



Proceedings of the Informing Science + Information Technology Education Conference

*An Official Publication
of the Informing Science Institute
InformingScience.org*

InformingScience.org/Publications

Online July 24 – 25, 2024

OBSERVATIONS ON ARROGANCE AND MEANING: FINDING TRUTH IN AN ERA OF MISINFORMATION

Eli Cohen

Informing Science Institute,
Santa Rosa, CA, USA

EliCohen@InformingScience.org

“... men love abstract reasoning and neat systematization so much that they think nothing of distorting the truth, closing their eyes and ears to contrary evidence to preserve their illusions.” Fyodor Dostoevsky in Notes from Underground. 1864. Epoch.

ABSTRACT

The paper discusses various factors contributing to disagreements, such as differing experiences, perspectives, and historical narratives, leading to disagreements within families and societies. It explores how beliefs, values, and biases feed into disagreements, with confirmation bias affecting decision-making and the media. Cultural values also play a role, showcasing conflicts between meritocracy and inclusivity in ethical decision-making. Haidt's Moral Foundations Theory highlights differences in value priorities between Western and Eastern societies. The impact of Western values like rationalism, freedom, and tolerance, under threat from Marxist illiberalism on campuses, is discussed. The text also delves into disinformation, emotions in warfare, and the use of fake information and images for propaganda purposes. The need for diligent reporting to avoid spreading disinformation is emphasized, given its potential to create misconceptions and harm diplomatic relations.

Keywords. informing, values, disinformation, soft power, fake images

The full paper has been published as the following and is being presented at this conference:

Cohen, E. (2024). Observations on arrogance and meaning: Finding truth in an era of misinformation. *Informing Science: The International Journal of an Emerging Transdiscipline*, 27, Article 6. <https://doi.org/10.28945/5337>

Abstract published in *Proceedings of InSITE 2024: Informing Science and Information Technology Education Conference*, July 24-25 [online], Article 14. Informing Science Institute. <https://doi.org/10.28945/5298>

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AUTHOR



Eli Cohen founded and serves as the Executive Director of the Informing Science Institute, Senior Editor-in-Chief of *Informing Science: The International Journal of an Emerging Transdiscipline*, and Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Issues in Informing Science and Information Technology*. He has a background in psychology, statistics, business, and cat tending. He retired from Kozminski University.