Weizenbaum Institute at IGF 2019

26 - 29 November 2019
Estrel Berlin
A society that embraces technology needs great inner strength to avoid not to become too greedy and distracted from its goals.

Joseph Weizenbaum
Self-determination in the Networked Society

The Weizenbaum Institute for Networked Society is the German Internet Institute, a place of excellent research on the transformation and design processes of digital change. In the spirit of Joseph Weizenbaum, we research the necessary framework conditions, means and processes for individual and social self-determination in a networked society. We understand self-determination as a design principle that is central to the preservation of human dignity and democracy.

Mission

The Weizenbaum Institute is an independent, publicly financed, basic research-oriented, interdisciplinary research institute that critically questions digital change and engages in scientific inquiry in a transdisciplinary manner. The work of the Weizenbaum Institute contributes to individual and social self-determination under the conditions of digitisation by researching, continuously developing and facilitating it for the long term.

In order to accompany the digital transformation scientifically, the Weizenbaum Institute enters an active dialogue with national and international scientists and citizens as well as actors from politics, civil society, and business. Our aim is to work together in an inclusive and respectful way, to conduct cooperative, independent and responsible research and to communicate in an understandable way.
Principles of Work

**Interdisciplinarity**
The Research Agenda combines approaches and perspectives from economic, social, and political science, jurisprudence, informatics and design research. Social digitalisation processes are researched in a holistic way in interdisciplinary cooperation.

**Open-mindedness**
The Weizenbaum Institute stands for open and transparent research. We rely on the approaches of Open Data, Open Source, Open Access and Open Science methods and develop them further.

**Participation**
The further development of the research agenda, the execution of projects and the transfer of knowledge take place with the participatory involvement of citizens and other relevant stakeholder groups, for example in open labs, public events and Citizen Science formats.

**Long-term Orientation**
The Weizenbaum Institute is committed in its own actions to a well-founded basic research, which is designed for a lasting gain of knowledge. The Weizenbaum Institute scientifically accompanies and supports change processes in society.

**Sustainability Orientation**
The government-funded Weizenbaum Institute is committed to the common good in the sense of the UN sustainability goals. Our decisions regarding research, administration and IT infrastructure are guided by a commitment to sustainable development.
Our Disciplines

- Design Studies
- Psychology
- Economic Sciences
- Political Sciences
- Law
- Communication Sciences
- Computer Sciences
- Social Sciences
Interdisciplinarity

Digitalisation is a highly complex process, which permeates all spheres of life, research questions can only be treated in an interdisciplinary manner. The Weizenbaum Institute brings together numerous relevant disciplines – such as the social sciences, economics and law as well as design research and computer science – in a single research agenda and develops a global perspective on the processes of digitalisation in society. In this way, a holistic perspective can be developed on the processes of digitalisation in the networked society.
Research Groups

Research Area „Work, Innovation and Value Creation“

• Working in Highly Automated Digital-Hybrid Processes
• Production Possibilities of the Maker Culture
• Work and Cooperation in the Sharing Economy

Research Area „Contract and Responsibilities on Digital Markets“

• Data as a Means of Payment
• Data Driven Business-Model Innovation
• Responsibility and the Internet of Things

Research Area „Knowledge, Education and Digital Inequality“

• Education and Advanced Training in the Digital Society
• Inequality and Digital Sovereignty
• Digital Technologies and Well-being
• Digital Integration
• Digitalisation and Scientific Value Creation
Research Groups

Research Area „Democracy, Participation and the Public Sphere“

• Democracy and Digitalisation
• Digital Citizenship
• News, Campaigns and the Rationality of the Public Discourse
• Digitalisation and the Transnational Sphere

Research Area „Governance and Norm Setting“

• Shifts in Norm Setting
• trust in Distributed Environments
• Quantification and Social Regulation

Research Area „Technological Change“

• Digitalisation and Networked Security
• Criticality of AI-based Systems
Cross-sectional Formats

In addition to the 20 research groups, the Weizenbaum Institute also has accompanying cross-sectional formats that focus on overarching questions of ethics and political construction of the relationship between technology and society.

Researchers from different groups are currently working together in the three overarching cross-sectional formats:

- a) Autonomous Systems and Self-Determination,
- b) Security and Openness, and
- c) Digitalisation and Sustainability.

These complement the work of the six research areas and make an interdisciplinary contribution to current questions about the future.

In the cross-sectional formats, overarching fundamental questions and social areas of tension are identified and addressed from different disciplinary perspectives. With the results obtained here, the Weizenbaum Institute wants not only to make a contribution to the scientific discourse, but also to advance the transfer of the results to the general public.
Meet the Scientists of the Weizenbaum Institute

Wednesday, 27 November 2019
11.00–11.45 a.m.
Research Group „Digitalisation and Scientific Value Creation“

Wednesday, 27 November 2019
2.00–2.45 p.m.
Research Group „Democracy and Digitalisation“

Thursday, 28 November 2019
2.00–2.45 p.m.
„SDGxICT Matrices for a Sustainable Digitalisation“
Research Group „Digitalisation and Scientific Value“

Dr. Sonja Schimmler

Dr. Sonja Schimmler heads research group 11 since April 2018 and is concentrating on topics in the areas of open science and research data infrastructures. Before that, Schimmler spent ten years at the Bundeswehr University Munich, where she worked as a researcher. There, she received her Dr. rer. nat. in 2012 and was most recently held the position as an “Akademischer Oberrat”. She studied computer science at the TU Munich and at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Sebastian Urbanek

Sebastian Urbanek is a doctoral researcher at the Weizenbaum Institute. He studied media computer science at the Beuth University of Applied Sciences. In his research, Sebastian investigates the use of statistical methods to evaluate and potentially enhance the quality of research data.

