Prof. Dr. Lena Ulbricht

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Research interests

Platform governance and platform regulation
Public policy and administration
Democratic theory
Feminist and decolonial theory
Security policy, social policy, data protection
Regional foci: EU, USA, Latin America

Professional positions

Since 10/2024   Professor for Political Science, focus Politics and Digitalization, Institute of Social Sciences, University of Hildesheim, W2 tenured

10/2023-09/2022 Professor for Political Theory and Philosophy at the Technical University of Munich, School of Politics and Public Policy/Hochschule für Politik, W2 tenure track, interim

09/2022-09/2023 Leader of the research group "Technology, Power, and Domination" at the Weizenbaum Institute for the Networked Society and at the WZB Berlin Social Science Center (with Dr. Clara Iglesias Keller)

2017 – 2022   Leader of the research group "Quantification and Social Regulation" at the Weizenbaum Institute for the Networked Society and at the WZB Berlin Social Science Center

2015 – 2017   Postdoctoral fellow at the WZB, project group "Politics of Digitalization" (PI: professor Jeanette Hofmann). Deputy-leader of the BMBF-funded project „Assessing Big Data"

2016: 4 months maternity leave

2014 – 2015   Consultant at the consultancy firm VDI/VDE Innovation und Technik GmbH Berlin

2010 – 2014   Researcher at the WZB in the project group of the WZB President professor Jutta Allmendinger. PhD project: Policy innovations in German federalism

2013: 6 months maternity leave

2010   3 months research fellowship at the London School of Economics, Department of Social Policy

2008 – 2010   Research fellow in the research group of the WZB president Jutta Allmendinger. Projects: Higher Education and Regional Development (funded by the OECD), the Bologna Reform in Higher Education, Higher Education in Federal states (both funded by the German Commission of Experts for Research and Innovation (E-FI)

2008	Trainee at the OECD Secretariat in Paris, Education Department (Head: Andreas Schleicher)
2003 – 2007	Internships and student assistant jobs (French Deposits and Consignments Fund CDC, German Federal Foreign Office, Agence France-Presse, German Bundestag, Heinrich Böll Foundation Hessen)

Academic degrees

2022	Habilitation in Political Science at the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University Bremen: "Governance with digital technologies and the transformation of state power" (cumulative habilitation), supervisor: Professor Frank Nullmeier, defended in July 2022.
2010 – 2014	PhD in Political Science at the Humboldt University of Berlin (magna cum laude) : "Föderalismus als Innovationslabor? Diffusion von Durchlässigkeit im Bildungsföderalismus." Supervisors: Professor Jutta Allmendinger, Professor Friedbert Rüb
2005 – 2008	Master's degree in Public Policy at Sciences Po Paris (no final grades awarded, program director : Professor Patrick Le Galès)
2002 – 2007	Master's degree (Diplom) in Political Science at the Free University Berlin (1,7)
2002	Baccalauréat (1,0) and Abitur (1,6)

Third party funding

2024	AI4POL [EU Horizon 2020, consortium of 5 partners, led by the University of Tilburg, with Gjergji Kasneci, Technical University of Munich, individual share 130.000 EUR]; project discontinued following a change of university
2023	Civil Society's Responses to Disinformation in Contexts of Polarization [WZB internal funding, total budget 15.000, individual share 15.000 EUR, co-leader, with Thamy Pogrebinschi]
2022	Second phase of the Weizenbaum Institute for the Networked Society [German Federal Ministry for Education and Research, consortium of 7 partners, total budget 50 Mio. EUR, individual share: 900.000 EUR, with Jeanette Hofmann]
2021	Open Government in Practice: Analyzing the German Transparency Portal 'Frag den Staat' [WZB internal funding call, total budget 7.000 EUR, individual share 7.000 EUR]
2021	'Festifuneral'. Binäre Denk- und Ordnungsstrukturen in Wissenschaft, Politik und Kunst überwinden. Ein Blick auf die jüngsten sozialen Proteste in Lateinamerika [WZB internal funding call, total budget 10.000 EUR, individual share 10.000]
2017	Weizenbaum Institute for the Networked Society [German Federal Ministry for Education and Research, total budget 50 Mio. EUR, consortium of 7 partners, individual share 800.000 EUR, with Jeanette Hofmann]

2014	Evaluation of the Funding Line 'Study and Work' [Federal Government Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy by the Institute for Innovation and Technology VDI/VDE-IT GmbH, details confidential, funding application prepared in a team of four]
2008	Higher Education in Regional and City Development [OECD, total budget 240.000 EUR, individual share 240.000 EUR]

Awards and Honors

2024	Listed for a W2 tenure track professorship in Political Theory and Philosophy at the Technical University of Munich [list position 1; declined]
2021	Listed for a W3 professorship (5 years) in Public Administration and Policy Analysis at the University of Public Administration Speyer [list position 2]
2020	Listed for a W3 professorship in Political Science, in particular Governance of innovative and complex technical systems at the University of Bamberg [list position 3]
2019 and 2020	Offer to stand in for a W2 professorship in Political Science at the University of Duisburg-Essen (declined)
2017 – 2018	ProFiL program of the Berlin Universities (academic career development)
2010 – 2014	Merit scholarship of the Heinrich Böll Foundation for doctoral projects (57.000 EUR)
2010	T.H. Marshall Research Grant awarded by the WZB and the London School of Economics (10.000 EUR)
2009 – 2010	BMBF career development program ("Talente sichern. Zukunft gestalten")
2005 – 2007	Merit scholarship of the Heinrich Böll Foundation for university students

Publications

Peer reviewed articles

Egbert, Simon; Ulbricht, Lena (2024). Data Integration and Analysis Platforms as Digital Platforms: A Conceptual Proposal. Information, Communication & Society. Online first https://doi.org/10.1080/1369118X.2024.2442394

