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WHISTLING AT THE FAKE: THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF WHISTLEBLOWERS IN COUNTERING DISINFORMATION

Digital Poster Competition

“Whistling at the Fake: The Crucial Role of Whistleblowers in Countering Disinformation” is an international research project funded by the NATO's Public Diplomacy Division and coordinated by Dr. Costantino Grasso (Associate Professor in Business and Law at Manchester Law School).

In order to assure a high level of interaction with students and early career researchers, the project includes this open call for a poster competition focused on the issues of mal/mis/disinformation.

Eligibility

- ✓ *The contest is open to individual only (no groups or organizations are allowed to participate).*
- ✓ *Participants must have been enrolled as **undergraduate, postgraduate or doctoral students** at a higher education academic institution in academic years 2020/2021 or 2021/2022 (the winner will have to demonstrate their affiliation and enrolment status).*
- ✓ *Each participant should submit only one entry (multiply submission will lead to disqualification of the candidate).*



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Deadline for Submission and Where to Submit

- ✓ *Entries eligible for Competition are to be submitted by 23:59 (GMT) on **15th of April 2022***
- ✓ *All complete entries should be sent via email to the Principal Investigator email address C.Grasso@mmu.ac.uk by the above-mentioned deadline.*

What is a poster presentation?

A poster presentation is a way to visually communicate your research and your understanding of the selected topic in a short and concise format. They summarize information concisely and attractively to help disseminate it and generate discussion. Poster presentations offer an excellent way to get your message across in a short space of time. However, they are only effective if they are designed and formatted in a way that ensures your research is easy to understand. A scientific poster usually combines a brief text with tables, graphs, pictures, and other presentation formats. It should be in a form that someone could fully read and understand in less than five minutes.

Poster presentations develop your ability to communicate perceptively (matching your explanation to your audience) and concisely, which is an important workplace skill.

What makes a good poster?

Please take into consideration that differently from posters you may present in person at a conference, for digital versions of poster presentations graphical elements are more important than textual ones (they should always include a limited amount of text). Also, the poster has just to look good on the screen, you won't have to print it.



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Although originality is important and there are no pre-fixed rules, please find below some guidelines that may be followed to develop a successful poster:

- *Include a title that is short and appealing (draw interest!).*
- *Use a font size that is such that a reader can easily read the text on the screen without zooming in.*
- *Feel free to use underlined text, bold face, italics, or combinations to emphasize words and phrases.*
- *Proofread carefully (typographical errors do not reflect well on credibility or the presenter).*
- *Develop a logical structure to clearly guide viewers through your poster.*
- *Use a limited amount of text; a poster is not an enlarged journal article—be brief, concise, and don't overwhelm viewers with too much information.*
- *Be sure that the text is clear and to the point (the use of bullets, numbering, and headlines may make it easy to read).*
- *Be sure that important information is easily recognisable and readable.*
- *Use graphics, colors and fonts in an effective way.*
- *Create a final consistent and clean layout.*
- *We encourage participants to be creative and think outside of the box.*

For additional ideas and tips on how to structure your poster presentation please look at the following links:

- <https://www.monash.edu/rlo/assignment-samples/science/poster-presentation>
- <https://guides.nyu.edu/posters>

Poster presentation topic

In order to develop the poster presentation, the candidate has to identify a single scenario of potential mis/disinformation and use the poster to illustrate a range of issues related to such case including but not limited to the reasons for the development of mis/disinformation, modes of spread, the destabilising



effects of hostile information, the effects of behaviour of this nature, and the links between the relating matters. It is highly encouraged to select cases of mis/disinformation that were unveiled thanks to the intervention of a reporting person, (e.g., a whistleblower, a leaker, or an investigative journalist). In that case, the poster should look at the crucial role played by the reporting person, the challenge he or she faced, and the potential forms of retaliation suffered.

Poster presentation format and structure

As a general rule the official language of the digital poster presentation is English. Material written or recorded in any other language would not be accepted. Also, in order to be accepted the digital poster presentation has to include three elements:

1. The poster

Create a poster using the following criteria:

- ✓ *Orientation = Portrait (16:9)*
- ✓ *File type = JPEG, PDF, PPT, PPTX, MP4*
- ✓ *Page size = A3 (297 x 420mm)*
- ✓ *Resolution = Standard 1920x1080 HD resolution*
- ✓ *Maximum file size = less than 10MB*

*Participants are limited to a **maximum of 3 slides** within their digital poster.*

Posters may include animations and/or multimedia but they have to be embedded in the poster and cannot be linked to independent files nor open to any external pages. No hyperlinks to external content are allowed.



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Audio is not supported with your poster presentation. A brief video explanation is requested through a separate 2-minute video to accompany your poster (see below).

