How does computational propaganda work, and what role do algorithms play in proliferating misinformation? Who are the recipients of information pollution, and how does such exposure shape our attitudes? These pertinent questions will be explored in this workshop organized by the Institute of Communication and Media Studies, under the auspices of the “Critical Perspective on Digitalization” series mandated by the Vice-Rectorate Quality.

18 October 2023
Hallerstrasse 6, Kursraum 205

Registration (in-person or online) until 10 October 2023 via the link: https://t.ly/h0Is or the QR code:

Program Overview

9:00 - Keynote by Prof. Steven Livingston

10:30 - Panel I: Sources of information Pollution

11:30 - Panel II: Algorithms and Information Pollution

12:30 - Lunch

14:00 - Panel III: Recipients of Information Pollution: Exposure and Consequences
# Information Pollution on the Web: Sources, Algorithms, and Recipients

## Full Program

<table>
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<th>Schedule</th>
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| 9:00     | **Keynote**: Prof. Steven Livingston, Institute for Data, Democracy, and Politics, School of Media and Public Affairs, George Washington University, USA  
*The Social Origins of the Disinformation Age: Why Technology Alone Cannot Explain the Crisis of Democracy* |
| 10:00    | **Coffee Break** |
| 10:30    | **Panel I: Sources of Information Pollution**  
1. Dr. Franziska Keller, University of Bern  
*Astroturfing: How to Detect Fake Grassroots Movements on Twitter and Other Social Media Platforms*  
2. Prof. Jonathan Bright, The Alan Turing Institute, UK  
*Understanding Misinformation in the Age of Generative AI: Current Trends and Future Perspectives* |
| 11:30    | **Panel II: The Role of Algorithms in Information Pollution**  
1. Dr. Aleksandra Urman, University of Zurich  
*Between COVID Dictatorships and Gas Chamber Lies: How Google and YouTube Deal with Information about Historical and Recent Conspiracies in Switzerland*  
2. Ani Baghumyan, University of Bern  
*The Role of Search Engines in Authoritarian States: The Case of Russia*  
3. Dr. Mykola Makhortykh, University of Bern  
*Hey, Siri, Why Did Russia Attack Ukraine? Auditing the Quality of Information on Ontologically Contested Subjects from Generative AIs* |
| 12:30    | **Lunch Break** |
| 14:00    | **Panel III: Recipients of Information Pollution: Exposure and Consequences**  
1. Ernesto de León, University of Amsterdam, NL  
*Hyperpartisan, Alternative and Conspiracy Media Users: A Portrait*  
2. Prof. Silke Adam, University of Bern  
*The Spreading of Conspiracy Ideas*  
3. Chiara Valli, University of Bern  
*Uncivil Yet Persuasive? Testing the Persuasiveness of Political Incivility and the Moderating Role of Populist Attitudes* |
| 15:00    | **Wrapping It All Up**: Prof. Silke Adam, University of Bern |