TAMING THE MACHINES

WHY IS NORMALIZING SURVEILLANCE DANGEROUS?

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ÖFFENTLICHE
RING-
VORLESUNG

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About the lecture

Definitions of privacy change, as do norms for protecting it. Why, then, are privacy scholars and activists currently worried about "normalization"? In this talk, I'll explain what normalization means in the context of surveillance concerns and clarify why normalization has significant governance consequences. I'll emphasize two things. First, the present is a transitional moment in history. AI-infused surveillance tools offer a window into the unprecedented dangers of automated real-time monitoring and analysis. Second, privacy scholars and activists can better integrate supporting evidence to counter skepticism about their most disturbing and speculative claim about normalization. Empirical results in moral psychology support the assertion that widespread surveillance typically will lead people to become favorably disposed towards it. If this causal dynamic is pervasive, it can diminish autonomy and contribute to a slippery slope trajectory that diminishes privacy and civil liberties.

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**– delivered in digital form –
Details to access the lecture will be made public at http://uhh.de/inf-eit
on a timely basis.**

KONTAKT

Prof. Dr. Judith Simon

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