The poster has to include the author' name, credentials (i.e., undergraduate, postgraduate, or doctoral student), and affiliation (i.e., your academic institution).

The poster has to include only graphical elements and images free from copyright or that the participant has been authorized to use by the copyright holder (on the internet there are copyright-free repositories of images participants may use such as <https://unsplash.com/>).

Do not include bibliographic entries in the poster, please include the list of the sources used to prepare the poster in the “supporting document” (see below).

2. The supporting document

Create a DOC or PDF document which includes:

- 1. A brief abstract summarizing the topic/case/issue covered in the poster of maximum 250 words.*
- 2. The reference list of the sources used to prepare the poster (only the sources that have been used for the pieces of information included in the poster should be inserted).*
- 3. The following statement: “By submitting the poster presentation I confirm that its content are the results of my genuine and authentic work that I did not infringe any third party rights. I confirm my acceptance of terms and rules of the digital poster presentation organized within the research project “Whistling at the Fake: The Crucial Role of Whistleblowers in*



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Countering Disinformation”, including right of the organizer to showcase, publish and market selected works and use them or excerpts of them as project outcomes.

4. *Date and signature of the participant.*

3. The brief video explanation

*Create a brief video explanation. The video explanation **must not be longer than 3 minutes**. Recording your presentation doesn't have to be complicated. Just ensure you are in a quiet, well-lit location, and you've practiced your presentation. You can easily record using your own smartphone, either set up on a tripod or even simply propped up on your desk. You could also use a webcam and a software such as Zoom or Microsoft PowerPoint. Then convert the video into an MP4 file format.*

Upload the explanation as a “private video” (“share privately” option) on YouTube and share the link including it in the email used for the submission of the presentation (for a tutorial on how to share private videos on YouTube please see: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J_Rs-NJvl8I).

Awards and Awarding Criteria

The following three prizes will be awarded to the three best digital poster presentations:

- I. First prize: £225 Waterstones Gift Card*
- II. Second prize: £150 Waterstones Gift Card*
- III. Third prize: £75 Waterstones Gift Card*

These prizes will be awarded by a panel of academics selected among the project experts. In order to award the prizes, the panel will take into consideration the following criteria:



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- ✓ *Relevance of the identified case to the project theme*
- ✓ *Level of the background research conducted*
- ✓ *Originality and creativity level*
- ✓ *Structure and coherence level*
- ✓ *Communication and dissemination level*

Waterstones Gift Cards will be sent to the winners and may be used by them to buy books online on the store website: www.waterstones.com. Please note that, for participants not residing in the United Kingdom, Waterstones may arrange international delivery to many countries, however only countries included in the list published on their website (the list is accessible at www.waterstones.com/help/international-shoppers/53) will be able to receive the parcels. Also, shipping costs will have to be covered by the participant.

The awarded digital poster presentations as well as other selected digital poster presentations as determined by the awarding panel will be advertised and included on the project website.

Digital Poster Competition - Additional Terms and Conditions

These terms and conditions ("Conditions") apply to the Whistling at the Fake: The Crucial Role of Whistleblowers in Countering Disinformation Digital Poster Competition ("Competition").

By entering this Competition, you agree to be bound by these Conditions.

The promoter of this Competition is, Manchester Metropolitan University Manchester M15 6BH ("Promoter").

1. ELIGIBILITY

1.1. The contest is open to individual only (no groups or organizations are allowed to participate).

1.2. Participants must have been enrolled as undergraduate, postgraduate or doctoral students at a higher education academic institution in academic years 2020/2021 or 2021/2022 (the winners will have to demonstrate their affiliation and enrolment status).

1.3. Each participant should submit only one entry (multiply submission will lead to disqualification of the candidate).

1.4. Employees of the Promoter or any associated company and their immediate family as well as their employees and judges of the Competition and their immediate family, or anyone else involved in the organisation of the Competition, are not eligible to enter the Competition.





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2. HOW TO ENTER

2.1. *To enter the Competition Entrants must:*

2.1.1. *Submit a poster and accompanying support document, video explanation, and consent form, in the format as prescribed by this document.*

2.2. *Entries must be received by 23:59 (GMT) on 15 April 2022 to be valid.*

2.3. *The Promoter shall not accept responsibility for Entries not received by the deadline.*

2.4 *All Entrants must comply with the competition instructions/guidance that are outlined in this document.*

2.5. *By entering this Competition you accept, agree and consent to:*

2.5.1. *the use of your personal data by the Promoter for the purpose of administration of the Competition (including publishing the name of the winner and any administration relating to the Prize); and*

