



## Program for the 6th Digital Democracy Workshop 2025

**Thursday, 13 November**

(Last updated 2025-09-17)

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Venue                      UZH Digital Society Initiative (DSI)  
Rämistrasse 69  
8001, Zürich

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09:00-09:30              Coffee and Welcome (Karsten Donnay)

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09:30-11:00              Artificial Intelligence (Chair: Karsten Donnay)

1. "Partisan Leanings in Algorithmic Advice: An Audit of Political Advice from Large Language Models" by Jan Zilinsky (Technical University of Munich)
  2. "Societal Orientation in AI Research: The Roles of Interdisciplinary Teams and Media Narratives" by Dror K. Markus (University of Zurich), Fabrizio Gilardi (University of Zurich), Daria Stetsenko (University of Zurich)
  3. "Synthetic Advantage? Generative AI as a Tool of Party Equalization or Normalization during the 2025 German Parliamentary Election" by Simon Kruschinski (Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz), Fabio Votta (University of Amsterdam)
  4. "Autonomous AI imitators increase information diversity in homogeneous information ecosystems" by Emil Bakkensen Johansen (University of Southern Denmark), Oliver Baumann (University of Southern Denmark)
  5. "Leveraging Citizens' Critiques to Assess AI-Generated Deliberative Summaries: The case of the Habermas Machine" by Manon Berriche (Sciences Po), Salim Hafid (Sciences Po), Jean-Philippe Cointet (Sciences Po)
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11:00-11:30

Coffee break

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11:30-13:00

Content Moderation (Chair: Emma Hoes)

1. "Moderation of Political Content on Youtube during the 2024 US Election" by Andreu Casas (Royal Holloway University of London)
2. "Opening the Black Box: Exploring Content Moderation Dynamics During Elections" by Mia Nahrgang (University of Konstanz)
3. "Social Media Platforms Online Speech Rules Remain Opaque Despite Landmark EU Transparency Regulation" by Dario Landwehr (University of Konstanz), Mia Nahrgang (University of Konstanz), Sebastian Nagel (University of Konstanz), Nils B. Weidmann (University of Konstanz), Margaret E. Roberts (University of California San Diego)
4. "Tackling harmful online comments with visible moderator presence" by Laura Bronner (ETH Zurich), Francisco Tomas-Valiente (ETH Zurich), Nicolai Berk (ETH Zurich), Dominik Hangartner (ETH Zurich)
5. "From Bystanders to Reporters: Who Acts Against Illegal Online Content?" by Friederike Quint (Technical University of Munich), Yannis Theocharis (Technical University of Munich), Spyros Kosmidis (University of Oxford), Margaret E. Roberts (University of California San Diego)

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13:00-14:00

Lunch Break





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14:00-15:30

Democracy (Chair: Anna Boos)

1. "Propaganda is already influencing large language models: evidence from training data, audits, and real-world usage" by Hannah Waight (University of Oregon), Eddie Yang (Purdue University), Yin Yuan (University of California, San Diego), Solomon Messing (New York University), Margaret E. Roberts (University of California San Diego), Brandon M. Stewart (Princeton University), Joshua A. Tucker (New York University)
2. "Surveillance and the Evolution of Non-Democratic Regimes: Revisiting Linz and Stepan's Typology in the Digital Age?" by Jasmin Dall'Agnola (University of Zurich)
3. "Measuring Online Polarisation: A Supervised Machine Learning Approach" by Giuliano Formisano (University of Zurich), Spyros Kosmidis (University of Oxford), Yannis Theocharis (Technical University of Munich)
4. "Personalised Summarisation for Swiss Direct Democracy" by Daan van der Weijden (University of Zurich), Cristina Sarasua (University of Zurich), Abraham Bernstein (University of Zurich)
5. "The vulnerability of LLM generated consensus statements in augmented democracies" by Jairo Gudiño (ETH Zurich), Clément Contet (University of Toulouse), Umberto Grandi (University of Toulouse), César Hidalgo (University of Toulouse)

