformation (Zajączkowski et al., 2023), including EDMO.
- **European Digital Media Observatory**
 - EDMOeu
 - **EDMO hubs:** 15 national or multinational hubs covering all 27 EU Member States as well as Moldova, Norway and Ukraine.



**Detecting, fact-checking
and investigating harmful
disinformation (Lead:
AFP)**



**Conducting and supporting tailor-made
media literacy initiatives (Lead: MA)**



**Researching the impact of
disinformation and platform
policies on society (Lead: EUDL)**



**Fostering the growth and the capacity of the BELUX multidisciplinary community
to tackle disinformation (Lead: UCLouvain)**



Communication (Lead: VUB)



Project management (Lead: VUB)



- “Disinformation mitigation” is built on a certain idea of **what “information” is**, especially its role in democracy.
- **Restricted conception(s) of democracy** and the public sphere (e.g. Bouza García & Oleari, 2024; García-Gutián et al., 2024).
- The **construction of a problem** shapes the **construction of its solution** (Gusfield, 1984 ; Cefaï, 1996).

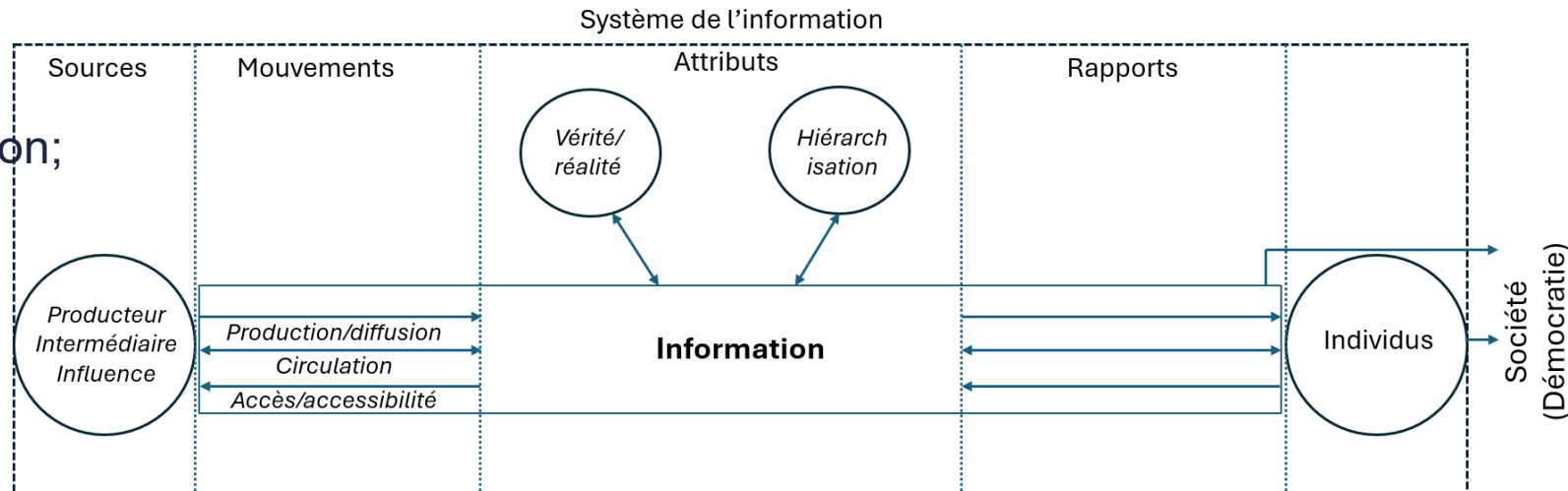
RQ: How is the notion of information constructed in European discourses on tackling disinformation?

Methodology (Derinöz & Patriarche 2026)

- **Post-structuralist discourse theory** (e.g. Laclau & Mouffe 1985)
 - The meaning is contingent.
 - The meaning is produced through articulation.
- **Corpus:**
 - “The European discourse on (tackling) disinformation”.
 - 5 key documents by the European Commission on disinformation and democracy (COM/2018/236 final, JOIN/2018/36 final, COM(2020) 790 final, COM(2023) 630 final) (+annex), JOIN(2025) 791 final).
 - 2018-2025, 72443 words.

Five articulations of information (Derinöz & Patriarche 2026)

- **Attributes:** Information is often qualified in its articulation with truth and as well as in its ability to be hierarchical.
- **Sources:** regularly linked to the quality of the information produced or provided, its reliability or accuracy. It is mostly provided by (traditional) media.
- **Movements:** access to information, liberty of information.
- **System:** media as central element of the system.
- **Relations with society (democracy):**
 - the EU is democratic;
 - European democracy is liberal;
 - information is vital for democracy;
 - information threatens democracy;
 - democracy must protect information;
 - information protects democracy.



The informed Citizen as a central figure

« Nos sociétés démocratiques ouvertes dépendent du débat public. Celui-ci permet à des **citoyens bien informés d'exprimer leur volonté par l'intermédiaire de processus politiques libres et équitables**. Les médias ont toujours joué un rôle clé pour obliger les pouvoirs publics à rendre des comptes et pour fournir aux citoyens les informations nécessaires afin de leur permettre de se forger une opinion sur les questions de société et de participer ainsi activement et efficacement à la société démocratique.

(...)

La désinformation mine la confiance dans les institutions et dans les médias traditionnels et numériques, et elle nuit à nos démocraties en **entravant la capacité des citoyens à prendre des décisions informées** ». (COM(2018) 236 final, p.1)



Understanding the ordinary practices of getting informed

A post-structuralist perspective ?

Research project on ordinary practices of getting informed

- **RQs:**
 - 1) How do citizens discursively construct **informational value** ?
 - 2) How do these informational discourses contribute to the **emergence of the political?**
- **Post-structuralist perspective:**
 - Informational discourse as contingent.
 - *The political* as the moment in which apparently natural social orders become open to contestation (Zienkowski 2019).
- **Case study:** Brussels as a complex political object.

Research project on ordinary practices of getting informed

- 1) Identify the discursive logics through which individuals attribute informational value** to the resources they mobilize when discussing a potentially political object. Critical Discourse Studies (CDS) invite us to take seriously the meaning-making processes through which individuals assign (or do not assign) informational value to the resources available in their environment.
- 2) Identify the modes of politicization emerging from informational discourses.** How do informational discourses contribute (or fail to contribute) to the constitution of Brussels as a political object, that is, to the problematization of hegemonic definitions of Brussels' social reality? Does this emergence of the political differ according to citizens' modes of engagement in Brussels' social and political life?
- 3) Contribute to the critical discussion of public policies on information integrity and the defence of democracy.** What assumptions, blind spots and tensions do these policies reveal when examined in light of empirical findings on informational discourses and the emergence of the political? The project seeks to contribute to broader debates on the (re)definition of democracy in a context where information and its relationship to politics and *the political* are increasingly contested and require fundamental reconsideration.



Merci pour votre attention

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