

CALL FOR PAPERS

Deterrence in the 21st Century: Statecraft in the information environment

Researchers at Defence Research and Development Canada and the Royal Military College of Canada are soliciting non-academic experts and members of the academic community to contribute to an up-coming peer-reviewed, edited volume entitled, “Deterrence in the 21st Century: Statecraft in the information environment”. Funds have been secured, and we are discussing the volume’s publication with university presses with an anticipated release date of Fall 2021.

State and non-state adversaries actively exploit the information environment to engage liberal democracies' military, government, public, and institutions to influence target audiences' will, attitudes, and behaviours. Western democracies may be particularly vulnerable to such actions by virtue of the fact that their citizens are highly connected to and operate within the cyber domain and that they live in countries supportive of free speech—two features that make adversary operations in the information environment almost inevitable.

Successfully deterring adversaries from such attacks requires Western democracies to attain and maintain situational awareness of, and some control over, the information environment in order to shape adversaries' perception of their readiness and capability to defend themselves against psychological and social attempts to manipulate their various institutions and citizens.

We are particularly interested in chapters that describe and apply validated or proposed frameworks to answer questions pertaining to:

- Past and existing frameworks and concepts on deterrence, including its self-reflexive aspects, and how they can be applied or adapted to today’s “information environment”.
- What are the frameworks and methods our adversaries use to plan and implement information operations against western democracies?
- The forces (e.g., social, political, and cultural) that maintain the popularity and credibility of non-liberal state leaders' and leaders of radical or extremist groups.
- Optimal or promising methods for forming psychological profiles of world leaders and leaders of radical and extreme groups.
- Accurately assessing Western democracies' perceived threat to the authority and legitimacy of non-liberal state leaders as well as of the leadership of radical or extremist groups.
- Adversary intent and the kinds of benefits our adversaries gain by sowing confusion or division among a target audience.
- The strategies, techniques, and technologies that are being used by our adversaries to sow confusion and division and mislead or dupe Western audiences.
- The cultural, social and psychological factors that make a person, group, or community vulnerable to being influenced in the information environment (e.g., radicalization, online grooming, financial scams, etc.).
- The strategies, techniques, and technologies Western democracies can use to detect and/or reduce or minimize the impact of state or non-state adversary operations in the information environment.
- The assessment of strategies, techniques, and technologies Western democracies can use in the information environment to retaliate against state or non-state adversaries who conduct information operations against them.

Please send a 250-300-word abstract or proposal to Dr. Eric Ouellet at eric.ouellet@rmc.ca no later than 14 December 2020.