Ulbricht, Lena; Egbert, Simon (2024). In Palantir we trust? Regulation of data analysis platforms in public security. Big Data & Society, 11(3). doi: 10.1177/20539517241255108

Schwarting, Rena; Ulbricht, Lena (2022): Why organization matters in "algorithmic discrimination". Kölner Zeitschrift für Soziologie und Sozialpsychologie, Special Issue „Internet, Big Data und digitale Plattformen", edited by Ulrich Dolata and Jan-Felix Schrape, 1-24. DOI: 10.1007/s11577-022-00838-3

Ulbricht, Lena; Yeung, Karen (2022): Algorithmic regulation: A maturing concept for investigating regulation of and through algorithms. Introduction to the Special Issue „Algorithmic Regulation". Regulation & Governance, Special Issue „Algorithmic Regulation", 1–20. DOI: 10.1111/rego.12437

Katzenbach, Christian; Ulbricht, Lena (2022): Gobernanza Algorítmica. Revista Latinoamericana de Economía Y Sociedad Digital. doi: 10.53857/cwyi6959

Ulbricht, Lena (2020): Politisierung und Algorithmen. In: Leviathan Special Issue "Die demokratische Gesellschaft des 21. Jahrhunderts im Spannungsfeld zwischen Entpolitisierung und Re-Politisierung". Editors Andreas Schäfer, David Meiering, 253-278. DOI: 10.5771/9783748904076-253

Eyert, Florian; Irgmaier, Florian; Ulbricht, Lena (2020): Extending the framework of algorithmic regulation. The Uber case. In: Regulation and Governance. Special Issue "Algorithmic Regulation". Guest editors Lena Ulbricht and Karen Yeung, 1-22. DOI: 10.1111/rego.12371

Ulbricht, Lena (2020): Scraping the Demos. Digitalization, Web Scraping and the Democratic Project. In: Democratization. Special Issue "Democratization beyond the Post-Democratic Turn. Political Participation between Empowerment and Abuse". Guest editors Ingolfur Blühdorn and Felix Butzlaff, 426-442, DOI: 10.1080/13510347.2020.1714595

Ulbricht, Lena; Römer, Magnus (2019): Vielfalt und Einheitlichkeit in der deutschen Datenschutzaufsicht. In: Zeitschrift für Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft, 13(4), 461-489, DOI: 10.1007/s12286-019-00441-5

Katzenbach, Christian; Ulbricht, Lena (2019): Algorithmic Governance. In: Internet Policy Review, 8(4). Special Issue "Concepts of the Digital Society". Editors Christian Katzenbach and Thomas Bächle, DOI: 10.14763/2019.4.1424

Ulbricht, Lena (2018): When big data meet securitization. Algorithmic regulation with passenger name records. In: European Journal for Security Research, 1/2018, 139-161, DOI: 10.1007/s41125-018-0030-3

Kappler, Karolin; Schrape, Felix; Ulbricht, Lena; Weyer, Johannes (2017): Societal implications of big data. In: KI – Künstliche Intelligenz, Special Issue "Big Data", Editors Ullrich Meyer and Kristian Kersting, 55-60, DOI: 10.1007/s13218-017-0520-x

Ulbricht, Lena (2014): Föderalismus als Ideenpool? Untersuchung bildungspolitischer Konvergenz in den deutschen Ländern. In: dms – der moderne Staat – Zeitschrift für Public Policy, Recht und Management, 7(2), 437-458

Ulbricht, Lena (2012): Öffnen die Länder ihre Hochschulen? Annahmen über den Dritten Bildungsweg auf dem Prüfstand. In: die Hochschule, issue 1, 154-204

Helbig, Marcel; Ulbricht, Lena (2010): Perfekte Passung. Finden die besten Hochschulen die besten Studenten? In: Trepte, Sabine; Verbeet, M. (Ed.): Allgemeinbildung in Deutschland. Erkenntnisse aus dem SPIEGEL-Studentenpisa-Test, 107-118. Wiesbaden: VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften

Monographs

Ulbricht, Lena (2016): Föderalismus als Innovationslabor? Diffusion von Durchlässigkeit im Bildungsföderalismus. Schriftenreihe des Europäischen Zentrums für Föderalismus-Forschung, vol. 48. Baden-Baden: Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft.

Ulbricht, Lena (2008): Die Rolle der Kommune bei der Beschäftigung von Älteren. Aktive Arbeitsmarktpolitik für erwerbsfähige Hilfebedürftige über 50 – zwischen Leistungsdruck und Haushaltszwang. Saarbrücken: VDM Verlag.

Edited volumes and edited Special Issues

Ulbricht, Lena; Yeung, Karen (Ed.) (2022): Special Issue „Algorithmic Regulation". *Regulation & Governance,* 16(1), 1-354, January 2022.

