



FREE SEMINAR SERIES

Misinformation and Fake News

Crossroads Church
220 Church Street, Palmerston North
Wednesdays 2.15 – 4.00pm



This seminar series, organised by U3A Manawatu, is funded by Eastern & Central Community Trust, and is open to the public.

This series looks at information in the social and news media. Can they be trusted?

October 23rd: Power, surveillance and influence: Disseminating disinformation as strategic communication

Prof Mohan Dutta, School of Communication, Journalism and Marketing, Massey University

What is the role of power in cultivating disinformation? Disinformation is a strategic communication tool serving the power elite. Digital disinformation is driven by an entire industry of surveillance and influence. I present strategies for examining disinformation and to identify the underlying money trail.

October 30th: Fake News, Deepfakes and Disappearing Truths? Social Media and the Automated Production of Misinformation

Dr Sy Taffel, Senior Lecturer, School of English and Media Studies, Massey University

I examine recent scandals about fake news distributed via social media. The Cambridge analytical scandal showed how this material can be leveraged to influence elections. Has the traditional gatekeeping and fact checking function of news media been effectively bypassed? What is genuinely new about digital media and the production of misinformation? How do they fit within the history of propaganda and false flag operations?

November 6th: Half-Truths on your Doorstep

Dr Cathy Strong, Senior Lecturer, School of Communication, Journalism and Marketing, Massey University

New Zealand may be one of the most democratic countries in the world, but our local governments tend to play hide-and-seek with public information, and ratepayers are often left in the dark. We need to know more and I am offering 5 steps you can take to keep local government open and transparent.

November 13th: Benign Lies, Acceptable Chaos, and Mr. Trump

Prof. Frank Sligo, School of Communication, Journalism and Marketing, Massey University

The age of social media has introduced radically new forms of political communication. Social media serves to feed the prejudices of partisan interest groups. In tandem, politicians can now employ audience analytics to undertake sophisticated forms of monitoring and intervention, to undermine faith in the democratic process, and to encourage people not to vote. We look at Mr. Trump's populism in meeting the aspirations of his disaffected and anxious voter publics.

Admission Free: Gold coin for tea/coffee and biscuits.

Crossroads Church is situated opposite the Railway Land close to the Church Street-Cook Street corner. There is ample parking alongside the church, and in Church Street.