



DISINFORMATION INSIDE AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

RIWI is seeking feedback and expressions of interest in partnering on an innovative program of research about disinformation inside authoritarian regimes (e.g., China, Russia, Palestine). Leveraging RIWI's Random Domain Intercept Technology, RIWI and its partners will be well-positioned to uncover the mechanisms through which false narratives stemming from and circulating within authoritarian regimes (especially those targeting other regions) are produced, shared, and counteracted.

THE CHALLENGE

Disinformation has become a powerful political tool, as government entities are now able to launch widespread false narratives. The spread of disinformation is especially concerning within authoritarian regimes, where citizens often have limited access to global information due to [banned or filtered Internet resources](#). Indeed, even leaders of authoritarian regimes employ disinformation tactics against their adversaries – for example, Vladimir Putin claimed that [Russian forces invaded Ukraine to target Nazi battalions](#). With this information war underway between Russia and Ukraine (and more broadly), it is critical to understand which false narratives are gaining acceptance/traction. Disinformation spread inside authoritarian regimes presents a major and rapidly increasing issue that could exacerbate intercountry conflict and polarization.

The true prevalence and impact of disinformation, especially disinformation circulating within authoritarian regimes, is unknown due to current data limitations. It is [difficult to conduct accurate assessments of disinformation](#) through traditional research tools, and authoritarian regimes further complicate this by banning or censoring the platforms traditionally examined by disinformation researchers (e.g., Twitter). To address this challenge, we must leverage a technology that allows us to safely and accurately understand the creation and spread of these false narratives globally.

Disinformation is a powerful global political tool that serves to increase intercountry polarization

We are eager to hear your feedback and interest in supporting the development, scope, and implementation of this innovation.
Contact RIWI at ask@riwi.com.



The sources and spread of such disinformation have yet to be adequately addressed by research and policy; thus, global, integrated research efforts are needed to evaluate the scope and impact of this issue, and in turn develop strategies to mitigate the spread of false narratives. This initiative offers a method to measure and address disinformation spread inside authoritarian regimes in real-time and continuously, enabling trend tracking, international comparison, and strategic messaging/intervention.

TOGETHER, WE'LL CONFRONT THE CHALLENGE

RIWI's patented and proven [Random Domain Intercept Technology \(RDIT\)](#) can confront the challenge. RDIT rapidly and continuously captures randomized, global human sentiment and experience data. The unique technology allows for inclusive data collection, global reach, and deeper insights beyond traditional metrics and survey data. RDIT is fully anonymous, which encourages honest responses to questions assessing sensitive topics.

Seeking strategic partners to support, steer, and champion this innovation

RIWI's RDIT could be rapidly harnessed to address various challenges pertaining to disinformation in authoritarian regimes, such as those listed below.

Sources and spread:

- Which topics are most likely to be targeted by authoritarian regimes' disinformation campaigns (e.g., militarization, government corruption)? How do these topic targets change across time and regions? To what extent do citizens living under authoritarian rule believe the disinformation spread by their authorities?
- What are the key channels through which disinformation inside authoritarian regimes spreads?
- How does disinformation from authoritarian regimes influence citizens' political/interpersonal attitudes toward the governments and individuals of targeted regions?
- Which counter-narratives and interventions are effective in combating the spread of disinformation?

Messaging and intervention:

- Launch wide-reaching strategic messaging in targeted countries to combat common beliefs from disinformation.
- Share educational campaigns to inform Internet users of how to identify disinformation.