

11./12. March 2025

DIGITAL SOCIETY

**A NEW 90 ECTS CREDITS MASTER MAJOR
STILL: A 30 ECTS CREDITS MASTER MINOR**

Presentation

Dr. Anna Jobin

Senior Researcher & Lecturer

Digital Society Study Advisor

DIGITAL SOCIETY **A NEW MASTER PROGRAMME**



THE PROGRAMME

- **Training to analyse digital transformations**
- **Social sciences and interdisciplinary**
- **Course topics in line with current public debates**
- **Unique in Switzerland**

DIGITAL SOCIETY **A NEW MASTER PROGRAMME**



WHY?

- **You are curious**
- **Unique in Switzerland**
- **Added value for employment**
- **The “digital” is too important to leave it to computer science**

DIGITAL SOCIETY BEHIND THE PROGRAMME

Prof. Dr. David Bozzini

- Prof. Dr. David Bozzini is the **academic head** of the Digital Society master program. He is a social anthropologist interested in researching information security and digital surveillance.



Prof. Dr. Denis Lalanne

- Prof. Dr. Denis Lalanne is a computer scientist by training and the director of the institute Human-IST, the institutional home of Digital Society. His research is situated in the domain of Human Computer Interaction (HCI).



Prof. Dr. Oliver Krüger

- Prof. Dr. Oliver Krüger is professor for the study of religions at and a member of the digital society board. His research and teaching focus mainly on the sociology of religion, transhumanism and new media.



Prof. Dr. Andreas Hadjar

- Prof. Dr. Andreas Hadjar is professor of sociology, social policy and social research at the study division sociology, social policy and social work, specialized in studying inequality, and on the digital society board.



DIGITAL SOCIETY **A NEW MASTER PROGRAMME**

Digital Society Master programme

Introduction: What is this programme about?

Organisation of the programmes (major, minor)

