ZeMKI-Forschungskolloquium

ZeMKI Research Seminar

Linzer Str. 4, Room 60.070, 28359 Bremen, DE

28.06.2023, 16.15 – 17.45 (CET)

Prof. Dr. Helene Friis Ratner
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Agencies, Automation and Aesthetics:
The politics of data visualizations in configuring teachers' expertise

Abstract:

It is well-known that digital learning materials shape classroom curriculum and didactics. This talk investigates the politics of their data visualizations. Data visualizations are graphical representations of student data, produced as students interact with digital learning materials. As such, they signpost the emergence of students as data subjects who can be compared on a computer screen, shaping teachers' socio-technical ways of 'seeing' student learning. By examining their aesthetics and hybrid agencies, the talk proposes that visualizations perform student learning as a series of patterns in data that can be made perceptible and 'actionable' through the click of a mouse. This arrangement configures the teacher's expertise to playing with different available-to-explore visualizations as a form of revelation. Attending to not only the datafication but also the aesthetics of digital learning allows us to grasp new aspects of automated digital systems in classrooms.

Bio:

Helene Friis Ratner is associate professor at the Danish School of Education, Aarhus University. Using Science and Technology Studies, her research focuses on how datafication and AI shape the relationship between welfare organizations and citizens. She is currently PI of the IRDF-funded 'Data Visions: Teaching in the Age of Digital Data Visualizations' (2021-25) and co-PI of the VELUX funded 'Algorithms, Data and Democracy' (2021-31), examining predictive algorithms in public administration.