Emmer, Martin; Krasnova, Hanna; Krzywdzinski, Martin; Metzger, Axel; Schimmler, Sonja; Ulbricht, Lena; Neuberger, Christoph (2021): The Weizenbaum Journal of the Digital Society. Launching issue. 1(1). doi: 10.34669/wi.wjds/1.1.1

Ulbricht, Lena; Grafenstein, Max von (Ed.) (2016): Big Data. Big Power Shifts? In: Internet Policy Review – Journal on Internet Regulation, 5(1). Berlin: Alexander von Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society, online: http://policyreview.info/archives/2016/issue-1

Articles in journals and edited volumes (not peer reviewed)

Ulbricht, Lena (2024). Chapter 3: Power in AI and public policy. In Handbook on Public Policy and Artificial Intelligence. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing. doi: 10.4337/9781803922171

Emmer, Martin; Krasnova, Hanna; Krzywdzinski, Martin; Metzger, Axel; Schimmler, Sonja; Ulbricht, Lena; Neuberger, Christoph (2021): The Weizenbaum Journal of the Digital Society: Editorial. The Weizenbaum Journal of the Digital Society 1(1). doi: 10.34669/wi.wjds/1.1.1

Haunss, Sebastian; Ulbricht, Lena (2020): Staatliche Regulierung durch Big Data und Algorithmen. In: Klenk, Tanja; Nullmeier, Frank; Wewer, Göttrik (Ed.): Handbuch Digitalisierung in Staat und Verwaltung. Wiesbaden: Springer VS, DOI: 10.1007/978-3-658-23669-4_2-1

Ulbricht, Lena (2020): Data mining für responsive Politikgestaltung. In: Klenk, Tanja; Nullmeier, Frank; Wewer, Göttrik (Ed.): Handbuch Digitalisierung in Staat und Verwaltung. Wiesbaden: Springer VS, DOI: 10.1007/978-3-658-23669-4_6-1

Ulbricht, Lena (2019): Big Data und Governance im digitalen Zeitalter. In: Hofmann, Jeanette; Kersting, Norbert; Ritzi, Claudia; Schünemann, Wolf (Ed.): Politik in der digitalen Gesellschaft. Bielefeld: Transcript Verlag. 289-307, DOI: https://doi.org/10.1515/9783839448649-015

Römer, Magnus; Ulbricht, Lena (2019): Datenschutzaufsicht. In: Klenk, Tanja; Nullmeier, Frank; Wewer, Göttrik (Ed.): Handbuch Digitalisierung in Staat und Verwaltung. Wiesbaden: Springer VS, DOI: 10.1007/978-3-658-23669-4_37-1

Eyert, Florian; Irgmaier, Florian; Ulbricht, Lena (2018): Algorithmic social ordering. Towards a conceptual framework, Conference Proceedings of the STS Conference Graz 2018, online: https://conference.aau.at/event/137/page/6

Ulbricht, Lena; Haunss, Sebastian; Hofmann, Jeanette; Klinger, Ulrike; Passoth, Jan-Hendrik; Pentzold, Christian; Schneider, Ingrid; Straßheim, Holger; Voß, Jan-Peter (2018): Dimensionen von Big Data. Eine politikwissenschaftliche Systematisierung. In: Kolany-Raiser,

Barbara; Heil, Reinhard; Orwat, Carsten; Hören, Thomas: Big Data und Gesellschaft. Wiesbaden: Springer VS, 151–231, DOI: 10.1007/978-3-658-21665-8

Ulbricht, Lena; Grafenstein, Max von (2016): Big Data through the Power Lens. Marker for Regulating Innovation – Editorial. In: Ulbricht, Lena; Grafenstein, Max von (Ed.): Internet Policy Review – Journal on Internet Regulation, Thematic Edition "Big Data. Big Power Shifts?", Berlin: Alexander von Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society, 5(1), 1-8, DOI: 10.14763/2016.1.406

Ulbricht, Lena (2012): Die Öffnung der Hochschulen für beruflich Qualifizierte: neue Erkenntnisse über politische Prozesse. In: Qualität in der Wissenschaft, 6(4), 99-104

Research transfer publications

Ulbricht, Lena (2021): Demokratie und Digitalisierung. Ein Blick auf das politische System Deutschlands. In: Politische Bildung in einer digitalen Welt. Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung, Bonn.
https://www.bpb.de/lernen/digitale-bildung/politische-bildung-in-einer-digitalen-welt/324975/demokratie-und-digitalisierung-ein-blick-auf-das-politische-system-deutschlands

Irgmaier, Florian; Ulbricht, Lena (2018): Big Data und Nudging. Kommt der digitale Überwachungsstaat? In: WZB-Mitteilungen, (158), 15-17, online https://bibliothek.wzb.eu/artikel/2017/f-21072.pdf

Hofmann, Jeanette; Ulbricht, Lena (2018): Konzept für ein Dossier "Big Data, Algorithmen und Künstliche Intelligenz". Commissioned by the German Federal Agency for Civic Education (bpb)

Ulbricht, Lena (2017): Machtkämpfe um Big Data. Bürger und Konsumenten müssen geschützt werden. In: WZB-Mitteilungen, (155), 18-21, online: https://bibliothek.wzb.eu/artikel/2017/f-20466.pdf

Ulbricht, Lena (2017): Big Data und Diskriminierung – Impulse aus den USA für eine deutsche Debatte. In: ads-aktuell 1 – Newsletter der Antidiskriminierungsstelle des Bundes, P. 4, online: https://www.antidiskriminierungsstelle.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/newsletter_pdf/newsletter_01_2017.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=2

Irgmaier, Florian; Ulbricht, Lena (2016): Big Data & Nudging = Big Nudging. In: WZB-Mitteilungen, (154), 42-43, online: https://bibliothek.wzb.eu/artikel/2017/f-21072.pdf

Ulbricht, Lena; Kreibich, Miriam; Kauffeld-Monz, Martina (2015): Profilbildung und innovativer Transfer. In: iit-Perspektive, Working Paper of the Institute for Innovation and Technology Berlin, (25), online: http://www.iit-berlin.de/de/publikationen/profilbildung-durch-transfer-neue-entwicklungsmoeglichkeiten-fuer-hochschulen/

Ulbricht, Lena; Gens, Ferdinand; Huch, Michael (2015): Big und Smart Data für den öffentlichen Sektor. Möglichkeiten und Grenzen. In: iit-Perspektive, Working Paper of the Institute for Innovation and Technology Berlin, (24), http://www.iit-berlin.de/de/publikationen/smart-und-big-data-fuer-den-oeffentlichen-sektor/

Ulbricht, Lena (2014): On the paradox of parliamentary control over services operating secretly. In: Internet Policy Review, online: http://policyreview.info/articles/news/paradox-parliamentary-control-over-services-operating-secretly/346.

Ulbricht, Lena (2014): OECD-Projekt über Hochschulen in der Region in Berlin (2008-2010): Ein Blick zurück. In: Das Hochschulwesen, (2), 48-51

Ulbricht, Lena (2013): Pro Akademisierung. Berliner Hochschuldebatte #23 „Wie viele Studierende braucht das Land?" Heinrich Böll Foundation December 6, 2014, online: http://www.boell.de/de/2013/12/12/pro-akademisierung

Ulbricht, Lena (2012): Stille Explosion der Studienberechtigtenzahlen – die neuen Regelungen für das Studium ohne Abitur. In: BWP, (1), 39-42

Ulbricht, Lena (2012): Schwache Lobby, wenig Interesse. Die berufliche Bildung hat in Politik und Verwaltung wenig Gewicht. In: WZB-Mitteilungen, (138), 39-41, online: https://bibliothek.wzb.eu/artikel/2012/f-17556.pdf

Ulbricht, Lena (2010): Maßstäbe gesucht. Das deutsche System außeruniversitärer Forschung – kritisch befragt. In: WZB-Mitteilungen, (127), 26-29

Ulbricht, Lena (2009): Ist das Konjunkturpaket II ein Bildungspaket? – Verteilungskämpfe um Bildungsinvestitionen in Krisenzeiten. In: Wirtschaftsdienst, (6), 359-363

Ulbricht, Lena (2009): Das Konjunkturpaket II: bildungspolitische Richtungsentscheidung durch die Hintertür, WZBrief Bildung, (6), online: https://bibliothek.wzb.eu/wzbrief-bildung/WZBriefBildung062009_ulbricht.pdf

Ulbricht, Lena (2009): Übereilt gegossener Beton. Das Konjunkturpaket II: bildungspolitische Richtungsentscheidung durch die Hintertür. In: Pädagogik, 61(6), 46-49

Ulbricht, Lena (2009): Alle einmütig für bessere Bildung? In: Wirtschaftsdienst, 89(12), 780

Ulbricht, Lena (2005): Kulturelle Hegemonie und Geschlecht als Herausforderung im europäischen Einigungsprozess. In: Feministische Studien – Zeitschrift für interdisziplinäre Frauen- und Geschlechterforschung, 23(2), 326-327

Policy reports

Schreiterer, Ulrich; Ulbricht, Lena (2009): The City of Berlin, Germany: Self-Evaluation Report, OECD Reviews of Higher Education in Regional and City Development, IMHE, online: http://www.oecd.org/education/skills-beyond-school/43942109.pdf

Achleitner, Ann-Kristin; Allmendinger, Jutta; Grupp, Hariolf; Harhoff, Dietmar; Llerena, Patrick; Luther, Joachim; Meurer, Petra; Schmoch, Ulrich; Stenke, Gero; Ulbricht, Lena (2009): Gutachten zu Forschung, Innovation und Technologischer Leistungsfähigkeit. Gutachten 2009.

Allmendinger, Jutta; Ulbricht, Lena; Helbig, Marcel; Solga, Heike; Schreiterer, Ulrich; Stuth, Stefan; Nikolai, Rita; Ebner, Christian; Söhn, Janina (2009): Öffentliche Anhörung zum 'Zweiten Nationalen Bildungsbericht'. Schriftliche Stellungnahme Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung. Deutscher Bundestag, Ausschuss für Bildung, Forschung und Technikfolgenabschätzung, A-Drs. 16(18)421e. Berlin: Deutscher Bundestag

Academic talks

03/2025   "Platformized Political Publics: Are Civil-Society Platforms a Remedy for the Democratic Pathologies of Privatized Public Spheres?", Conference of the Political Theory and Philosophy Section of the DVPW, University of Erfurt, March 21.

09/2024   "We have never been democratic - we have never been digital. A different story of digital democracies", DVPW Congress 2024, University of Göttingen, September 24.

09/2024   "The politics of civil society-owned platforms", DVPW Congress 2024, University of Göttingen, September 26.

11/2023   "Demos scraping. Governance with digital technologies and the transformation of state power", Workshop of the Chair of Political Theory and Philosophy at the University of Regensburg (invitation by Prof. Dr. Eva Odzuck), November 21.

10/2023   "The digital and the democratic transformation – insights from political theory", Faculty Workshop. School of Political Science, Technical University of Munich, October 16.

09/2023   "Imaginaries of controlling populations; imaginaries of regulating technology. The case of Palantir in Hessen", Theory Congress of the German Political Science Association "Political Theory in Times of Uncertainty", Bremen, September 27, 2023.

09/2023   "Corona apps in international comparison – insights from Latin America, Asia, and the EU", with Clara Iglesias Keller and Danny Rayman, ECPR General Conference, Panel "Big Data Transformation – Does Regime Type Matter?", Prague, September 4, 2023.

08/2023   "Technology regulation and system critique from feminist and decolonial perspectives", Mildenberg, Chaos Computer Camp, Ziegeleipark Mildenberg, August 17, 2023. Video: https://media.ccc.de/v/camp2023-57536-produktionsbedingungen_digitaler_technologien/playlist

06/2023   "AI regulation: comparing regulatory approaches from data protection to anti-trust regulation", RightsCon Conference, Costa Rica, June 6, 2023.

06/2023   "AI regulation: comparing regulatory approaches from data protection to anti-trust regulation", RightsCon, Costa Rica, June 5-8, 2023.

04/2023   „(De-)Regulation in the platformized society: The case of data analysis platform in German policing" (with Simon Egbert), Workshop The Role of Data Integration and Analysis Platforms in Contemporary Society,April 27-28, 2023, IT-University of Copenhagen

06/2022   „Regulation of digital markets", Technical University Berlin, lecture series „Digital Innovation", Berlin, June 13, 2022 (hosted by professor Knut Blind)

05/2021   „European Approaches to Regulation of the Data Economy", Technical University Berlin, lecture series „Digital Innovation", Berlin, May 25,2021

02/2020   "Cybersecurity and IT-security as an intraorganizational conflict", Colloquium of the Weizenbaum Institute for the Networked Society, Berlin, February 25, 2020

06/2019	"Sicherheitsgovernance durch Algorithmen. Demokratische Implikationen und Gestaltungsmöglichkeiten", Fachdialog Sicherheitsforschung, Conference "Vielfältige Sicherheiten", Berlin, June 28, 2019
06/2019	"Algorithmische Governance", Colloquium of the Otto Suhr Institute for Political Science, Free University of Berlin, June 24, 2019
05/2019	"Regulation of the Data Economy", Technical University of Berlin, Lecture series 'Digital Innovation', Berlin, May 20, 2019
05/2019	"Big Data aus politikwissenschaftlicher Perspektive. Erkenntnisse aus dem ABIDA-Projekt", Final Workshop of the ABIDA project, University of Münster, Sepember 5, 2019
03/2019	"IT security in organizations – Insights from German higher education and research institutions", Panel "Comparative Governance of Cybersecurity", Conference of the Research Section "Comparative Politics" of the German Political Science Association (DVPW) "Governance of Big Transformations", School of Governance, Technical University of Munich, March 21-23, 2019
02/2019	"Algorithmen als Institution. Regulierung durch Technik und deren gesellschaftliche Implikationen", Lecture series 'Information Governance', Technical University Berlin, April 2, 2019
12/2018	"Algorithms and Predictive Policing", Workshop 'Algorithms and Society', Free University Brussels
12/2018	"Regulation in the Digital Age. Developing further the framework of algorithmic regulation", Joint Colloquium of the WZB, the Weizenbaum Institute for the Networked Society and the Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society
09/2018	"Auf dem Weg zur Nationalen Forschungsdateninfrastruktur (NFDI): Für, mit, ohne die Politikwissenschaft?", Panel discussion, DVPW Kongress, Frankfurt am Main
09/2018	"Präemption versus Prädiktion in der Sicherheitspolitik. Konkurrenz für das klassische Paradigma wissenschaftlicher Evidenz?", Panel "(Un)Demokratische Grenzen evidenzbasierter Politik", DVPW Kongress, Frankfurt am Main
07/2018	"Regulation in the digital Age. Towards a framework for studying automation-based regulation" (with Florian Eyert, Florian Irgmaier, Rainer Rehak), EASST2018 conference, panel "Technologies that count: big data and social order", University of Lancaster, UK
07/2018	"Preemptive algorithmic regulation: a threat to evidence-based policy-making?", 7th Biennial Conference of the ECPR Standing Group on Regulatory Governance, Université de Lausanne, Switzerland
07/2018	"Regulation in the digital age. Towards a framework for studying automation-based regulation" (with Florian Eyert, Florian Irgmaier, Rainer Rehak), 7th Biennial Conference of the ECPR Standing Group on Regulatory Governance, Université de Lausanne, Switzerland
06/2018	"Big Data als Regulierungsressource" (with Sebastian Haunss), Authors' workshop for the Handbook "Digitalisierung in Staat und Verwaltung", Bremen

06/2018	"Datenschutzaufsicht in Deutschland: Zwischen Vielfalt und Einheitlichkeit" (with Magnus Römer), Authors' workshop for the Handbook "Digitalisierung in Staat und Verwaltung", Bremen
06/2018	"Why preemptive security governance needs 'big data'. The legitimation of the integration of surveillance technologies", Surveillance and Society Conference, Aarhus, Denmark
12/2017	- "When data analytics replaces democratic participation. Big data-based policy design" - "Big data and rules. Automation-based regulation" (with Sebastian Haunss) - "When is Big Data legitimate? A statement from political theory" (with Claudia Ritzi) IPSA/AISP 2017 International Conference "Political Science in the Digital Age", Hannover
10/2017	"Artificial intelligence and Democracy", Workshop, Volkswagen Foundation, Einbeck
09/2017	"Scraping the demos. Opinion mining and participation", Workshop "Political Participation beyond the Post-democratic Turn", Institute for Social Change and Sustainability (IGN), Vienna University for Economics and Business, Austria
09/2017	"Behavioral data for security governance. Preemptive algorithmic regulation with passenger name records", ECPR General Conference, Oslo, Norway
07/2017	"Regulation of the Data Economy. Between data protection, consumer protection and protection against discrimination", Technical University Berlin
03/2017	"Regulation through big data. Scoring, prediction und regulation with passenger name records", Centre for Security and Society, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg
09/2016	"Formal or informal coordination – what works? Lessons from data protection", DVPW Congress (Dreiländertagung), Heidelberg
09/2016	"Discourses about the regulation of big data – the German response to new challenges", DVPW Congress (Dreiländertagung), Heidelberg
09/2016	"The political discourse about the regulation of big data", American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, USA
09/2015	"IT-Sicherheitsstrategien an deutschen Hochschulen. Eine Analyse anhand des Securitization-Ansatzes", DVPW Kongress, panel "Sicherheit im digitalen Raum – Akteure und Steuerungsmechanismen in vergleichender Perspektive", Duisburg
04/2015	"Smart Data für Hochschulforschung und Hochschulmanagement", Congress of the German Association for Higher Education Research (GfHf), Kassel
09/2013	"Higher Education Access for Professionally Qualified Individuals without Abitur: Political Motives and Arguments", Conference "Studying without Abitur - Studies and Career Paths of Non-Traditional Students", University of Hamburg
07/2012	"Education policy in the German states: Policy Convergence by Diffusion?", ECPR Graduate Conference, Jacobs University, Bremen

