

# Christopher Schwartz, PhD

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## AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

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- AI/ML:** Deepfakes, simulation ethics and rhetoric, AI ethics and explainability  
**Emerging tech:** Cybersecurity, technology adoption/usability, privacy  
**Disinformation:** Fact-checking/verification, inoculation theory, socio-cognitive resilience, narrative warfare

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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- Research Scientist**, Department of Cybersecurity and School of Interactive Games and Media, Rochester Institute of Technology, USA 2024-Present  
- Assisting development of “DeFake” deepfake detection tool.  
- Assisting development of “Jack Voltaic” 4.0, a critical infrastructure resilience wargame (Army Cyber Institute).  
- Project lead for “Shout SMS” encrypted SMS project in East Africa.  
- Developing projects and grant applications for further national security funding.  
- Co-instructing course on “Generative AI and Cybersecurity”.
- Postdoctoral Research Associate**, Department of Cybersecurity, Rochester Institute of Technology, USA 2022-2023  
- Assisted development of “DeFake” deepfake detection tool.  
- Assisted development of grant application for “Shout SMS” encrypted SMS project in East Africa.  
- Researched explainability for AI-based deepfake detection.
- Junior Fellow**, Leuven Institute of Advanced Studies, KU Leuven, Belgium 2022-Present  
- Member (pro bono) of the “AI and Reporting” working group which consults the European Commission.
- Chief Research Editor**, OSCE Academy, Kyrgyzstan. 2021-2022  
- Served as desk editor for academic article submissions and reports.  
- Updated submission guidelines and enforced academic research standards.
- Counter-Disinformation Consultant**, Media Development Center, Kyrgyzstan 2021  
- Organized fact-checking investigations and wrote reports.  
- Led development of application to the International Fact-Checking Coalition.
- Co-Principal Investigator**, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland 2019-2020  
- Led investigative team, researched disinformation operations in Kyrgyzstan.  
- Assisted data scientist to collect and analyze relevant social media data.
- Disinformation Guest Researcher**, Computer Security & Industrial Cryptography (COSIC), KU Leuven, Belgium 2018-2019  
- Researched machine learning-based detection of disinformation.
- Turkmenistan/Uzbekistan Editor**, Media Sustainability Index, IREX, Washington, DC, USA 2017-2019  
- Wrote annual press freedom report based on independent research expert panels.
- Editor-in-Chief**, NewEurasia Citizen Media, Switzerland/Kyrgyzstan 2009-2017  
- Oversaw editors and reporters (at height of organization, 50 personnel).  
- Assisted adoption of mesh networking and encrypted instant messaging apps in region (Central Asia).

## PUBLICATIONS

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- Books:** Schwartz, C. *CyberChaikhana: Digital Conversations from Central Asia*, Humanistisch Instituut voor Ontwikkelingssamenwerking (HIVOS) / Transitions Online (TOL).
- Book contracts:** Hickerson, A., Schwartz, C., Wright, M. *Fake-Checking: A Journalist's Guide to Deepfakes*. Routledge, 2025.  
Schwartz, C. *The Guardians of Rhetoric: Journalists and Philosophers in the Fight Against Disinformation*. Lexington Books, 2025.
- Articles:** Schwartz, C. (2023, July 26). “Events that never happened could influence the 2024 presidential election. A cybersecurity researcher explains situation deepfakes.” *The Conversation*. <https://theconversation.com/events-that-never-happened-could-influence-the-2024-presidential-election-a-cybersecurity-researcher-explains-situation-deepfakes-206034>

Schwartz, C. (2023, June 16). "AI & Audience Receptivity: Using Artificial Intelligence to Vaccinate Against Disinformation." *Phlexible Philosophy*. <https://www.phlexiblephilosophy.com/science/artificial-intelligence-vaccinating-against-disinformation>

Wright, M., Schwartz, C. (2023, March 17). "Voice deepfakes are calling – here's what they are and how to avoid getting scammed." *The Conversation*. <https://theconversation.com/voice-deepfakes-are-calling-heres-what-they-are-and-how-to-avoid-getting-scammed-201449>

Schwartz, C. (2021). "Comparing Journalism and Philosophy as Forms of Power." *Journalism Studies* 22(5), 555-574. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1461670X.2021.1889397>

Schwartz, C. (2020, June 29). "Kyrgyzstan's Not So 'Wonderful' Anti-Disinformation Law." *openDemocracy.net*. <https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/odr/kyrgyzstans-not-so-wonderful-anti-disinformation-law/>

Schwartz, C., Overdorf, R. (2020). "Disinformation from the Inside: Combining Machine Learning and Journalism to Investigate Sockpuppet Campaigns." *Companion Proceedings of WWW '20 Web Conference* (623-628). <https://doi.org/10.1145/3366424.3385777>

**Articles:** Schwartz, C. (under review), "The GDPR as a Legislation of Simulation and a Defense of Rights-Based Post-humanism." *Res Publica*.  
(U/R sample)

## ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

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<b>Courses taught:</b> (Samples)	"Generative AI and Cybersecurity" Department of Cybersecurity, Rochester Institute of Technology, USA (with Dr. Matthew Wright and Nate Matthews)	Spring 2024
<b>Guest lectures:</b> (Samples)	"Building a Deepfake Detector" IEEE Croatia Computer Chapter, University of Zagreb, Croatia	Nov. 2023
	"Does Business Have a Responsibility to Protect Reality? Ethical issues in deepfakes as a service" Breda University of Applied Sciences, The Netherlands	Mar. 2023
	"Building a Deepfake Detector" Institute of War and Peace Reporting, Washington, DC, USA	Dec. 2022

## EDUCATION

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<b>Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)</b> @KU Leuven, Belgium "Philosophy of Journalism: Audiences, Avatars and the New of the News" - Audience theory, news ontology, disinformation/propaganda	2014-2022
<b>Research Master's in Philosophy (MPhil)</b> @KU Leuven, Belgium - Philosophy of journalism	2011-2014
<b>Master of Arts in Philosophy (MA)</b> @KU Leuven, Belgium - Islamic philosophy	2009-2011
<b>Master of Arts in History (MA)</b> @La Salle University, USA - Islamic history	2007-2009
<b>Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy (BA)</b> @La Salle University, USA - Islamic Studies	2004

## REFERENCES

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Available upon request