Vyvy Tran Ngoc

Vyvy Tran Ngoc is a student assistant at the Weizenbaum Institute. She currently studies applied computer science at the HTW Berlin.
The research group “Digitalisation and Scientific Value Creation” at the Weizenbaum Institute investigates the influence of digitalisation on academic research. Digitalisation is understood as a change in the research and publication processes that promises to increase the benefits of research.

At the moment, an Open Science infrastructure is being developed and tested at the Weizenbaum Institute. The research group undertakes the scientific monitoring of this process.

As the first components of the infrastructure, a repository for publications & research data is being set up, and a Citizen Science portal is being designed and implemented prototypically. While the aim of the repository is to manage research data, the aim of the envisioned Citizen Science portal is to enable scientists as well as non-scientists to participate in research by creating, processing and analyzing research data. The current tried-and-tested approach pursues the idea of drawing the attention of citizens by installing interactive wall-sized displays in public spaces. For the IGF, we prepared a small use case, where Tweets related to the forum are being categorized and rated.

Come see us, and learn more about our research. We look forward to discuss with you!
Research Group „Democracy and Digitalisation“

**Dr. Thorsten Thiel**

Dr. Thorsten Thiel is a political scientist. Before joining the Weizenbaum Institute he was the coordinator of the Leibniz Research Network “Crises in a Globalised World” (2013-2017) und Postdoc at the Frankfurt cluster of excellence “The Formation of Normative Orders” (2010-2013). Thorsten Thiel was a member of the advisory board from 2012-2016 and later of the board of the German Association for Political Science (DVPW); he is a member of the Steering Committee of the Internet Governance Forum (Germany).

**Sebastian Berg**

Sebastian Berg studied political science and public law at Trier University. Sebastian is interested in the epistemic foundations of democratic norms and concepts, their genealogy and how they change through social practices and technological affordances. He has a special interest in the understanding of political agency and the democratic claim to contingency under the circumstances of digitalization. At the Weizenbaum Institute, he focuses on how new forms of digital ordering are established through data politics, how institutions adapt, and how the rationality of democratic governance changes.

**Niklas Rakowski**

Niklas Rakowski has been a PhD student at the Weizenbaum Institute since February 2018. Previously, he studied law at the WWU Münster and the Universidade de Lisboa with a focus on information and media law and is currently working on the influence of digital change on fundamental and human rights.
Developing a better understanding of the interplay between digitalisation and democratic self-government is the declared aim of the research group ‘Democracy and Digitalisation’. The group’s research focuses on three areas of interest: Political participation, the digital transformation of the democratic public sphere and the reconfiguration of rule in the digital constellation.

At the IGF2019 three researchers from the group - Thorssten Thiel, Sebastian Berg, Niklas Rakowski - will present their work. After a general introduction into different ways of researching digitalisations effects on democracy, we will develop our own approach by developing two strands of research: We will, firstly, outline the form(s) and importance of democratic innovations developed by civic tech actors; and, secondly, discuss the impact of datafication practices on political representation, especially in the context of democratic elections.
SDGxICT Matrices for a Sustainable Digitalisation

Andrea Hamm

Andrea Hamm is Doctoral Researcher in Computer Science at the Weizenbaum Institute for the Networked Society – the German Internet Institute. In her interdisciplinary research, she combines sociological and technical scholarship on the “smart city”, covering topics like data literacy, sustainability, as well as governance and public participation. She studied Communication Science at Free University Berlin (Germany), Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Belgium) and Université Catholique de Lille (France).

Yuya Shibuya

Yuya Shibuya is a Project Assistant Professor at Interfaculty Initiative in Information Studies, the University of Tokyo. Her current research interests lie in disaster recovery, particularly socio-economic recovery from disasters, social media data analysis, market data analysis, open data, and open government. Her research is based on interdisciplinary approaches, including data mining, machine learning, economics, as well as qualitative methods. She received her Ph.D. in Socio-Information and Communication Studies from Graduate School of Interdisciplinary Information Studies, the University of Tokyo in 2019.
Information and communication technology (ICT) has enhanced citizen participation in disaster relief operations by, for example, promoting awareness of real-time needs in affected areas and ensuring visibility among actors. In particular, in the last decade, there have been intense research activities focusing on non-traditional data sources, such as social media during and after large-scale disasters.

This approach, which regards people’s communication on social media as a sensor of real-time situations has been widely adopted as the “people as sensor” approach. I will introduce several “people as sensors” approaches that have been implemented. Furthermore, to improve recovery efforts after a large-scale disaster, detecting communities’ real-time recovery situations is needed because existing socio-economic recovery indicators, such as observing changes in population and production, and conducting questionnaire surveys, are not available in a real-time way.

Thus, using social media data has the possibility of filling the gap by its timeliness, volume, and diversity. Motivated by this possibility, this study gives multiple evidence to support the appropriateness of using social media data for detecting socio-economic recovery activities.
Imprint

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