10/2011	"Permeability between vocational education and training and higher education in Germany. Explaining policy differences in a federal state with an actor-centred approach", conference "8th International Workshop on Higher Education Reform: Reforming Higher Education with a Lifelong Learning Perspective?", Humboldt University Berlin
05/2011	"Der dritte Bildungsweg in den Bundesländern. Erklärung unterschiedlicher Policies", conference of the Gesellschaft für Hochschulforschung, Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg

Academic events

09/2024	„Democratic Transformation through Digital Technologies in the Age of Polycrisis", Panel at the DVPW Congress, University of Göttingen, with Ann-Kathrin Köster and Sebastian Berg
09/2024	„Control of Digital Platforms in the Age of Polycrisis", Panel at the DVPW Congress, University of Göttingen, with Dennis Redeker
09/2023	"Processing Uncertainty in Digitized Societies", Panel at the Theory Congress of the German Political Science Association "Political Theory in Times of Uncertainty", University of Bremen, September 28, 2023, with Ann-Kathrin Koster and Sebastian Berg
10/2022	Workshop "Resistance against Digital Colonialism" at the AI Anarchies Fall School, hosted by Maya Ganesh and Norah Khan, Akademie der Künste, October 10, 2022
09/2022	Workshop "Platform Governance and Politics" of the DVPW Working Group Digitalization and Politics, University Duisburg-Essen, September 28-29, 2022
09/2021	Roundtable "Suddenly online. Political participation and digital technologies in the pandemic", 28th Academic Convention of the German Political Science Association (DVPW), with Wolf Schünemann
06/2021	Weizenbaum Conference 2021 "Democracy in Flux", Berlin
07/2019	International conference "'Scraping the Demos'. Political epistemologies of big data", organizers: Research Group "Quantification and social regulation" of the Weizenbaum Institute for the Networked Society and DVPW working group "Digitalization and Politics", WZB Berlin Social Science Center, Berlin
03/2019	Conference panel "Technikregulierung im digitalen Zeitalter aus vergleichender Perspektive" (with Wolf Schünemann), Research Section "Comparative Politics" of the German Political Science Association, "Governance of Big Transformations", Technical University of Munich
03/2019	"'Artistic Intelligence' – AI in Art and Science", intersectional and interdisciplinary Workshop of the Weizenbaum Institute for the Networked Society, Berlin
09/2018	Conference panel DVPW "Digitalisierung der Interessenvertretung – Aufwind für die Demokratie?" (with Stephan Bröchler), Frankfurt am Main
09/2018	Conference panel DVPW "(Un)Demokratische Grenzen evidenzbasierter Politik?" (with Rebecca Lea Korinek), Frankfurt am Main

12/2017	Conference panel "Big Data and politics: Culture, cognition, norms and rules", IPSA/AISP 2017 International Conference Political Science in the Digital Age, Hannover
10/2016	Conference panel "Big Nudging: a dream of social cybernetics come true?" (with Jeanette Hofmann and Holger Straßheim), Annual Conference of the Association of Internet Researchers, Berlin

Talks for a general public

06/2023	"Generative AI: potential and risks for civil society organizations", online workshop for Naturfreunde Hessen, June 26, 2023.
06/2023	"Social Protest in Chile: Technology, Art, and Politics", film screening and panel discussion on Patricio Guzman's documentary "Mi país imaginario", part of the film series "Gezinema" (curated by Sirin Erensoy and Necati Sonmez), and of the event series "Ten Years after Gezi" at the Maxim Gorki Theater, Berlin, June 18, 2023.
12/2018	"Evidence-based policy through Big Data?", Panel discussion, WZB-Mercator Forum Wissenschaft und Politik, Berlin
11/2018	"Digitalisierung und Politikberatung – Neue Evidenzen, neue Regulierungsformen?", Mercator Roundtable "Praxis wissenschaftlicher Politikberatung", Berlin
09/2018	"A fast moving technology like AI – Societal impact and governance implications", Moderation of a panel discussion with Ulrike Klinger, Nicklas Lundblad and Wolfgang Schulz, Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society, Berlin
05/2018	"The regulation of big data", Panel discussion, re:publica 2018, Berlin
10/2017	"Data is the new oil", Panel discussion with Malte Spitz, ZEIT Foundation, Berlin
06/2017	"Regulierung in der Datenökonomie durch Wettbewerbsregulierung", WZB event series "Junge Wissenschaft trifft Politik – Uwe Beckmeyer im Gespräch" (Parliamentary State Secretary at BMWi), Berlin
05/2017	"Die Regulierung der Datenökonomie. Zwischen Datenschutz, Verbraucherschutz und Schutz vor Diskriminierung", Workshop of the BMWi technology program "Smart Service Welt", Berlin
06/2016	"Hochschulen und Digitalisierung", working group "Hochschule und Wissenschaft", SPD, Berlin
05/2010	"Bildungsverläufe von Frauen und Männern", Ecumenical Church Day, Hildegardis-Verein, München
10/2009	"Das Deutsche Bildungssystem im internationalen Vergleich", Action Day "Bildungsgerechtigkeit", University of Bamberg
06/2009	"Auswirkungen des Konjunkturpakets II auf kommunale Bildungsfinanzierung", Conference "Berlins Chance: Green New Deal", Bündnis 90/Die Grünen, Berlin

