



Universität Hamburg  
DER FORSCHUNG | DER LEHRE | DER BILDUNG

FAKULTÄT  
FÜR MATHEMATIK, INFORMATIK  
UND NATURWISSENSCHAFTEN

TAMING THE MACHINES - SECURING KNOWLEDGE

# FAKE NEWS, FALSE BELIEFS, AND THE FALLIBLE ART OF KNOWLEDGE MAINTENANCE

PROF. DR. AXEL GELFERT (TU BERLIN)

ÖFFENTLICHE  
RING-  
VORLESUNG

## About the lecture

The term 'fake news' has become emblematic of the pitfalls of public communication in a changed media landscape. Initially introduced in an effort to encourage media literacy, the term has also been co-opted by those wishing to discredit the so-called 'legacy' (or 'mainstream') news media. Yet in spite of its being contested, the term has significant diagnostic potential. It forces us to think hard about what distinguishes merely false reports (perhaps due to simple error) from systematic distortions within journalism. In many ways, it brings us back to an age-old question: What makes something (or someone) a trustworthy source of information? And how can we follow informational routines that limit our risk of being exposed to systematically distorted claims? The present talk surveys these problems and argues that the acquisition of new cutting-edge information may trade off against the goal of knowledge maintenance. By privileging the former, we may endanger the latter, yet both are required if we are to successfully navigate the treacherous oceans of information.

**Mittwoch, 19.06.2019, 18:15 - 19:45 Uhr**

Flügelbau West, 2. OG, Raum W221  
Edmund-Siemers-Allee 1  
20146 Hamburg

ETHIK IN DER  
INFORMATIONSTECHNOLOGIE

### KONTAKT

Prof. Dr. Judith Simon  
Dr. Pak-Hang Wong

<http://uhh.de/inf-eit>