

L **Deterrence through Transformation**

ISA Security Summit 2026

Panel II: Defending the Mind: Combating Social Engineering and Building Psychological Resilience

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Swedish Psychological Defence Agency

- Civil defence agency, founded 2022
- Works with public agencies, civil society and other relevant actors
- Supports research in psychological defence and FIMI
- Can support journalists/media on their demand (journalistic freedom)
- Seconded to RIGAStratcomROE, NATO and EEAS

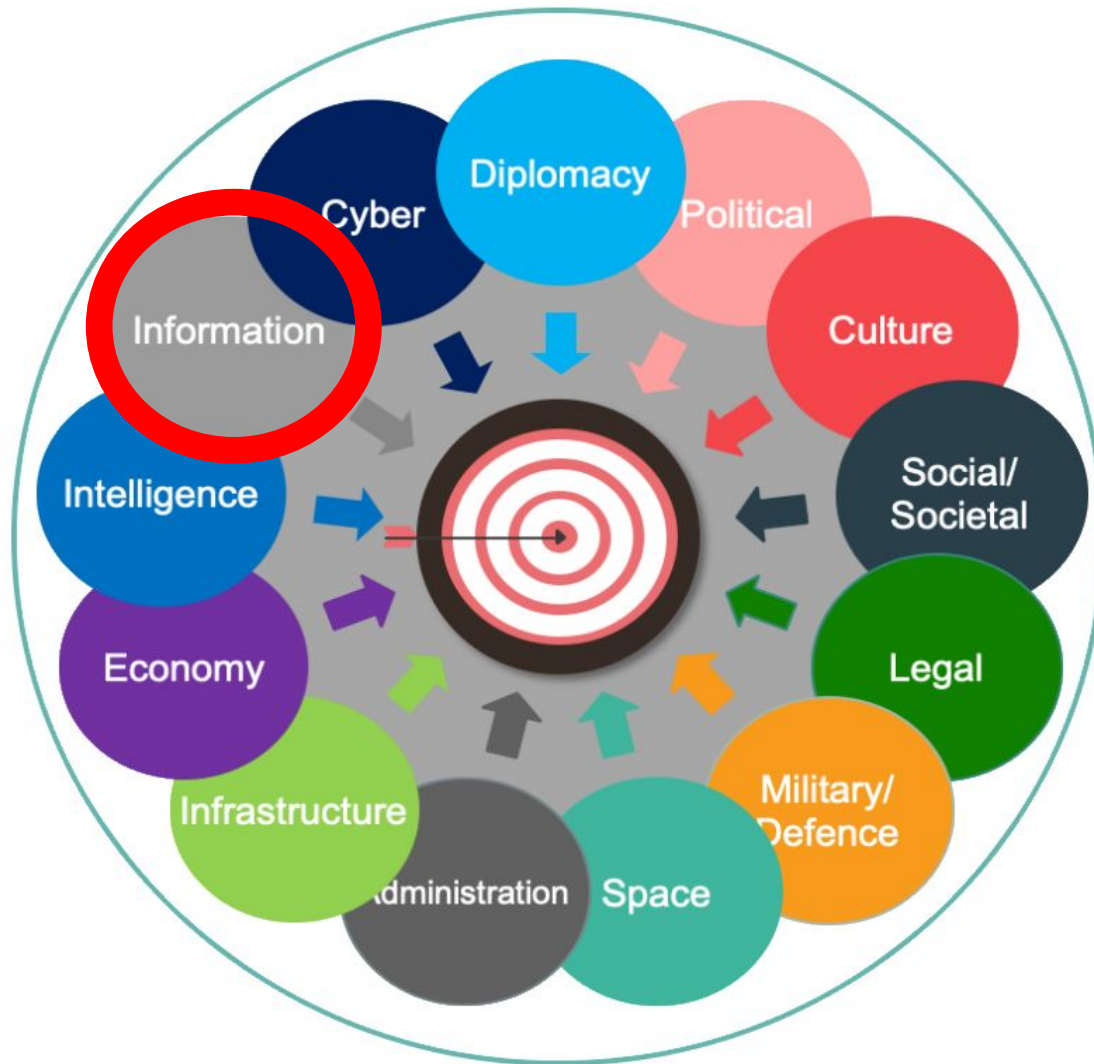


Psychological defence...

Is the combined societal capacity to identify and withstand FIMI and other attempts from **foreign hostile actors** towards Sweden in order to influence our decisions, views and behaviours



FIMI as a hybrid threat



"New generational warfare"
(Gerasimov Doctrine)

Deniability slows identification,
attribution and defence

Binds democratic states in
processes and legislative
measures (lawfare)



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Targeting vulnerabilities

Target audience

Strategic narratives

Information influence techniques



MALICIOUS RHETORIC

- Ad hominem
- Whataboutism
- Gish-gallop
- Strawman
- Hijacking



SOCIAL AND COGNITIVE HACKING

- Dark ads
- Bandwagon effects
- Spiral of silence
- Echo chambers and filter bubbles



DESINFORMATION

- Fabrication
- Manipulation
- Misappropriation
- Satire and parody



DECEPTIVE IDENTITIES

- Shills
- Impostors and cheats
- Counterfeits
- Potemkin villages
- Fake media



TECHNICAL EXPLOITATION

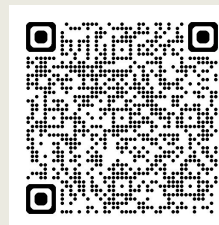
- Bots
- Sockpuppets
- Deepfakes
- Phishing



SYMBOLIC ACTIONS

- Leaking
- Hacking
- Public demonstrations

- Media system
- Public opinion formation
- Cognitive vulnerabilities



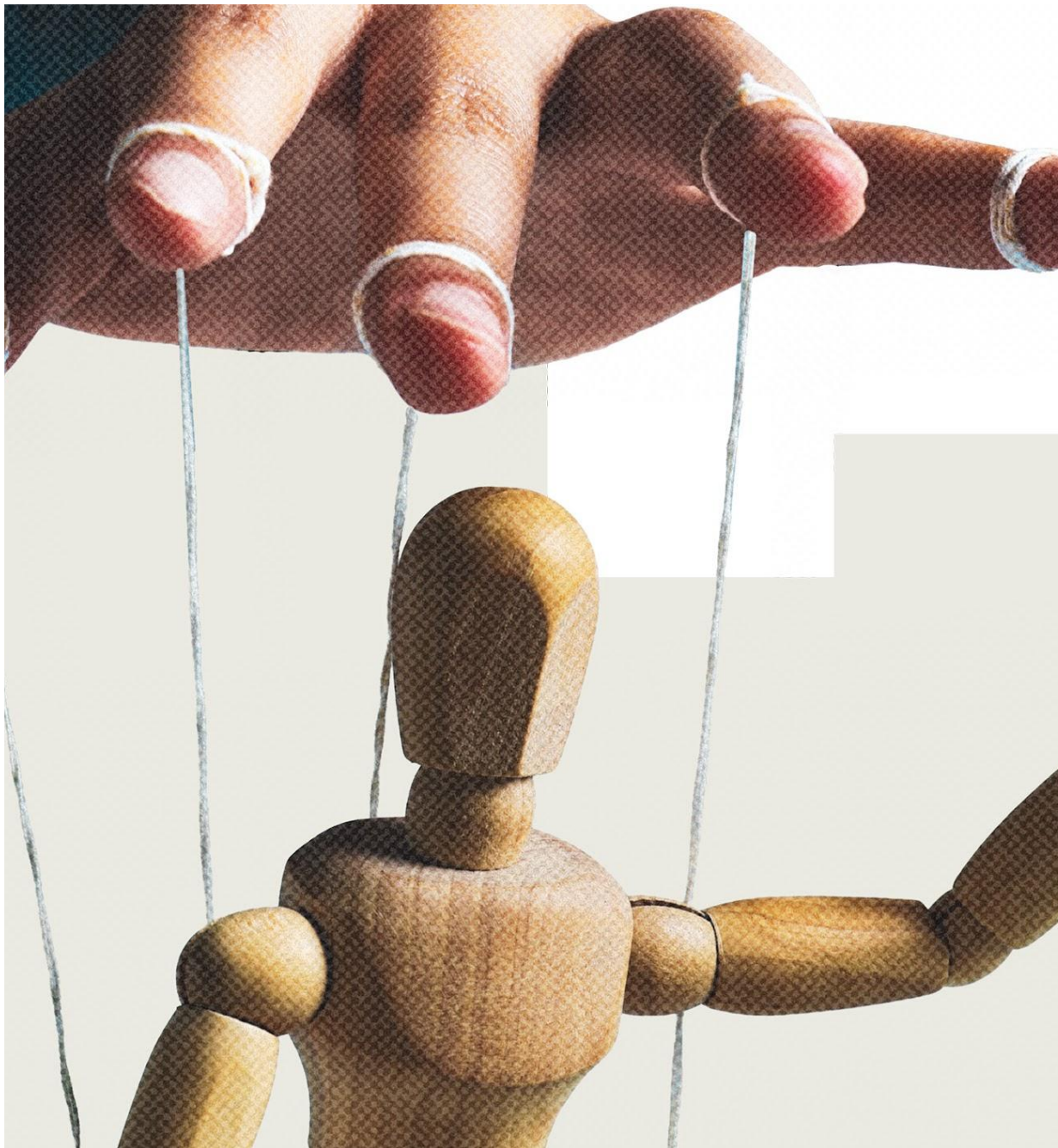
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Vulnerabilities in the media environment



