

Conference Program
International Conference
Fake News & Facts in Our Region
April 24-26, 2019
Organized by the
Institute of Regional Studies

Wednesday April 24, 2019

08:30 – 09:00: Registration

9:00 – 09:15: Inauguration with recitation of the Holy Quran

09:15 – 10:00: **Panel: “False News on Islam”**

Chair: Prof. Khalid Masud (DG, Islamic Research Institute, International Islamic University, Islamabad)

Discussants: Dr. Saida Bennani and Syed Ali Shehryar

1. Prof. Marcia Hermansen (Director, Islamic World Studies Program, Loyola University, Chicago) “Behind the Tweets: Fake News, Religious Freedom, and Islamophobia”
2. Ms. Asma Yaqoob (Independent Analyst, Chiniot) “Fake or Factual Academic Reporting: Historical Clash or Reconciliation of Civilizations?”
3. Mr. Fida ur Rahman is a Lecturer in the Department of Social Sciences at University College of Zhob, Balochistan. “Legal & Social Impact of Propagating Fake News: An Appraisal of Quranic Teachings and Prophetic Teachings”

10:00-10:15: Discussants

10:15-10:30: Key Note Address

10:30-11:00: Q&A (for first panel)

11:00 – 11:30: Tea

11:30-13:00: **Panel: “Historical Myths in our Region”**

Chair: Mr. Imtiaz Gul (Executive Director of Center for Research and Security Studies)

Discussants: Dr. Shahzad Ali and Ms. Lauren Bohn

1. Dr. Saeed Rid (NIPS, Ibd) “Communalization of history in the Indo-Pak subcontinent”
2. Prof. Omar Turan (Chair, History Dept, Middle East Technical University, Ankara) “War Propaganda Against the Ottoman Empire During the First World War”
3. Mr. Aarish Ullah Khan (IRS) “Fake News & Freedom of Expression: Need for Balance”

13:00: Lunch

Thursday April 25, 2019

09:30 – 11:00: **Panel: “False News as an Instrument of War”**

Chair: Lt. Gen. (r) Talat Masood (Political Analyst)

Discussants: Mir Annice Mahmood and Dr. Tahir Mahmood Azad

1. Prof. Moonis Ahmar (Karachi University) “The Myth and Reality of Surgical Strikes”

2. Dr. Zafar Iqbal & Ms. Maria Zafar (National University of Emerging Sciences, Lahore) “Fake News as an Instrument of Hybrid War”
3. Prof. Tughral Yamin (Associate Dean, Centre for International Peace & Stability, NUST, Ibd) “False News as an Instrument of War”

11:00 – 11:30: Tea Break

11:30 – 13:00: Panel: The Art of the Possible

Chair: Amb (r) Aizaz Chaudhry (Director General, ISSI)

Discussants: Prof. Moonis Ahmar and Prof. Marcia Hermansen

1. Syed Ali Shehryar (Independent Analyst) “Propaganda as a Tool for Undermining Democracy & Fueling Transnational Conflict”
2. Ms. Anishma Baset (Ajanta News, Kathmandu) “Fake News & Facts: Cases from Nepal”
3. Dr. Tahir Mahmood Azad (Fellow, Dept of Politics & IR, University of Leicester) “Understanding International Propaganda Patterns Against Pakistan”
4. Prof. Saida Bennani (Hassan-II Casablanca University) “Fake News: Competing Ethics”

13:00 – 14:30: Lunch and Zohr break

14:30 – 16:00: Panel: Yellow Journalism in our Region

Chair: Mr. Hamid Mir

Discussants: Prof. Tughral Yamin and Mr. Ty McCormick

1. S. Jamaluddin Firozi (Centre for Strategic Studies, Kabul) “Yellow Journalism in Afghanistan: the Role of Fake News in Shaping the Political Discourse”
2. Dr. Shahzad Ali & Faryal Sohail (BZU, Multan) “Effects of Fake News As Lethal Tool of Cyber propaganda: Overview of Challenges & Counter Strategies”
3. Mr. Ammad Farooq (IRS), “Fake News Detection in Regional Event Reporting”

16:00 – Tea

Friday, April 26, 2019:

9:00– 10:00: Roundup Roundtable on False Facts in “push button” topics in our region & Conference evaluation

For Participants Only

10:00- 12:00: Workshop – “Media Matters: Responsible News”

10:00-10:30 – Introduction to IRS & Wksp by Prof. Rukhsana Qamber, President IRS

10:30-10:45 – Workshop led by Mrs. Jill Filipovic & Mr. Ty McCormack

10:45-12:15 – Workshop Groups led by Lauren Bohn (Medill News Service, Philadelphia), Ty McCormick (editor, *Foreign Policy* magazine) and Jill Filipovic (attorney, author, columnist *Foreign Policy*)

12:15-12:30 – Group findings, certificates and closure of Wksp with group photograph

12:30 – 13:30: Lunch and Jumma break

13:30 – 17:30: Sightseeing and shopping