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15:30 – 16:00

Coffee Break

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16:00-17:30

Keynote: Joshua A. Tucker (New York University)

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17:30-19:30

Reception (drinks & food)



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09:00-10:30

Elections (Chair: Anina Schwarzenbach)

1. "AI-enhanced Populism and Foreign Interference: Explaining the Far-Right Surge in Romania's 2024 Elections" by Claudia Badulescu (Free University of Brussels)
2. "How do anti-misinformation laws affect electoral campaigns? A field experiment with Brazil's mayors" by Fernando B. Mello (University Carlos III - Madrid), Paul Atwell (Ohio State University), Simon Chauchard (University Carlos III - Madrid)
3. "Audio Deepfakes, Authenticity Perceptions, and Motivated Reasoning: Evidence from a U.S. National Experiment?" by Dalia Ali (Technical University of Munich), Cheng Yu (Technical University of Munich), Aysenur Kocak (Technical University of Munich), Benedict Gruber (Technical University of Munich), Urs Gasser (Technical University of Munich), Yannis Theocharis (Technical University of Munich), Orestis Papakyriakopoulos (Technical University of Munich)
4. "Print and Post: Comparing Political Campaigning in Traditional and Social Media " by Chendi Wang (Free University of Amsterdam), Ofra Klein (Erasmus University Rotterdam)
5. "Online Misogyny Against Female Candidates in the 2022 Brazilian Elections: A Threat to Women's Political Representation?" by Luise Koch (Technical University of Munich), Raji Ghawi (Technical University of Munich), Jürgen Pfeffer (Technical University of Munich), Janina Isabel Steinert (Technical University of Munich)

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10:30 – 11:00

Coffee Break



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11:00-12:30

Harmful Content (Chair: Fabrizio Gilardi)

1. "Invisible Narratives: Highlighting the Urgency for a Global Feminist Approach to AI Governance - A Case Study on Deepfake Image-Based Sexual Abuse Regulation in the EU and US." by Vilma Margarit Nikolaeva (University of Groningen)
  2. "Misinformation, censorship, and the 2024 Presidential Election: Americans reinterpret institutional change along partisan identities" by Tobia Spampatti (New York University), Laura K. Globig (New York University), Jay J. Van Bavel (New York University)
  3. "Speak Up: a mobile app empowering people to engage in everyday debates" by Orestis Vravosinos (University of Chicago) , Antonis Galanopoulos (University of Thessaloniki), Christos Politis (Kingston University London)
  4. "What Drives Toxic Comments on TikTok? Examining the Link Between Videos and Comments Using Machine Learning" by Mathieu Dubied (European University Institute)
  5. "When Words Divide: A Causal Examination of Polarizing Language on Digital Civic Platform abgeordnetenwatch.de" by Christian Arnold (University of Birmingham), Andreas Küpfer (Technical University of Darmstadt), Christine Sheldon (University of Birmingham)
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12:30 – 13:30