Practical + additional information

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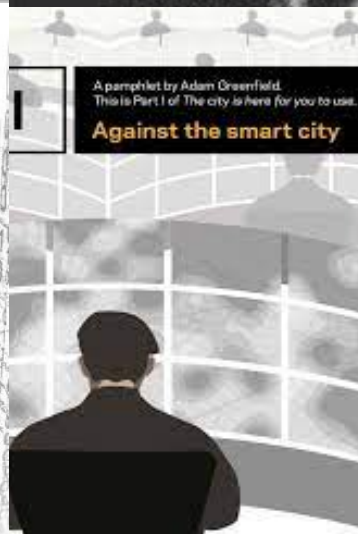
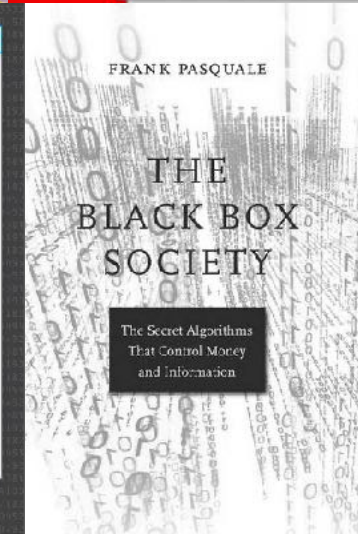
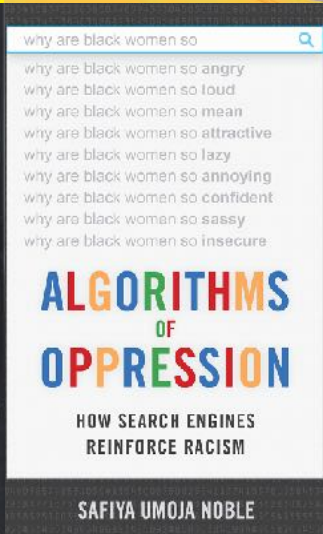
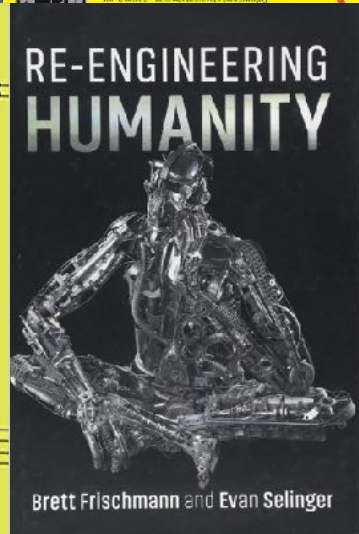
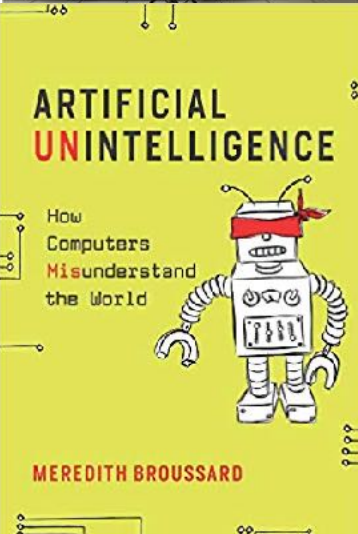
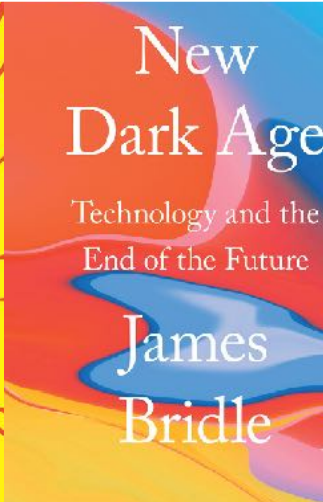
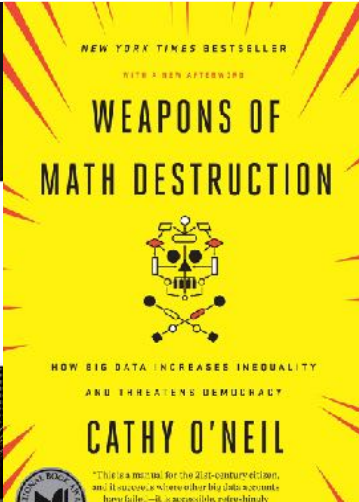
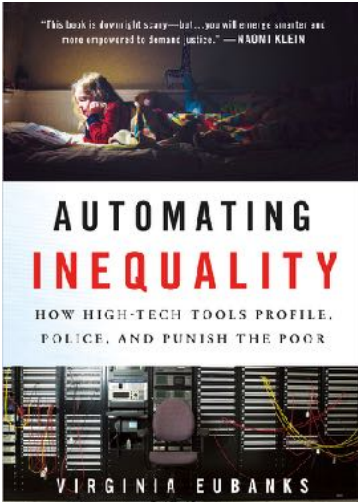
Digital Society Master programme

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DIGITAL SOCIETY INTRODUCTION



DIGITAL SOCIETY INTRODUCTION

THE
SIMPLE ANSWERS
TO THE QUESTIONS THAT GET ASKED
ABOUT EVERY NEW TECHNOLOGY:

WILL <input type="checkbox"/> MAKE US ALL GENIUSES?	NO
WILL <input type="checkbox"/> MAKE US ALL MORONS?	NO
WILL <input type="checkbox"/> DESTROY WHOLE INDUSTRIES?	YES
WILL <input type="checkbox"/> MAKE US MORE EMPATHETIC?	NO
WILL <input type="checkbox"/> MAKE US LESS CARING?	NO
WILL TEENS USE <input type="checkbox"/> FOR SEX?	YES
WERE THEY GOING TO HAVE SEX ANYWAY?	YES
WILL <input type="checkbox"/> DESTROY MUSIC?	NO
WILL <input type="checkbox"/> DESTROY ART?	NO
BUT CAN'T WE GO BACK TO A TIME WHEN—	NO
WILL <input type="checkbox"/> BRING ABOUT WORLD PEACE?	NO
WILL <input type="checkbox"/> CAUSE WIDESPREAD ALIENATION BY CREATING A WORLD OF EMPTY EXPERIENCES?	WE WERE ALREADY ALIENATED

<http://xkcd.com/1289/>

DIGITAL SOCIETY **INTRODUCTION**

The impact *of* (digital) Technology



DIGITAL SOCIETY **INTRODUCTION**

The impact *on* (digital) Technology



**(SOCIAL)
CONSTRUCTION OF
TECHNOLOGY**

DIGITAL SOCIETY **INTRODUCTION**

The social shaping of (digital) technology



“Technology is never purely technological: it is also social.

