



Onsite Session: English 2. – Security Landscape

Damien, Juan Cristobal

Institution: Corvinus University of Budapest (PhD program)

Country of origin: Chile

Email: [inzulza.demian @ stud.uni-corvinus.hu](mailto:inzulza.demian@stud.uni-corvinus.hu)

Navarro, Michel

Institution: Corvinus University of Budapest (PhD program)

Country of origin: Cuba

Email: [jerez.navarro @ stud.uni-corvinus.hu](mailto:jerez.navarro@stud.uni-corvinus.hu)

Academic Complicity? Ibero-American Scholars and Venezuelan Political Propaganda

This research examines the propagandistic strategies employed by a network of Ibero-American academics and intellectuals during the July 2024 Venezuelan elections. It explores how their narratives evolved over time, consistently aligning with and legitimizing the Venezuelan authoritarian regime. Using Public Diplomacy as a theoretical framework and a mixed-methods approach, the study integrates quantitative and qualitative content analysis, reinforced by Social Network Analysis (SNA). The primary dataset consists of all activity on X (formerly Twitter) from the selected scholars between July 15 and August 1, 2024. The findings illuminate the role of academic and intellectual networks in the dissemination of disinformation, demonstrating how these figures act as amplifiers of authoritarian propaganda. The chapter underscores the urgent need for further scholarly inquiry into authoritarian influence within academic circles and calls for rigorous measures to counteract the spread of disinformation in democratic societies.

Keywords: *Venezuela, Propaganda, Public diplomacy, Elections, Authoritarianism, Disinformation*