SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND SOCIETY NETWORK

presents

"Creating Chaos Online: Disinformation and Subverted Post-Publics"

Asta Zelenkauskaitė

Associate Professor,
Department of Communication,
Drexel University

Monday, December 12, 2022
12pm-1pm

THIS IS A HYBRID EVENT
IN PERSON: CHARLES LIBRARY ROOM 364
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The STS network at Temple University is a diverse group of faculty, staff, and graduate students with interests in the social, historical, and philosophical dimensions of science, technology, and medicine.

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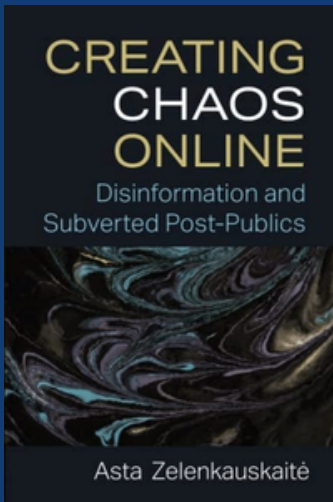
STS | Science, Technology, Society
TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

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With the prevalence of disinformation geared to instill doubt rather than clarity, "Creating Chaos Online" unmasks disinformation when it attempts to pass as deliberation in the public sphere and distorts the democratic processes. Asta Zelenkauskaitė finds that repeated tropes justifying Russian

trolling were found to circulate across not only all analyzed media platforms' comments but also across two analyzed sociopolitical contexts suggesting the orchestrated efforts behind messaging. Through a dystopian vision of publics that are expected to navigate in the sea of uncertain both authentic and orchestrated content, pushed by human and nonhuman actors, "Creating Chaos Online" offers a concept of post-publics. The idea of post-publics is reflected within the continuum of treatment of public, counter public, and anti-public. This book argues that affect-instilled arguments used in public deliberation in times of uncertainty, along with whataboutism constitute a playbook for chaos online.