



Center for Informed Democracy and Social Cybersecurity (IDeaS)

The goal of the Center for IDeaS at Carnegie Mellon University is to enhance social-cybersecurity to preserve and support an informed democratic society.

The growth of social media and other information-sharing platforms has forever changed how we communicate and interact. While these platforms have improved our lives, they have also provided vehicles for sharing and amplifying disinformation, hate speech, and extremism. In this social-cyber environment, information warfare and propaganda have flourished. The use of social media to harm ranges from individuals using it for cyber-bullying, to extremist groups recruiting members, to states using it to encourage polarization and unrest. As more of our lives move online, we're increasingly challenged to look beyond these messages to remain informed, thoughtful members of our communities and countries who are able to engage civilly with each other without being subjected to undue influence.

FOSTERING SCIENCE

Many cybermediated social and informational attacks try to manipulate individuals, societies, cultures and political institutions. We conduct transdisciplinary science to characterize, understand, forecast the impact of, ward against and counter the negative consequences of such attacks.

DEVELOPING SOLUTIONS

We lay the foundation for new social cyber solutions — both technologies and policies — that will support an informed society as its essential character is challenged in cybermediated information environments. Likewise, we work closely with partners to enable open public discourse and democratic processes in changing socio-technical conditions that include actual or imminent threats to the spread of accurate, authoritative information and debate.

EDUCATING SOCIETY

We provide social cybersecurity education to people at all levels — from scholars and journalists to policymakers and voters — to help them understand information threats and adversaries. We teach them how these adversaries work and why, how they can be countered, and demonstrate how different activities either support or undermine informed democratic society.

BUILDING COMMUNITY

We work to develop a national community of scholars, practitioners and policymakers who work together to develop the theories, applications, educational practices and policies needed to foster an informed democratic society in a cybermediated environment.

CORE FACULTY

Kathleen M. Carley

Societal Computing, School of Computer Science, Institute for Software Research, Institute for Politics and Strategy, Engineering and Public Policy

Mark Kamlet

Interim Director, Institute for Politics and Strategy

Annual Activities and Membership Levels

Members of the Center for Informed Democracy and Social Cybersecurity will have unparalleled access to Carnegie Mellon faculty and research through our annual conference, one- or two-day workshops, and a three-day intensive Summer Institute. Membership levels include:

Partner Benefits	Silver	Gold	Platinum
Annual Research Conference	Full registration fee	10% discount	1 free attendee +10% discount for additional attendees
Annual Partners Conference	No	Yes (up to two attendees)	Yes (up to four attendees)
Partners Portal	Yes	Yes	Yes
IDeaS Seminar and Recordings	Yes	Yes	Yes
Recruiting Assistance	Yes	Yes	Yes
Visiting Representative to IDeaS	No	10% discount (up to 4 months)	10% discount (up to 1 year)
Branding (<i>Acknowledgement and visibility on website and marketing materials</i>)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Professional Education (<i>Corporate Discount</i>) Summer Institute & Workshops	10% discount	10% discount	10% discount
IDeaS Center Graduate Fellowship	No	No	Yes
IDeaS Research Partnerships Review & Steering Committee	No	No	Yes
Investment Level	\$25,000 (per year)	\$150,000 (per year)	\$500,000 (per year)



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Kathleen M. Carley

Professor of Computer Science and Director, Center for IDeaS

412-268-6016 ■ carley@andrew.cmu.edu

George Darakos

Chief Partnerships Officer, School of Computer Science

412-268-3805 ■ gdarakos@andrew.cmu.edu

cmu.edu/ideas-social-cybersecurity

Center for IDeaS Events

ANNUAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE — Held at CMU each year, this academic conference will attract attendees from the academic, government, policy, and business communities.

WORKSHOP — These one- or two-day outreach events present IDeaS research related to media, information diffusion, community resiliency and disinformation. Workshops are intended as an open forum for dialogue among scientists, practitioners and policymakers.

IDeaS SUMMER INSTITUTE — This intense, hands-on, three-day training camp teaches participants about the theories, methods and tools to identify and combat disinformation.

RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS REVIEW — Research partners at the Gold and Platinum levels are invited to the annual IDeaS research review meeting, which will feature presentations on key research. These members will also have the opportunity to set research direction with IDeaS leadership by reviewing proposals that have been submitted and voting for those they would like to see funded. Platinum members will have a seat on the advisory board, which will meet during the review.



TCS HALL, 4665 FORBES AVENUE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15213

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