CERL Book Talk

Cyberwar: How Russian Hackers and Trolls Helped Elect a President

What We Don't, Can't, and Do Know

by Kathleen Hall Jamieson

Winner of the 2019 Association of American Publishers (AAP) R.R. Hawkins Award for best scholarly work in 2018
The question of how Donald Trump won the 2016 election looms over his presidency. Although not certain, it is probable that the Russians helped elect the 45th president of the United States.

Professor Kathleen Hall Jamieson details Russian troll and hacker efforts and how the press, social media, candidates, party leaders, and a polarized public abetted them.

- How extensive was the troll messaging?
- What characteristics of social media did the Russians exploit?
- Why did the mainstream press rush the hacked content into the citizenry's newsfeeds?
- Were Clinton’s allegations that debate moderators distorted what she said in leaked speeches?
- Did the Russian influence go beyond social media to alter the behavior of FBI director James Comey?

_Cyberwar_ closes with a warning: the country is ill-prepared to prevent a sequel. During her conversation with moderator Professor Claire Finkelstein, Professor Jamieson will integrate the many new developments that have come to light since the book’s original publication.
Kathleen Hall Jamieson is the Elizabeth Ware Packard Professor at the Annenberg School for Communication of the University of Pennsylvania and Director of its Annenberg Public Policy Center. Professor Jamieson has authored or co-authored 16 books. Her other award-winning books include Spiral of Cynicism (with Joseph Cappella) and The Obama Victory: How Media, Money and Message Shaped the 2008 Election (with Kate Kenski and Bruce Hardy). She is a member of the American Philosophical Society and a Distinguished Scholar of the National Communication Association. Professor Jamieson also is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Academy of Political and Social Science, and the International Communication Association. For her contributions to the study of political communication, she received the American Political Science Association’s Murray Edelman Distinguished Career Award in 1995. In 2016, the American Philosophical Society awarded her its Henry Allen Moe Prize in the Humanities.

Claire Finkelstein
Moderator
Algernon Biddle Professor of Law and Professor of Philosophy at Penn Law
Director, Center for Ethics and the Rule of Law

This program has been approved for 1.5 ethics CLE credits for Pennsylvania lawyers. CLE credit may be available in other jurisdictions as well. Attendees seeking CLE credit should bring separate payment in the amount of $60.00 ($30.00 public interest/non-profit attorneys) cash or check made payable to The Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania.