



Science communication in times of the COVID-19 pandemic

News media, social media and the role of misinformation

An online workshop of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities' interdisciplinary research group "Implikationen der Digitalisierung für die Qualität der Wissenschaftskommunikation" (Implications of digitization for the quality of science communication).

Registration until **05.12.** at: <https://bit.ly/3Dr3ZNI>

When the COVID-19 pandemic started in early 2020 researchers all over the world soon realized that it presented particular challenges for science communication but also rare opportunities to study what has worked, what failed, which mistakes were made? Of particular concern was the concurrence of the immediate threat to everyone's health to which governments responded with harsh restrictive measures and the surge of communication, reporting and commenting on the medical scientists' dealing with the pandemic, the reliability of their diagnoses, their advice to governments, and the spread of misinformation by the social media feeding public protests.

The researchers appearing in the workshop, all of them established experts in science communication, have carried out studies in Europe, the US and South Africa looking at the early responses to the pandemic. Thus, they give a rare view of the challenges to science communication in an extreme situation.

Monday

Dec. 6, 2021
4–7 pm

Free admission
Registration required.


Further Informationen: Franziska Urban / franziska.urban@bbaw.de

Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Science and Humanities,
Jägerstraße 22/23, 10117 Berlin

Directions: S-Bahn to Friedrichstraße / U2 to Hausvogteiplatz or Stadtmitte / U6 Stadtmitte.
If you come by car, we recommend the use of the surrounding car parks.

 @bbaw_de

 www.facebook.com/bbaw.de

 Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie d.
Wissenschaften

Program

Monday, Dec. 6, 2021

- 4.00 Welcome and introduction
Peter Weingart
Member of the Academy,
Spokesperson of the Interdisciplinary Research Group
“Implications of digitization for the quality of science communication”
- 4.10 Pandemic waves and information flows:
Findings from a longitudinal content analysis of
German mainstream and alternative news
Thorsten Quandt
University of Muenster, Germany
- 4.25 On the quality and dynamics of the COVID-19
discourse - The case of Switzerland
Mark Eisenegger
University of Zurich, Switzerland
- 4.40 Reporting uncertified science in the news media
during the COVID-19 pandemic
François Van Schalkwyk
Stellenbosch University, South Africa
- 4.55 Discussion
- 5.15 Break
- 5.30 Fact-checking in times of COVID-19:
a risk communication endeavor
Dominique Brossard
University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA
- 5.45 Misinformed about the “infodemic?” –
Science’s ongoing struggle with misinformation
Dietram Scheufele
University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA
- 6.00 Reporting from a statistical chaos: journalistic
lessons from the first year of COVID-19 data and
science in the news
An Nguyen
Buornemouth University, UK
- 6.15 General discussion
- 7.00 Closing remarks and farewell
Peter Weingart