01/2009	"Life expectations of young women and men in Germany", 53. session of the UN-Commission on the Status of Women, side event of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and of the German Federal Ministry for Families, New York, USA
09/2008	"Berlin's Higher Education System and potential for regional development", OECD/IMHE-Workshop "Higher Education in regions. Launch Workshop", Paris, France

Events for a general public

10/2023 – 07/2024	"Digital Democracies – a two-face story", lecture series, organized with the TUM Think Tank at the Technical University of Munich https://tumthinktank.de/event/digital-democracies-a-two-face-story/
09/2022	"Post-binary Festifuneral". Festival of sciences, arts, and activism for the critique of binary social categories. Event series over 6 days, with interdisciplinary and intersectoral talks and workshops. Key speakers Darío Sztajnszrajber (Argentina), Ochy Curiel Pichardo (Colombia and Dominican Republic), and María Galindo (Bolivia). Organizers: WZB, Weizenbaum Institute for the Networked Society, and various Berlin based artist and civil society groups. https://www.wzb.eu/de/news/postbinaeres-festifuneral
12/2018	Workshop "Big Data und evidenzbasierte Politik – was ist neu?" (with Günter Okon, Criminal Police Bavaria), WZB-Mercator Forum Wissenschaft und Politik, Berlin
06/2016	Panel discussion "Von Alma Mater zu Algo Mater", Event series "Big data: big power shifts?", in cooperation with the Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society and the Vodafone Institute, Berlin
03/2016	Panel discussion "Big data for president", Event series "Big data: big power shifts?", in cooperation with the Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society and the Vodafone Institute, Berlin
02/2016	Panel discussion "Big Data für die Gesundheit – Wem nützt es?" Event series "Big data: big power shifts?", in cooperation with the Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society and the Vodafone Institute, Berlin
11/2015	Panel discussion "Making sense of big data", Event series "Big data: big power shifts?", in cooperation with the Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society and the Vodafone Institute, Berlin

Collaborations with artists

Berlin Carnival of the Cultures https://www.karneval.berlin/ Co-host of the performance stage "Alte Pumpe" with talks, live music, and dance performances, May 27-29, 2023

María Galindo, workshop about techniques of creation and resistance at Floating Berlin and Volksbühne Roter Salon, September 11 and 16, 2022

Ochy Curiel, workshop about social critique, percussion, and lyrics at K19, September 3, 2022

Alexander Peterhänsel https://alexanderpeterhaensel.com/ Exhibition and lecture „Smile to Vote" at the conference "Scraping the demos. Political epistemologies of big data",July 7-8, 2019, Berlin

Diana Serbanescu, joint organization of the workshop "Artistic Intelligence – AI in Art and Science", March 7, 2019, Berlin

Agnes Jänsch http://www.agnes-jaensch.de/ Joint research for a performance about voice recognition and personality analysis, December 2018, Berlin

Teaching

Summer Semester 2025, BA Social and Educational Sciences, University of Hildesheim, in German
"Political System of the European Union" (2 SWS)
"Political Regimes" (4 SWS)
"Media and Politics" (4 SWS)

Winter Semester 2024/2025, BA Social and Educational Sciences, University of Hildesheim, in German
"Digital Policy" (2 SWS)
"Political Communication" (2 SWS)
"Comparative Politics" (2 SWS)
"The Political System of Germany" (2 SWS)

Summer Semester 2024: "Democracy in the Digital Age: Crisis and Resilience", BA Political Science, Technical University of Munich, Hochschule für Politik, in German (2 SWS)

Summer Semester 2024: "Democracy in Transition: Models, Tensions, and Current Developments", BA Political Science, Technical University of Munich, Hochschule für Politik, in German (2 SWS)

Summer Semester 2024: "Theories of Politics and Technology: Cybernetics, Technocracy, Liquid Democracy", BA Political Science, Technical University of Munich, Hochschule für Politik, in German (2 SWS) (with Hagen Schölzel)

Summer Semester 2024: "Postcolonial Theory: Colonial Power Yesterday and Today", BA Political Science, Technical University of Munich, Hochschule für Politik, in German (2 SWS) (with Hagen Schölzel)

Winter Semester 2023/2024: "Introduction to Political Theory and Philosophy", BA Political Science, Technical University of Munich, Hochschule für Politik, in German (4 SWS)

Winter Semester 2023/2024: "Data & Society", MA Politics & Technology, Technical University of Munich, Hochschule für Politik, in German (1 SWS)

Summer semester 2023 "Power, Domination, and Critique in Digitalized Societies – a Political Theory Perspective" at the University of Bremen, Institute of Political Science. Seminar. BA political science, in German (2 SWS)

Summer semester 2020 "Digitalization in Public Policy and Public Administration" at the Free University of Berlin, Institute of Political Science. Seminar. BA political science, in German (2 SWS)

Winter semester 2019/2020 "Policing in International Comparison" at the Free University of Berlin, Institute of Political Science. Seminar. BA political science, in German (2 SWS)

Summer semester 2019 "International Security: Policing Cyberwar, Cybercrime, and Terrorism" at the Berlin School of Economics and Law (HWR Berlin). Seminar. BA Higher Police Service, in German (1 SWS)

Summer semester 2019 "Algorithmic Governance, Politics and Power" single lecture as part of the lecture "Computer Science and Society – Information Governance" of the BA Computer Science at the Technical University of Berlin, in German

Winter semester 2018/2019 "Studying Social Stratification with Big Data" (with Lena Hipp and Markus Konrad). Seminar and tutorial at the University of Potsdam. MA in Sociology, in English (4 SWS)