- Who is the responsible publisher?
- Faster pace, no fixed deadline
- Clickbait and Scoop competition
- Strained economy and threats against investigative journalism
- Fragmentization of news consumption (age, gender, languages)



Cognitive vulnerabilities exploited digitally

- Identity protection and group think
- Perception of threat
- Algorithms support emotional and polarising content
- Bots and fake accounts create mass effect
- AI and LLMs are being manipulated by hostile actors

Election and democracy interference

Influence the result

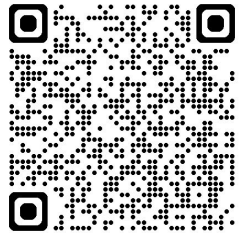
Weaken election participation

Interfering in democratic processes

Undermine the trust of societal structures

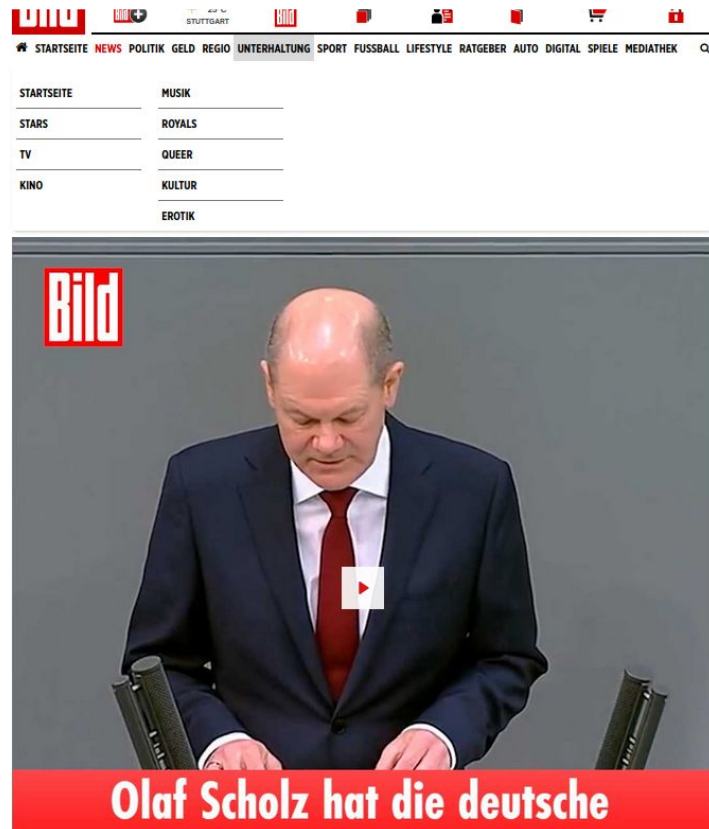
Discredit the election procedure and the result

Increase polarization and distrust between groups in society



Operation Doppelgänger

(exploiting trust in traditional media houses in Europe)



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Portal Kombat

-Flooding information environment with language specific propaganda



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Societal resilience



*The Swedish freedom of print act
from 1744, Unesco cultural
heritage*

Support for societal resilience

- Collaboration with Fojo media institute www.fojo.se
- Cooperation with the Swedish Media literacy network
- Collaboration with AI- and gaming research
- Collaboration with networks for libraries and museums, and the Swedish board for cultural heritage



Statens medieråd

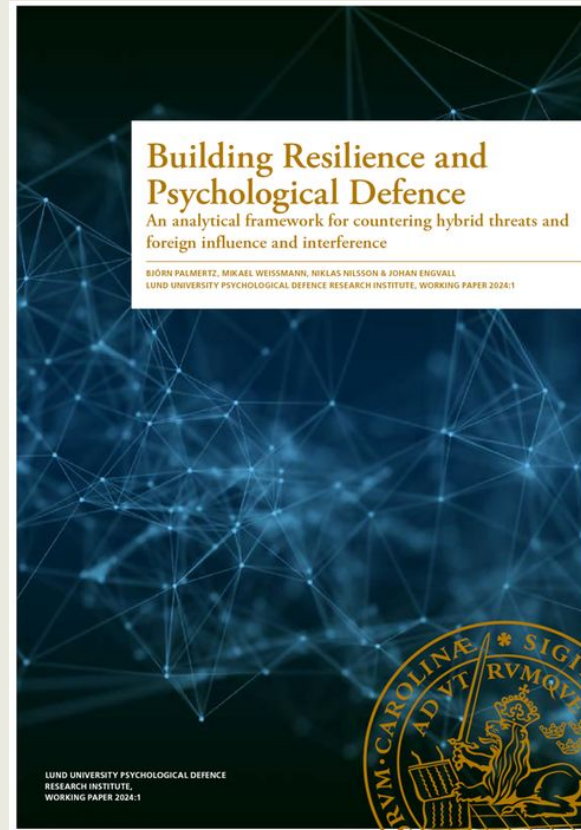
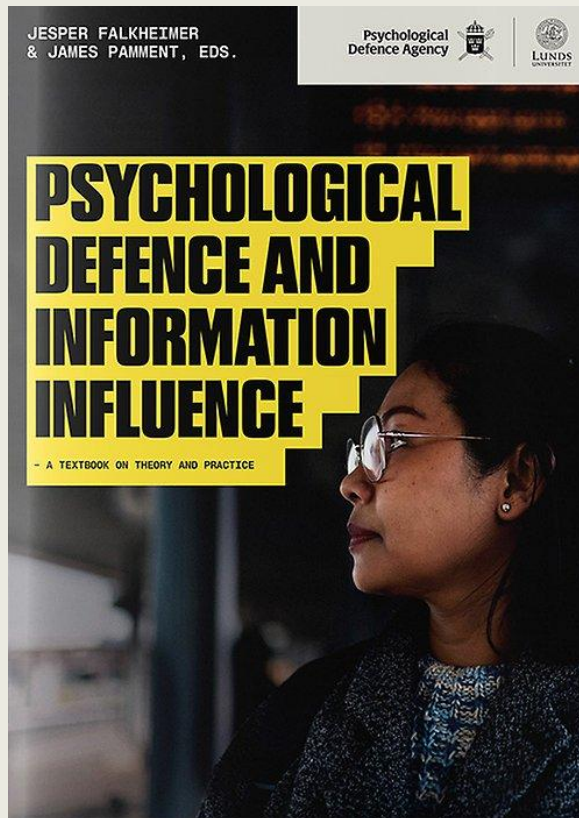


Nätverket MIK Sverige

På uppdrag av regeringen koordinerar Statens medieråd det nationella aktörsnätverket MIK Sverige. Syftet med nätverket är att stärka medie- och informationskunnigheten (MIK) i Sverige.

Mer information ➔

Learn more on our homepage



REPORT

Foreign Information Manipulation & Interference: A Large Language Model Perspective

This report focus on the intersection of Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference and Large Language Models. The aim is to give a non-technical comprehensive understanding of how weaknesses in the language models can be used for creating malicious content to be used in FIMI.

RISE RAPPORT 2024:28
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