



## Russian Disinformation and the West

Our speaker for September 24 is Nina Jankowicz, a Washington-based writer and analyst who studies the intersection of technology and democracy in Central and Eastern Europe and beyond.

She will address us in conjunction with the Midtown Scholar Bookstore's webinar author series. More about that in the message from President Howard Davison on the opposite page.

Ms. Jankowicz recently completed her first book, *How to Lose the Information War: Russia, Fake News, and the Future of Conflict*, published by Bloomsbury's I.B. Tauris.

She currently serves as Disinformation Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Chartered by Congress in 1968, the Wilson Center is a nonpartisan forum for tackling global issues through independent research and open dialogue.

Previously, Ms. Jankowicz was a Fulbright-Clinton Public Policy Fellow, a role in which she provided strategic communications guidance to the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry.

She also has managed democracy assistance programs to Russia and Belarus at the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, a frequent target of Russian disinformation.

Her writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Atlantic*, *BuzzFeed News*, *Foreign Policy* and other publications.

Ms. Jankowicz received a bachelor's degree in Russian and political science from Bryn Mawr College, where she graduated magna cum laude. She earned a master's degree in Russian, Eurasian and East European Studies from Georgetown University's Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, where she was a Title VIII FLAS scholarship recipient.

She has lived and worked in Russia and Ukraine and speaks fluent Russian and proficient Polish and Ukrainian. She was a 2017 Foreign Policy Interrupted Fellow.

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### How to Lose the Information War: Russia, Fake News, and the Future of Conflict

By Nina Jankowicz

Since the start of the Trump era, the United States and the Western world have finally begun to wake up to the threat of online warfare and the attacks from Russia. The question no one seems to be able to answer is: What can the West do about it?

Central and Eastern European states have been aware of the threat for years. Nina Jankowicz has advised these governments on the front lines of the information war. The lessons she learned from that fight and from her attempts to get Congress to act make this book essential reading.

*How to Lose the Information War* takes the reader on a journey through five Western governments' responses to Russian information warfare tactics - all of which have failed. She journeys into the campaigns the Russian operatives run and shows how we can better understand the motivations behind these attacks and how to beat them. Above all, the book shows what is at stake: the future of civil discourse and democracy and the value of truth itself.

#### The book's Table of Contents:

##### Prologue - Fake News and the Russian Offensive

- 1 United States, 2016-Present, Playing Whack-a-Troll
- 2 Estonia: "Beta" Trolls
- 3 Georgia: Tanks and Television
- 4 Poland: When Vaccines Don't Work
- 5 Czech Republic: Fighting Lies Means Fighting Opinion
- 6 Ukraine and the Netherlands: A Disaster
- 7 Beyond Whack-a-Troll

Here is what some reviewers have said about the book:

"(It's) required reading to understand the shape of the 2020s. It's a window into a reality we all kind of sensed, but lacked words or understanding to really process. - **Forbes**

(It) offers an excellent guide on the [information warfare] lessons that should have been learned from our European partners (and) provides a pathway forward." - **Diplomatic Courier**

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**To: FPA Members**  
**From: President Davison**

Welcome to a new program year of the Foreign Policy Association, a year quite different from any other since our organization was founded in 1949. Because of health concerns posed by the coronavirus pandemic, we will start the year meeting via webinars rather than in person. Nevertheless, we have put together a wide array of outstanding programs featuring expert speakers providing their particular insights on some of the major foreign policy issues of our time. You won't want to miss any of them.

You will receive information on how to participate in the webinars by e-mail and on our website as the date for each draws near. Watch for it.

Our first program on September 24 will feature Nina Jankowicz, a Global Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, speaking on Russian Disinformation and the West. You can find out more about her and her new book on the opposite page of this newsletter.

Ms. Jankowicz is the author of *How to Lose the Information War: Russia, Fake News and the Future of Conflict*. She will address us in conjunction with the Midtown Scholar Bookstore's webinar author series. There will be an opportunity to purchase her book.

We plan to return to our normal dinner meeting format at the West Shore County Club in January. However, your safety is our first priority, so unless we feel it is safe to hold a dinner meeting, we will continue with the webinars.

Plans for the spring include the Keystone Speaker Series at which we feature an internationally known speaker. We have some very exciting candidates and will let you know as soon as one is chosen.

Also in the spring, there is the International Fellows Reception at the U.S. Army Heritage Center in Carlisle and the annual Embassy Trip to Washington, DC.

Finally, we have Great Decisions, a discussion group promoting a respectful exchange of ideas focused on foreign policy articles contained in the *GD Briefing Book*, published yearly.

All in all, we're looking forward to 2020-2021 despite the obvious hardship caused by the coronavirus. Whether through webinars or in person, I'm sure you will find the programs both enlightening and entertaining. I hope you'll participate.



### 2020-21 Program Topics / Schedule

All Events via Webinars at least through December.  
We hope to return to the West Shore Country Club  
in January, but only if it is safe to do so.

- Sept. 24** Russian Disinformation and the West (7 p.m.)
- Oct. 22** Foreign Policy Challenges and Opportunities
- Nov. 18** National Defense Strategy
- Dec. 17** China and Its Rebellious Provinces
- Jan. 21** The Rise of Authoritarianism
- Feb. 26** Regional Competition in the Middle East
- March 26** National Defense Strategy
- April 8** International Fellows Reception  
U.S. Army Heritage Center, Carlisle  
ADVANCED RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
- April 22** Keystone Speaker Series  
ADVANCED RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
- May 20** Iran: How Did We Get Here?  
What Do We Do Now?
- May ??** Embassy Trip, date to be determined

### 2020-2021 FPA Officers

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