

Conference on the 21st of September 2017 at the „Hochschule für Technik und Wirtschaft“ (University of Applied Sciences for Technology and Economics) Berlin on

Rational and Irrational Discourses in the Age of Digitalization.

Organizers: Rainer E. Zimmermann and Frank Fuchs-Kittowski in co-operation with the Institute for Design Science Munich, the Bertalanffy Center Vienna, and the Leibniz Society Berlin.

Altogether ten talks were delivered in German language dealing with the topic of „populism“ as it has been discussed at the recent Vienna conference at the Bertalanffy Center in spring 2017 and at this year’s IS4SI 2017 Summit at Chalmers University, Gothenburg. The talks will be published within the whole collection of related talks available from the aforementioned conference meetings.

1. Rainer E. Zimmermann (H München):  
Magische Aspekte des öffentlichen Diskurses (Magical Aspects of Public Discourse)

Following the line of argument as presented originally by Claude Lévi-Strauss, reasons for and context of “savage thinking” has been considered and applied to recent phenomena of populism in the public discourse.

2. Lena Hendlmeier (H München)  
Spielraum: Bildungsraum. Schöpferische Qualitäten sozialer und materieller Interaktionen (Space of Free Play: Space of Education. Creative Qualities of social and material interactions)

An educational inventory has been defined in order to lay down the basic pre-conditions for creative learning processes, thought as the capability of developing different perspectives – this being in turn the condition of liberating the public discourse from populism.

3. Hubert Steiner (H München):  
Herrschender Diskurs und symbolische Gewalt (Governing Discourse and Symbolic Power)

The structure of public discourse has been analyzed based on the line of argumentation as provided by Pierre Bourdieu.

4. Felix Breu (H München):  
Der öffentliche Diskurs in der Krise (Public Discourse in Crisis)

In this talk in particular, the influence of digitalization has been discussed with its consequences for the public discourse.

5. José M. Díaz Nafría (U León):  
Die Krise der politischen Beteiligung in der Zeit der Digitalisierung. Fallstudie Spanien (The Crisis of Political Participation in the Age of Digitalization. Case Study Spain)

Based on former work on the nature of social systems and mediative aspects of communication, the influence of digitalization has been discussed.

6. Ralph-Miklas Dobler (H München):  
Soziale Medien als Positivraum (Social Media as Positive Space)

Social Online Media were taken as an example in order to demonstrate that the resulting discourse tries to exclude negative connotations by presenting a genuinely "positified" form of communication.

7. Silke Järvenpää (H München):  
"Alternative Fakten" und "Fake News": angewandte *Cultural Studies*? (Alternative Facts and Fake News as Applied Cultural Studies?)

Examples were discussed that demonstrate the quick relativisation of facts in recent forms of discourse, both everyday and scientific. Derived somehow from the original concepts of cultural studies, it appears as if objective truth becomes more and more unimportant in ongoing communication.

8. Francesca Vidal (U Koblenz-Landau):  
Haßreden im Internet (Hate Speech in the Internet)

The recent online phenomenon of „hate speech“ was discussed with respect to its origin and development.

9. Senka Grossauer (U Wien):  
Die Untersuchung populistischer Inhalte in den Social Media (Survey of Populist Contents in Social Media)

The methodological difficulties of such a survey have been discussed in detail, and a sound perspective as to the ongoing research project has been presented.

10. Spomenka Celebic (U Wien): Demokratie und Populismus (Democracy and Populism)

Based on the former talk, a general discussion was presented as to the possible influence of populism on the general structure of democratic processes.