2.5.2. *the Promoter contacting you regarding your Entry and the potential use of your Entry (in which case further documentation will be issued).*

3. WINNER SELECTION AND CONTACT

3.1. *The 3 entries that are considered the best digital poster presentation (as decided by the judges) will win:*

3.1.1 *First prize: £225 Waterstones Gift Card*

3.1.2 *Second prize: £150 Waterstones Gift Card*

3.1.3 *Third prize: £75 Waterstones Gift Card*

3.1.4 *The winner will be contacted by 30th April 2022.*

3.2. *The judges shall have absolute discretion to choose the winning Entry and the judges' decision shall be final. The full names of the judges are available upon written request to the Promoter. No correspondence will be entered into in respect of any decision made in connection with this Competition.*

3.3. *At the end of the Competition, the Competition Lead shall contact the winner.*

3.4 *If the Prize is declined by a winner or is withdrawn from a winner, then the declining or forfeiting winner will continue to be subject to the provisions of these Conditions; and the Promoter may offer the Prize to a new winner selected by the judges.*

4. PRIZE

4.1 *The Waterstones voucher, will be sent directly to the winner. Please note that the Prize is for the named winners use ONLY.*

4.2. *This Prize is non-transferable and non-refundable. There is no alternative prize (cash or otherwise).*

5. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS





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5.1. Any Entry that is deemed by the Promoter, in its sole discretion, to be unlawful, obscene, vulgar, hateful, threatening, discriminatory, offensive or which may otherwise bring the Competition or Promoter into disrepute will be excluded from the Competition and the Promoter reserves the right to take any further action in respect of this.

6. USE AND DISPLAY OF ENTRIES AND COPYRIGHT

6.1. The copyright subsisting in the Entry must belong to the Entrant. Entrants will retain copyright in the Entries they submit. Entrants must not have infringed the rights of any other party or breached any laws when submitting their Entries.

6.2. By submitting an Entry:

6.2.1. You licence and grant the Promoter, the right to use the poster, information contained in the accompanying information document, and information from the submitted video explanation, and to contact you, the entrant to provide consent to sharing your testimonials as non-anonymous entries via but not exclusive to our website, social media platforms, print and digital marketing materials.

6.2.2. You waive any moral rights or similar rights in respect of your entry to which you may be entitled (at the time of submission or in the future) under any applicable laws in force anywhere in the world;

7. LIABILITY

7.1. Except for death or personal injury caused by negligence of the Promoter or its agents or representatives or for fraud or fraudulent misrepresentation, neither the Promoter, nor its agents or representatives assume responsibility for:

7.1.1. any Prize that is not redeemed;

7.1.5. any incomplete, or late Entries;

7.1.6. any failure to fulfil obligations of any third parties involved in this Competition;

7.1.7. any fault, malfunction, damage, injury, loss or disappointment suffered by the Entrants in the Competition howsoever arising;

7.1.8. any other matter outside of their reasonable control.

7.2. Nothing in these Conditions affects your statutory rights.

7.3. To the extent permitted by law, all conditions, warranties and other terms which might otherwise be implied by statute or common law are expressly excluded from these Conditions.

7.4. The Winner agrees to indemnify and keep indemnified the Promoter, its associated companies and their officers, employees and agents from and against all liabilities, losses, damages and expenses (including legal and other professional fees) arising out of or in connection with any allegations or claims resulting directly or indirectly from:

7.4.1. their Entry into this Competition; and/or

7.4.2. their receipt and use of any Prize.



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8. GENERAL

8.1. *The Promoter reserves the right to cancel or amend the Competition or these Conditions if it has reasonable grounds for doing so.*

8.2. *The Promoter reserves the right to exclude any Entry from the Competition if it deems it ineligible or otherwise invalid and the Promoter shall have complete discretion in this respect.*

9. PRIVACY NOTICE

9.1 *We (Manchester Metropolitan University – the ‘Controller’) collect your personal data from the information you provide when you enter this poster competition.*

9.2 *Your data will be used for the purposes of managing and administering the competition, including notifying you if you are a winner. We will use your name and email address to do this.*

9.3 *This processing is necessary to allow the University to enter you into the competition, which is in your and our legitimate interests.*

9.4 *We will retain your information for the duration of the competition plus 1 month, after which point all information apart from your poster and name will be deleted. Your poster and name will be retained for an undetermined amount of time for academic and scientific purposes, in line with the University’s public task.*

9.5 *For information on how to exercise your data subject rights (including the right to object) and how to contact our data protection officer, please see our data subject rights pages. You also have the right to complain to the ICO if you are unhappy with how we process your personal data.*

March 2022

***Principal Investigator
Dr. Costantino Grasso
Associate Professor at Manchester Law School***