

Karina Stasiuk-Krajewska and Michał Wencel  
(eds), *Dezinformacja w czasach kryzysu* [Disinformation  
in Times of Crisis] (Toruń: Adam Marszałek, 2024).

**K e y w o r d s:** disinformation, fake news, deepfakes, war in Ukraine, crisis of the rule of law.

The peer-reviewed monograph, published by Adam Marszałek Publishing House, was released in 2024. It contains 267 pages and consists of an introduction and eight articles; the monograph ends with biographical notes about the authors, where the reader can read about their scientific biographies. The scholars from the research centres of the SWPS University in Warsaw, Collegium Civitas in Warsaw, the University of Warsaw and the University of Gdansk discussed one of the most pressing and interesting problems, which in modern realities is becoming increasingly relevant due to its universal nature. The researchers took on the problem of disinformation, which affects and influences each of us not only because of the ongoing war on our border, but also because we have become a digital society, which means the possibility of interference in various processes, such as elections.

The monograph opens with Karina Stasiuk Krajewska's work *Visual Elements of Fake News. Structures and Functions* [Elementy wizualne fake newsów. Struktury i funkcje], in which the author presents the structure of fake news from a visual perspective and does so on a sample of 342 messages. The study is very important because such messages are increasingly perceived visually. Jakub Kuś's work *The Phenomenon of Disinformation from a Psychological Perspective: Conditions and Counteraction* [Zjawisko dezinformacji z perspektywy psychologicznej: uwarunkowania i przeciwdziałanie] describes disinformation as a phenomenon that has been present for a long time but is gaining importance in the digital era. It indicates a growing interest in psychological research in this area, especially regarding susceptibility to disinformation due to personality traits and methods of counteracting it.

The next work, *Media Consumption and Attitudes Towards COVID-19 Vaccinations and the War in Ukraine* [Konsumpcja mediów

a postawy wobec szczepień przeciw COVID-19 i wojny w Ukrainie] by Michał Wenzel, addresses issues that are still relevant. Our society has just been hit hard by the epidemic, when on the other side of our border, the Russian Federation is brutally attacking Ukraine. The fact is that Russia has long been waging war in cyberspace and is using all available instruments, including television and social media, to influence international public opinion in order to soften the perception of Russia as an aggressor.

The work of Katarzyna Bąkiewicz, *Awareness and Knowledge of Disinformation Among Polish News Journalists* [*Świadomość i wiedza na temat dezinformacji wśród polskich dziennikarzy newsowych*], in the introduction, emphasizes the role of journalists as people who provide information, facing a choice between professional ethics and the material factor of their job. As K. Bąkiewicz notes, only

truth, based on facts and devoid of emotions, requires from us, the recipients of the content, thinking and self-reflection [...] that is why disinformation is doing so well; hence, its influence is spreading ever wider. However, there is a risk of exceeding the critical mass, when the amount of disinformation content outweighs the reliable content, then it will become a major threat to social stability.

One may state, furthermore, that disinformation finds its place in chaos perfectly.

Another work by Grzegorz Rzeczkowski, Przemysław Witkowski and Roland Zarzycki, *Analysis of the Narratives of Right-Wing Populist Anti-Establishment Movements in Social Media in Relation to Vaccinations and the War in Ukraine* [*Analiza narracji prawicowo-populistycznych ruchów antyestablishmentowych w mediach społecznościowych w odniesieniu do szczepień i wojny w Ukrainie*], addresses the issue of areas of debate and political struggle in the context of radicalism. The authors conducted their study on Twitter (this portal is the most popular among politicians) and YouTube among more than twenty thousand posts and videos published on the Internet.

Adam Majchrzak's work *Deepfake Types: A Case Study and Classification of 'Deepfakes' According to Their Themes and Use in Disinformation* [*Rodzaje deepfake'ów – studium przypadku i podział „głębokich fałszywek” ze względu na tematykę oraz zastosowanie w procesie dezinformacji*] raises the issue of the threat from AI, and discusses the formats and available methods of creating deepfake materials. The last can be used to conduct disinformation campaigns that can aim to destabilize society by creating content aimed at

compromising and ridiculing. The author categorized popular topic areas, namely: political deepfake, cultural deepfake, deepfake hoax, deepfake conspiracy theory and deepfake satire, which is important for countering this phenomenon.

Emilia Zakrzewska's work *Harmful Information as a Source of Hate among Polish Influencers* [Malinformacje jako źródło hejtu wśród polskich influencerów i influencererek] attempts to explain the concepts of disinformation, misinformation and unfair information using examples from pop culture, hatred and hate speech in the context of applicable legal provisions and the influencer phenomenon.

The monograph concludes with Filip Cyńczyk's work *Combating Disinformation in the Context of the Crisis of the Rule of Law* [Walka z dezinformacją w warunkach kryzysu praworządności], in which the author analyses the fight against disinformation in states during the period of the undermining of liberal democracy. Counteracting disinformation in the context of the crisis of the rule of law is a unique task.

Summing up, the reviewed monograph is a valuable source of knowledge not only because of the research that can be used to combat disinformation, but also because it provides the reader with a comprehensive picture of the definition of disinformation, which is extremely valuable in the case of this phenomenon. The monograph offers a comprehensive approach to combating this phenomenon, covering legislative, educational and technological measures. The monograph is available in open access, which increases its educational and research value.

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