The seminar deals with the social aspects of the automatization of communication in various areas of social life, from social media to home interactions. Recent burst of machine learning accelerated the process of automatization and impacted diverse social groups. We witness, how smart speakers change communications inside households, recommendation systems transform communications over the internet, chatbots replace human operators in call centers, automated rating systems reshape citizens communications with public agencies, and text-generating neural networks threaten the work of journalists. In most cases, however, who makes such automatization possible and who benefits and suffers from it remains invisible. The course considers, what are the social preconditions of automated communication, how automatization reconfigures the social relationships supported by different forms of communication, and what forms of social inequality are reproduced and produced by automated communication.

Topics:
- Smart speakers: reconsideration of privacy
- Text generation: change in relationships of trust
- Recommendation systems: redistribution of social judgement
- Rating systems: redefinition of societal assessment
- Chatbots: transformation of talk

Literature: