

Fachbereich 9 - Medienstudiengänge

Department 9 - Media Courses

Kommentar zur Lehrveranstaltung im WiSe 2024/2025

Description of seminars

Veranstalter*in: <i>Lecturer:</i>	Prof. Dr. Christian Katzenbach; Dr. Daria Dergacheva
Titel (dt.):	Forschungsseminar Plattform-Governance: Hassrede, Misinformation und Wahlbeeinflussung
Titel (engl.): (immer angeben)	Studying platform governance: Hate speech, Misinformation, and Election Interference

Beschreibung:

Description:

IMPORTANT This is a full-module package of two seminars in one. It can only be booked as a package. Upon completion, you have fully completed the KMW 9 Module.

Description

Social media platforms have become key players and institutions in contemporary societies. They have been rapidly adopted by billions of people globally and are deeply integrated into their daily personal and professional routines, thus helping to transform the economy, politics and culture (Poell et al., 2021), and allocating remarkable data, political and sensory power (Bigo et al., 2019; Helberger, 2020; Isin & Ruppert, 2020). In fact, platforms organise and structure fundamental parts of society and of social communication (Dijck et al., 2018). As part of this role, they take decisions on fundamental issues of our society: Where is the line between freedom of expression and hate speech? What should we do with content that crosses the line? How do platforms handle misinformation? Should they take such content down or is this censorship?

In this two-part seminar, we will combine engagement with literature and concepts on social media platforms with the development of your own research project in small groups. For this, you will receive conceptual and empirical knowledge to research these issues, as well as guidance through the process.

In the first part of the seminar, Prof. Dr. Christian Katzenbach will teach theoretical and conceptual aspects of platform governance: What is governance *of*, and what is governance *by* platforms? Why have platforms developed massive rulesets defining misinformation and hate speech? What is the role of state regulation and media debates in this process? We will focus such questions on specifically on issues such as hate speech, misinformation, and election interference. This part of the seminar will also give guidance on core questions of research project design and on writing academic papers.

The second, more practical part of the seminar, will be taught by Dr. Daria Dergacheva. Sessions will offer an introduction to methods for studying platform governance and guide students in their own empirical research project. It will provide an overview of computational, quantitative and qualitative methods. In

particular, we will look at examples of various research on governance of online expression, ways and types of data collection, and no-code tools which assist in data analysis. Students will be able to construct a research design for a topic of their choosing in the field of platform governance, and will have completed their own small research project at the end of the course

- Literatur:** Poell, T., Nieborg, D. B., & Duffy, B. E. (2021). *Platforms and cultural production*. Polity Press.
- Bigo, D., Isin, E., & Ruppert, E. (2019). *Data politics: Worlds, subjects, rights*. Taylor & Francis. <https://library.oapen.org/handle/20.500.12657/24706>
- Helberger, N., Pierson, J., & Poell, T. (2018). Governing online platforms: From contested to cooperative responsibility. *The Information Society*, 34(1), 1–14. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01972243.2017.1391913>
- Isin, E., & Ruppert, E. (2020). The birth of sensory power: How a pandemic made it visible? *Big Data & Society*, 7(2), 205395172096920. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2053951720969208>
- Helberger, N. (2020). The political power of platforms: How current attempts to regulate misinformation amplify opinion power. *Digital Journalism*, 8(6), 842–854.
- Dijck, J. van, Poell, T., & Waal, M. de. (2018). *The platform society: Public values in a connective world*. Oxford University Press. <http://www.oxfordscholarship.com/view/10.1093/oso/9780190889760.001.0001/oso-9780190889760>