



18–20.3.2021 · CONFERENCE

# BEHIND THE MASK

## Whistleblowing During the Pandemic

**Streaming March 18–20 · 2021****Schedule:** **March 18** (15:00–20:00); **March 19** (15:00–20:00); **March 20** (11:00–13:00). In English.**Pre-Events:** Disruptive Fridays **March 12** (17:00). Meetups **Feb 17; March 10, 20, 27**.**Tickets:** Workshops 8 EUR (5 EUR reduced). Conference and Meetups are **free**.**Details:** [www.disruptionlab.org/behind-the-mask](http://www.disruptionlab.org/behind-the-mask)

Tactics of Empowerment Part 4 – Series 2020–2023 · 23rd conference of the Disruption Network Lab. Curated by Tatiana Bazzichelli. In cooperation with: Transparency International.

## Whistleblowers, human rights advocates, journalists, activists, artists, lawyers and researchers denouncing abuses and wrongdoing during the COVID-19 crisis and beyond.

**March 18:** **Erika Cheung** (Theranos Whistleblower, Co-founder and executive director of Ethics in Entrepreneurship, US), **Eileen Chubb** (Care Industry Whistleblower, Compassion In Care Founder, Co-Founded The Whistler, UK), **Delphine Halgand** (Lead Rapporteur, Infodemics Report & Director of The Signals Network, FR/US), **Thuli Madonsela** (Professor, Stellenbosch University, Former Public Protector of South Africa, ZA), **María de los Angeles Estrada** (Executive Director of the Transparency and Anti-corruption Initiative, MX), **Stefano Fusco** (Co-founder, Noi Denunceremo / We Denounce, Truth and Justice Committee for Covid-19 Victims, IT), **Roberto Perez-Rocha** (Director for the International Anti-Corruption Conference Series at Transparency International, MEX/DE). **Video interview:** **Ai WeiWei** (Artist & Activist, CN), **Jess Search** (Chief Executive of Doc Society, UK).

**March 19:** **Sarah Steingrüber** (Independent Global Health Expert, Global Health Lead for Curbing Corruption, DE), **Serena Tinari** (Investigative Journalist, Co founder, Re-Check, IT/CH), **Alexander Nanau** (Film Director, Colectiv Documentary, DE/RO), **Jonathan Cushing** (Head of Global Health Programme, Transparency International, UK), **Yvonne Dellmark** (Vice Chairman of the Swedish Medical Association, Physician at Karolinska University Hospital, SE), **Helen O'Connor** (Former NHS Nurse, GMB NHS Union Organiser, UK), **Cassie Thornton** (Artist & Activist, Collective Healthcare Researcher, US/CA).

**March 20:** **Suelette Dreyfus** (Technology Researcher, Journalist & Writer, AU), **Jennifer Robinson** (Human Rights Lawyer and Barrister at Doughty Street Chambers in London, AU/UK), **Stefania Maurizi** (Investigative Journalist, IT), **Felicity Ruby** (PhD Candidate at Sydney University, Researcher on Surveillance and Democracy, AU).

BEHIND THE MASK presents acts of whistleblowing in times of coronavirus and exposes practices dangerous to public health during the pandemic. In the context of the Disruption Network Lab programme on the relations between technology, politics, and society, we invite experts that have been speaking out to save other people's lives, denouncing misconducts and corruption in healthcare systems. Alongside, we focus on forms of retaliation suffered by whistleblowers during the pandemic, and on the stories of those forbidden from speaking out publicly about coronavirus. The conference and the programme around it present also new forms of collective care, social justice and resistance to foster accountability and literacy, and to defend human rights at a global scale.

Some whistleblowers around the world got silenced or suffered persecution during COVID-19. Li Wenliang in Wuhan, China, who died infected by the coronavirus, was forced to sign a police statement that his warning about the coronavirus was illegal; emergency room physician Ming Lin in Seattle, WA, was fired because he gave an interview about inadequate protective equipment and testing. BEHIND THE MASK focuses on the role of courageous people to expose wrongdoing in institutions and working environments, both in the digital sphere and in everyday life.

**Detailed Programme** · **Download Photos & Graphics** · Press images can be used free of charge in connection with editorial coverage of the event; the rights holder must be named in the credits.

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