

PREGOV II (PREdictive GOVernance)

Towards Transdisciplinary Perspectives on Algorithmic Prediction & Decision-Making

17-18th September, 2021, Helmut-Schmidt-University

Location: Pop-up-Horst, Winterhuder Weg 112, Hamburg (www.pop-up-horst.de)

Building on our first meeting in 2020, this workshop continues to explore the increasing digitalization of public governance and how new forms of datafication, quantification, and automation enable governments and other powerful stakeholders to construct images of the future.

We inquire how human and machine-made (or assisted) decisions intertwine. In terms of the notions of governing and governance, the question arises as to who (or what) actually governs or regulates whom (or what). The introduction of predictive technologies raises further questions: What new facets are emerging in our understanding of the future, its predictability, its influenceability? How transparent are predictive systems? To what extent does social control take place? What is "seen", observed and what is not? Who (or what) is responsible for what? What role does expertise play, or who (or what) has what claim to knowledge about the future? Possible answers to these questions reveal fundamental areas of tension that cannot be resolved easily – or at all. These include, for example, inherent uncertainty vs. prediction by algorithms; artificial intelligence vs. "artificial stupidity"; reproduction vs. production of the new; democratization and inclusion vs. discrimination; government by algorithms vs. regulation of algorithms.

This year's workshop will bring together recently established and young scholars from Germany and abroad from diverse fields such as philosophy, sociology, economics, and computer science. Thematically, we will focus on the following three topics: (1) the development of conceptual foundations of predictions of the future in the social sciences, (2) prediction of human behavior, especially in police and security agencies, and (3) prediction and control by algorithms in public administration.

Our aim is to create a discussion about common themes and variations of predictive governance across these different settings, generating opportunities for collaboration and future research.

Schedule

Friday, September 17th, 2021

12 pm light Lunch at the Pop-up-Horst

12:45 pm Welcome by the organizers

1:00-3:00 pm Session on sharpening the conceptual tools: Predicting the future in social sciences

Predictive governance: A few reflections on a research field
Manuel Reinhard (Helmut Schmidt University Hamburg)

The future as a social fact: Sociological perspectives on expectations, aspirations and imagined futures
Lisa Suckert (Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies Köln)

Thinking ahead: Insights from a philosophy of time
Bruno Gransche (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology)

Discussion

Coffee Break

3:30-5:30 pm Session on predicting human behavior in policing and security

(Artificial) Financial intelligence? The mastery of making money traceable
Carola Westermeier (Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen und University of Amsterdam)

Tales from the field: Predicting incidents in unsafe African environments
Finn Plotz (SEON - Private Security Technology, Cape Town/Hamburg)

Social consequences of algorithmic forecast: The case of predictive policing
Simon Egbert (Universität Bielefeld) und Maximilian Heimstädt (Weizenbaum-Institut, Universität Bielefeld)

Discussion

Dinner

Saturday, September 18th, 2021

9am-11.30am Session on algorithmic predictions & control in public services

Wisdom of patients: predicting the quality of public health care using aggregated patient feedback

Alexander Griffiths (Co-Founder of PEP Health, London)

The potentials of algorithms to predict customer & citizen needs

Jaromir Junne & Jacob Reilley (both Helmut-Schmidt-University, Hamburg)

Digitalization and accounting in times of crises: the case of COVID-19

Nadine Gerhardt (Universität Witten/Herdecke)

Constructing decision alternatives: The promise of predictive accounting and its impact on decision-making

Christian Huber and Jan Mouritsen (both Copenhagen Business School)

Discussion

Coffee break

12:00am-1:30pm Towards transdisciplinary perspectives on algorithmic prediction & decision making: wrap-up, comparative conclusions, and future ideas

1:30pm End of conference

Organization team:

HSU - Department for Management, Accounting and Control:

Dr. Jaromir Junne

Bielefeld University and Weizenbaum Institute Berlin:

Dr. Maximilian Heimstädt

CBS - Department of Operations Management:

Assoc. Prof. Christian Huber

HSU - Department of Sociology:

Dr. Manuel Reinhard, Annina Förschler, Prof. Dr. Sigrid Hartong

Registration is requested!

Please send an email to: jjunne@hsu-hh.de