

The background of the cover is a photograph of a large, ancient tree with a thick, gnarled trunk and dense green foliage. Behind the tree, a stone building with Gothic architectural features, including pointed arches and decorative tracery, is visible. The scene is set outdoors on a grassy area.

THE SKRIPAL POISONING

A CASE-STUDY IN COUNTERING DISINFORMATION

INSTITUTE FOR
STATECRAFT 2018

WHY THIS ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT IN SALISBURY, ENGLAND HAS
SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS FOR DEMOCRATIC SOCIETIES AND THE
RESISTANCE AGAINST RUSSIAN DISINFORMATION AND MANIPULATION

DISCERNMENT IN ACTION

Lessons learned from real-time media messages and responses

The assassination attempt by poisoning of Sergei and Julia Skripal in Salisbury has exposed brutal Russian aggression towards the UK and the extent of their willingness to follow through this action with an extensive media disinformation campaign. This one-day training workshop is designed to draw real-time lessons from this tragic event, and help equip both institutions and individuals to discern authentic and reliable information through the flood of media messages.

Sample topics to be covered as part of a one-day training programme:

- Distinguishing between information and propaganda
- Understanding the information space in which we live
 - What does objectivity mean?
- What makes some media sources more reliable than others?
 - Identifying manipulation and fake messages
 - Understanding how false messages spread
 - Strategies to build media literacy and resilience

For each training seminar in coordination with IFS clusters, local media examples of coverage of the Skripal case will be compiled that reflect a broad spectrum of media coverage. The goal is not to focus on what media channels are being consumed, but rather to help participants reflect on the way they engage with a variety of media platforms in order to help cultivate discernment.

As the workshop concludes, IFS facilitators will take the opportunity to share 'behind-the-scenes' research that illustrates the comprehensive strategies and technology that enable a concerted disinformation campaign to be conducted by Russia across Europe, and the diverse ways this is implemented in different locations.