Lunch Break





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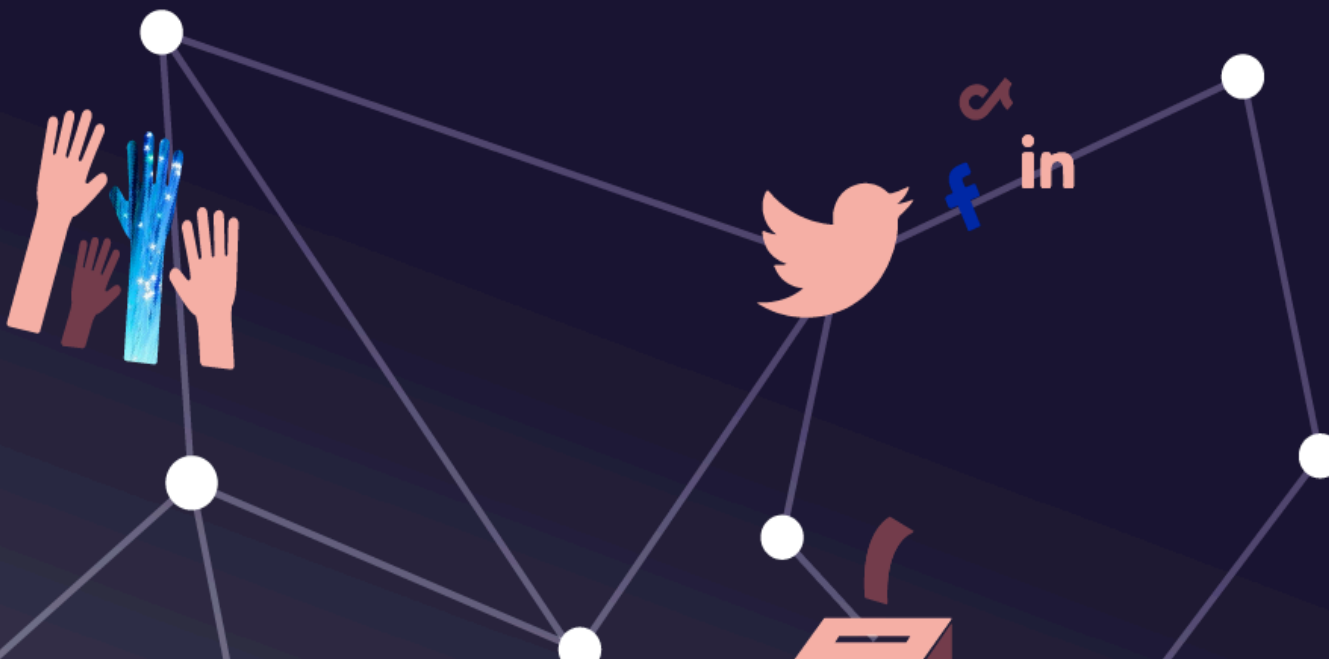
13:30-15:00

Participation and behaviour (Chair: Philip di Salvo)

1. "Assessing and improving young people's online privacy and security awareness: A two-stage experimental test on digital literacy." by Paula Szewach (Barcelona Supercomputing Center), Laia Castro Herrero (University of Barcelona), Robert Johns (University of Southampton)
  2. "Media Diets and Democratic Values" by Nader Hotait (German Center for Integration and Migration Research)
  3. "More Diverse Than They Think: Citizens' (Mis)perceptions of Diversity in Their News Consumption" by Dylan Paltra (University of Oldenburg), Karsten Donnay (University of Zurich)
  4. "Can TikTok Drive Support for the Far-Right? Causal Evidence from Germany" by Philipp Heyna (Hertie School Berlin)
  5. "Effects of Political Recommendations on Instagram: An Online Field Experiment" by Laurenz Derksen (ETH Zurich), Andy Guess (Princeton University)
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15:00 – 15:30

Coffee Break





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15:30-17:00

Policy and governance (Chair: Jennifer Victoria Scurrall)

1. "The Politicization of Digital Privacy and Cybersecurity" by Ines Levin (University California, Irvine)
  2. "Governed by AI? European Publics and AI as Governance Tool" by Michele Fenzl (Maastricht University), Toon van Overbeke (Maastricht University), Helen Zhang (Maastricht University)
  3. "Algorithmic Governance in the Social Sector: Between Ethical Standards and Everyday Realities" by Halyna Kravchynkova (University of Fribourg), Anna Jobin (University of Fribourg)
  4. "Will Robots and AI Steal your Job? Public Opinion and Technological Change" by Alberto Parmigiani (London School of Economics)
  5. "Building public support for digital taxation in low-income states" by Alex Yeandle (London School of Economics)
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17:00 – 18:30

Goodbye Drinks

