

DECEPTION, DISHONESTY, AND DUPLICITY

An Interdisciplinary Student Conference

April 26 – 27, 2019

University of Paderborn, Germany

Fake News, *Alternative Facts*, and internet trolling: stories of deception, dishonesty, and duplicity seem more omnipresent than ever. While it appears that dishonesty only became rampant ever since Donald Trump rose to political power, deception has been a *modus operandi* of the powerful since the dawn of mankind; the *Trojan Horse* or the propagation of *Flat Earth Theory* through the Roman Catholic Church or more recently through popular American athletes and musicians are some of the most famous examples. In war, deception is considered cunning, in relationships we call it unfaithful, and in academia we deem it plagiarism.

Needless to say, it is not only the mighty and powerful who deceive, distract, and divert, but we lie and deliberately mislead on a much more mundane and private level, whether it is a little white lie to our dear ones or (self-)deception on a grander, public scale. On Facebook, Instagram, and other Social Media platforms, we deceive others and ourselves by constructing the self as flawless beauty, disciplined athlete, and/or tasteful foodie all the time. Unreliable narrators, disinformation and psychological warfare, and propaganda: deception has many faces.

Surely, the distinction between truth and non-truth is not as simple as medial discourses sometimes suggest. Instead of condemning attempts to distort truth, in this conference we wish to examine the functions of and the dynamics created through deception, dishonesty, and duplicity within a broader scope. This conference is interested in political, philosophical, literary, cultural, historical, psychological, sociological, and theological contexts of these phenomena, but not limited to the above.

Are deception and dishonesty characteristic flaws of humankind, or rather opportunities we take to gain advantages in all kinds of relationship dynamics? Is objective truth an unreachable ideal? Can subjective truth truly be true when it is someone else's un-truth? What do deception, dishonesty, and duplicity do to the different people confronted with or subjected to it? Could dishonesty even be a good thing?

We welcome submissions from across the Humanities, Fine Arts, and the Social and Natural Sciences, dealing with **DECEPTION, DISHONESTY, AND DUPLICITY** and the many relations and intersections between them. Papers, exhibits, and screenings may be submitted by ALL Bachelor, Master, and PhD students.

We encourage presentations about **Deception, Dishonesty, and Duplicity** exploring topics and questions including, but not limited to:

- Memory, Memorials, and Commemoration
- Deception in Cultural Texts (Film, Literature, Video Games, Music, ...)
- The Intersection of Dishonesty, Duplicity, and Interpersonal Dynamics
- Information Warfare
- Myth, Mythology, and Religion
- Historiography
- Feminism, Masculinity Studies, and Queer Studies
- Migration, Immigration, and Globalization
- Postcolonialism
- Eco-Criticism
- Rhetoric and Communication
- The Psychoanalysis of Deception

Bachelor, Master, or PhD students interested in presenting a 20-minute paper please submit a 200–300 word, double-spaced abstract to Yvonne K. Jende (ykjende@mail.upb.de) and Andreas Schwengel (schwenge@mail.upb.de). Please include the presenter's name, institution, email address, any audio-visual or technical requirements for the presentation, and a short biography (including your current study program and/or PhD thesis topic) on a separate page. Please note that the conference language is English.

Please send proposals by **January 7th, 2019**.

There will be a **small conference fee** of 10,00 €.

For more information please visit kw.upb.de/deception2019 or contact us directly.

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