Every semester since 2017 "Regulation of the Data Economy" single lecture as part of the lecture „Digital Innovation" of the MA Innovation Economy at the Technical University of Berlin, in English

Summer semester 2017 "Big Data: Algorithmic Power and its Critique" (with Jeanette Hofmann). Master seminar at the Institute for Communication Studies at the Free University of Berlin, in German (2 SWS)

Winter semester 2012/2013 "Multi-level Governance in the German Federal System and Education Policy". Bachelor Seminar at the Institute for Political Science at the University of Leipzig, in German (2 SWS)

2010 – 2014   Various interventions in the WZB colloquium for qualitative research (topics: expert interviews, document analysis, field access, research ethics), in English

Service to the academic community

Academic boards and commissions

Since 2025	Member of the Executive Board of the Institute of Social Sciences of the University of Hildesheim
Since 2020	Member of the Editorial Board of the Weizenbaum Journal of the Digital Society
2023-2024	Examination Committee of the Governance Department at the TUM
2018-2024	Elected Speaker of the DVPW Working Group Digitalization and Politics
2019-2023	Head of the Diversity Working Group of the Weizenbaum Institute
2015 – 2016	Elected representative of the postdoctoral researchers at the WZB
2009 – 2010	Elected representative of the doctoral researchers at the WZB
2005 – 2008	Elected representative of the grant receivers of the Heinrich Böll Foundation in selection committees

Non-academic boards

Board of trustees of the Technologiestiftung Berlin (Technology Foundation Berlin, 2022-2024)

Peer Review (Institutions)

Head of the Selection Committee for a Professorship of Computational Political Science at the C3S Center at the Goethe University Frankfurt/Main (2025)
TUM Global Postdoc Fellowship Reviewer (2023-2024)
Fellowship program of the Center for Advanced Internet Studies (CAIS) Bochum (ongoing)

Conferences of the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) (2020-2024)
Conferences of the Weizenbaum-Institute for the Networked Society (2019-2024)

Peer Review (Journals)

Big Data and Society
Internet Policy Review
New Media and Society
Politische Vierteljahresschrift
Regulation and Governance
Weizenbaum Journal of the Digital Society
WZB-Discussion papers
Zeitschrift für Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft
Zeitschrift für Wirtschafts- und Unternehmensethik

Supervision of PhD theses (ongoing)

Rainer Rehak (computer science and social science): "Systemic IT security" (Technical University Berlin)
Felix Abresch (political science): "Digital Sovereignty and the German Police" (University of Hildesheim)

Media Appearances

Since 2022 „Purple Code", podcast about intersectional feminist perspectives on digital societies. Hosts: Sana Ahmed, Diana Herlo, Lena Ulbricht https://purplecode.org/

2025 "US-Konzern Palantir: Soziologin rät von Software-Einsatz bei deutscher Polizei ab" Deutschlandfunk, Interview with Dirk-Oliver Heckmann, 12:49 Min, Juli 31. https://www.deutschlandfunk.de/palantir-im-polizeieinsatz-interview-mit-prof-lena-ulbricht-uni-hildesheim-100.html

2025 "Koloniale Kontinuitäten bei Rohstoffen, Daten und Infrastruktur" Chaos Radio Podcast with Marcus Richter, Ingo Dachwitz, Constanze Kurz, CR298, February 24. https://chaosradio.de/cr298-koloniale-kontinuitaeten-bei-rohstoffen-daten-und-infrastruktur

2022 „Digitale Plattformen und Regulierung - Was tut der Staat?" Interview with Politischer Pausenpodcast, November 24, https://ppp.podigee.io/56-neue-episode

2022 „Digitaler Kolonialismus, was ist das?" Interview with Radio Dreyeckland, November 17, https://rdl.de/beitrag/digitaler-kolonialismus-was-ist-das

2022 „Digitaler Kolonialismus: Daten als Rohstoff und Machtmittel", article by Tanja Kunesch, Tagesspiegel, September 22, https://www.tagesspiegel.de/wissen/digitaler-kolonialismus-daten-als-rohstoff-und-machtmittel-8670049.html

2019 „Internet. Macht. Zukunft – Wie die Vernetzung die Mobilität revolutioniert". TV interview. Prinzler, Hannah Leonie; Sawall, Andreas. ARTE/ZDF. https://www.arte.tv/de/videos/086942-000-A/internet-macht-zukunft

2019 "Mit der Digitalisierung entstehen neue Aufgaben für die Politik" video interview for the permanent exhibition of the Futurium, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X02xpJbArJI#action=share

2018 "Können Internetdaten die Politik verbessern?", Radio live interview at Deutschlandfunk Kultur, 6.12.2018. https://www.deutschlandfunkkultur.de/big-data-koennen-internetdaten-die-politik-verbessern.1008.de.html?dram:article_id=435164

2018 "Humanoide Roboter im moma: future". TV interview with ZDF Morgenmagazin, 14.03.2018. https://www.zdf.de/nachrichten/zdf-morgenmagazin/videos/humanoide-roboter-im-moma-future-100.html

2018 "Algorithmen in der Sozialverwaltung" Deutschlandfunk Kultur, radio commentary, Politisches Feuilleton, 29.05.2018. https://www.deutschlandfunkkultur.de/algorithmen-in-der-sozialverwaltung-warum-daten-keine.1005.de.html?dram:article_id=418928

2017 "Nudging bei Facebook. Subtiles Stupsen gegen den Terror?", Deutschlandfunk Kultur, radio commentary, Politisches Feuilleton, 24.02.2017. http://www.deutschlandfunkkultur.de/nudging-bei-facebook-subtiles-stupsen-gegen-den-terror.1005.de.html?dram:article_id=379729

Languages

German, Spanish: Native languages
French, English: Excellent
Russian: Basic