

Forschungskolloquium Medienkultur

ZeMKI, Linzer Str. 4, Raum 60070, 28359 Bremen

2. Juni 2016, 18.00 – 20.00 Uhr

zu Gast:

Prof. Dr. Stefania Milan
(University of Amsterdam)

Thema:

„Datafication and Civic Participation: The Emerging Epistemic Culture of Data Activism”

Abstract:

As datafication invades all spheres of contemporary society, citizens grow increasingly aware of the critical role of information as the new fabric of social life. This awareness triggers new forms of civic engagement and political action that I have termed ‘data activism’. Data activism indicates the series of social practices that at different levels, in different forms, and from different points of departure are concerned with a critical approach to datafication and massive data collection. Data activists address datafication as both a challenge to individual rights, and a novel set of opportunities for social change. They engage with, and subvert, cultures of media use; they appropriate technological innovation, and software in particular, for political or social change purposes. This presentation combines political sociology and science and technology studies to explore how participation and civil engagement evolve in relation to datafication.

Zur Person:

Stefania Milan works out of the University of Amsterdam's Media Studies Department. She is the Principal Investigator of DATACTIVE, an ERC-funded project on the politics of big data, and the funding director of the Data J Lab, dedicated to big data analytics. She does research on grassroots activism, the interplay between technologies and society, data epistemologies, and cyberspace governance. She is constantly looking for ways to bridge research with policy and action, and she enjoys experimenting with digital and action-oriented research methods.