

# MAY 31 – JUNE 2, 2017, HERRENHAUSEN PALACE, HANOVER, GERMANY HERRENHAUSEN CONFERENCE

ORGANIZERS: ARMIN NASSEHI (UNIVERSITY OF MUNICH), FLORIAN SÜSSENGUTH (ACATECH),  
CORNELIUS PUSCHMANN (HANS-BREDOW-INSTITUTE HAMBURG),  
AND VOLKSWAGEN FOUNDATION



## SOCIETY THROUGH THE LENS OF THE DIGITAL

The Herrenhausen Conference "Society through the Lens of the Digital" explores the role of the social sciences and the humanities in a society saturated with debates on the effects of digitization: Parties, NGOs and the public sphere explore ideas of digital democracy. Luminaries of business try to map and unlock the potential of big data and of platform capitalism. Data journalists experiment with modes of describing the world not through linear texts but through algorithms and interactive visualizations while intelligent systems have to learn to navigate the often-ambiguous rules and structures of society. We're lacking scientific approaches to this multiplicity of discourses on digitization, which allow us to adequately explore its implications for research, research policy and the public role of the social sciences and humanities. The Herrenhausen Conference "Society through the Lens of the Digital" aims to fill this gap.

### TOPICS

As a forum for debate between scholars and experts from civil society, politics, economy and journalism the conference will tackle questions such as: What role should the social sciences and the humanities play in the digitization of society? Which kind of answers are they expected to provide? How can they better fulfil their role as mediators and translators between the conflicting and sometimes even incommensurable perspectives on digital change? The discussion of theoretical, methodological and empirical tools thus is not only aimed at the further development of concepts and theories within the social sciences and humanities. Equally important is the question of how they can help the social sciences and humanities to open up to collaboration with the STEM fields and to help solve the grand challenges of digitization.

### CONFIRMED SPEAKERS AND SESSION CHAIRS

**Jan Philipp Albrecht**, Hamburg, Germany  
**Dirk Baecker**, Witten/Herdecke, Germany  
**Michael Bültmann**, Berlin, Germany  
**Mercedes Bunz**, Westminster, UK  
**Andreas Diekmann**, Zurich, Switzerland  
**Leonhard Dobusch**, Innsbruck, Austria  
**Elena Esposito**, Modena, Italy  
**Christian Fuchs**, Westminster, UK

**Mary L. Gray**, Bloomington, USA  
**Tom Holert**, Cologne, Germany  
**Bernhard Kaufmann**, Munich, Germany  
**Wilhelm Krull**, Hanover, Germany  
**Deborah Lupton**, Canberra, Australia  
**Laura Mann**, London, UK  
**Jos de Mul**, Rotterdam, The Netherlands  
**Armin Nassehi**, Munich, Germany

**Christoph Neuberger**, Munich, Germany  
**Cornelius Puschmann**, Hamburg, Germany  
**Saskia Sassen**, New York, USA  
**Ralph Schroeder**, Oxford, UK  
**Florian Süssenguth**, Munich, Germany  
**Michael Vassiliadis**, Hanover, Germany  
**Shunya Yoshimi**, Tokyo, Japan

### USEFUL INFORMATION

PROGRAM AND REGISTRATION: [www.volkswagenstiftung.de/societydigital](http://www.volkswagenstiftung.de/societydigital)

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: April 30, 2017. There is no charge for attendance but booking is essential.

BEGINNING of CONFERENCE May 31, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. / END of CONFERENCE June 2, 2017 at 1:30 p.m.

#### Herrenhausen Conferences

With its Herrenhausen Conferences the Volkswagen Foundation provides international experts as well as junior researchers with a platform for an intense interdisciplinary dialogue on exciting new areas of research and innovative methodological approaches. The main focus lies on the current challenges faced by each research area, on unanswered questions and unsolved problems – and on the respective research field's relevance for society.

