

**R. Rogers, “Depoliticising Social Media? The Politics of State-Sponsored, Election-related Disinformation Studies”**

**Abstract:** The talk discusses the disinformation study undertaken by the author and commissioned by the Dutch Ministry of Internal Affairs, published in 2020. It introduces the context of the concern for ‘fake news’ in Europe after the U.S. presidential elections of 2016 and the resulting wave of state-sponsored studies on disinformation prior to elections, focusing on the Dutch case. It includes definitional questions, methods and techniques for undertaking such studies, the surprising findings as well as the policy recommendations that were formulated. It concludes with a discussion of the politicisation of such studies and the question of depoliticising social media and ‘fake news’.