**MAY 31 – JUNE 2, 2017**  
**HERRENHAUSEN PALACE, HANOVER, GERMANY**

**TRAVEL GRANTS FOR YOUNG RESEARCHERS**

## **SOCIETY THROUGH THE LENS OF THE DIGITAL**



### **THE TOPIC**

The Herrenhausen Conference “Society through the Lens of the Digital” explores the role of the social sciences and the humanities in a society saturated with debates on the effects of digitization: Parties, NGOs and the public sphere explore ideas of digital democracy. Luminaries of business try to map and unlock the potential of big data and of platform capitalism. Data journalists experiment with modes of describing the world not through linear texts but through algorithms and interactive visualizations while intelligent systems have to learn to navigate the often-ambiguous rules and structures of society. We are lacking scientific approaches to analyse this multiplicity of discourses on digitization in order to adequately explore its implications for research, research policy and the public role of the social sciences and humanities. The Herrenhausen Conference aims to fill this gap.

### **TRAVEL GRANTS AVAILABLE**

The Volkswagen Foundation offers travel grants for PhD students and early Post Docs (max. 5 years since PhD) working on theoretical, methodological and empirical tools to analyze and conceive of the digitization of society and interested in the role social sciences and the humanities play in processes of digitization. Applicants can win one of 20 travel grants to take part in this Herrenhausen Conference. Successful applicants will get the chance to discuss their research in a **pre-conference workshop** as well as to present it in various **formats within the conference**. The grants include travel expenses to and from Hanover, visa fees (if applicable), as well as accommodation in Hanover. Please apply by via <https://form.jotformeu.com/62013527318348> by **January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017**. Please note that we are not able to accept applications after this deadline.

### **YOUR APPLICATION SHOULD CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING**

- A short description of your research focus that explains how your approach tackles the challenges the questions of the digitization of society and role social sciences and the humanities play in it (max. 2.000 characters)
- A short abstract of your research project (max. 2.000 characters)
- A short C.V. (max. 1.000 characters)
- A short list of your most recent publications (max. 5).

### **SELECTION**

Participants will be selected by the steering committee. Acceptance will be based on qualification of the applicant as well as originality and potential of the project. We will inform the applicants about the results Mid-February 2017.

### **USEFUL INFORMATION**

APPLICATION DEADLINE: **January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017** via <https://form.jotformeu.com/62013527318348>

DETAILED PROGRAM: [www.volkswagenstiftung.de/societydigital](http://www.volkswagenstiftung.de/societydigital)

QUERIES: Please contact FLORIAN SÜSSENGUTH ([suessenguth@acatech.de](mailto:suessenguth@acatech.de)).

### **ORGANIZERS**



**MAY 31 – JUNE 2, 2017**  
**HERRENHAUSEN PALACE, HANOVER, GERMANY**

**TRAVEL GRANTS FOR DEVELOPERS**

## **SOCIETY THROUGH THE LENS OF THE DIGITAL**



### **THE TOPIC**

The Herrenhausen Conference „Society through the Lens of the Digital“ explores the role of the social sciences and the humanities in a society saturated with debates on the effects of digitization. Intelligent systems have to learn to navigate the often-ambiguous rules and structures of society while data journalists experiment with modes of describing the world not through linear texts but through algorithms and interactive visualizations. People strive to gain more knowledge about themselves by lifelogging at same time as start-ups and established companies alike try to map and unlock the potential of big data. In all these areas social and technological questions mix and create unique opportunities and challenges. Yet researchers from the social sciences and humanities seldom team up with start-ups, developers and researchers in the STEM-field. The Herrenhausen Conference aims to fill this gap.

### **TRAVEL GRANTS AVAILABLE**

The Volkswagen Foundation offers travel grants for developers, start-ups as well as PhD students and early Post Docs (max. 5 years since PhD) from the STEM-field. Applicants can win one of 10 travel grants to take part in the Herrenhausen Conference. Successful applicants will get the chance to **present their projects** and to discuss the interplay of technological and social questions within them. The grants include travel expenses to and from Hanover, visa fees (if applicable), as well as accommodation in Hanover. Limited funds for the transport of demonstrators, materials, etc. are available. Please apply by **January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017** via <https://form.jotformeu.com/63122525699360>. Please note that we are not able to accept applications after this deadline.

### **YOUR APPLICATION SHOULD CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING**

- A short description of your project (max. 2.000 characters)
- A short description of the social and cultural issues connected to your project that you would like to present and discuss. Please note that this is explicitly not limited to ethical issues! We are equally interested in questions of lifestyle, politics, dealing with the ambiguity and informality of social norms etc. (max. 1.000 characters)
- A short C.V. (max. 1.000 characters)
- A short list of your most recent publications (if applicable; max. 5)
- A short presentation of your company/start-up (if applicable).

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