The social is never purely social: it is also technological.

This is something easy to say but difficult to work with.”

Bijker, W. E. & Law, J. *Shaping technology/building society: studies in sociotechnical change*. (The MIT Press, 1994)

DIGITAL SOCIETY INTRODUCTION

2023

Digital Society: Digital Transformation in Society & Culture

Tuesdays 17:15-18:45

UniFR, Blvd. de Pérolles 90, room A230

26 Infrastructures as Power in the Internet Governance Ecosystem - Opening lecture

SEP Dr. Francesca Musiani
Associate Research Professor and Deputy Director, Centre Internet et Société, CNRS, Paris

03 Digital transformation domain: art (working title)

OCT Dr. Chris Salter
Professor of Immersive Arts, Director of the Immersive Arts Space, Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK)
Professor Emeritus, Design and Computation Arts, Concordia University, Montreal, QC, Canada

10 Datafication: computer science

OCT Dr. Philip Cudré-Mauroux
Professor at the University of Fribourg, Director of the eXascale Infolab

17 Algorithms & AI vs. Democracy & Human Rights?

OCT Dr. des. Angela Müller
Head of AlgorithmWatch CH, Head of Policy & Advocacy at AlgorithmWatch

31 Datafication: work (working title)

OCT Dr. Sarah Genner
Board member, consultant at genner.cc

07 Governance & values: law (working title)

NOV Dr. Pascal Pichonnaz
Professor at the Fribourg University Law Faculty, Director of the European Law Institute, Vienna

14 Digital Transformation, Continuation, or Consolidation? A case study of data and justice.

NOV Dr. Margarita Boenig-Liptsin
Assistant Professor for Ethics, Technology and Society, ETH Zurich

21 Digital Transformation in Healthcare: A human-centered approach

NOV Dr. Julia Amann
Project lead strategy & innovation, Careum Zurich

28 Religion and technology - a twofold approach

NOV Dr. Oliver Krüger
Professor for the Study of Religions at the University of Fribourg

05 The Power of Digital Platforms

DEC Dr. Philip Balsiger
Professor for economic sociology, University of Neuchâtel

12 The study of games: What do they reveal about society

DEC Dr. Yannick Rochat
Assistant professor in game studies at the University of Lausanne

HUMAN-IST / COLLOQUIUM DUIF
BLVD. DE PÉROLLES 90
CH-1700 FRIBOURG

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Digital Society: Digital Transformation in Society & Culture Public Lectures 2024

Tuesdays 15:15-16:45

UniFR, Blvd. de Pérolles 90, room A230

2024

24 Who is heard in public debates?

SEP Prof. Dr. Regula Hänggeli Fricker
Professor of Communication and Media Research at the University of Fribourg

01 Datafication: computer science

OCT Dr. Philippe Cudré-Mauroux
Professor at the University of Fribourg, Director of the eXascale Infolab

08 Oh my bug! Tales from the insecurity machine

OCT Prof. Dr. David Bozzini
Professor of Anthropology at the University of Fribourg

15 AI as assistant to judges or their future substitute? Risks of social disruption.

OCT Dr. Pascal Pichonnaz
Professor at the Fribourg University Law Faculty, Director of the European Law Institute, Vienna

22 When platforms challenge professions: alliances and divisions among Swiss hoteliers

OCT Prof. Dr. Muriel Surdez
Professor for Social Sciences at University of Fribourg

29 The power of digital platforms

OCT Dr. Philip Balsiger
Professor for Economic Sociology, University of Neuchâtel

05 A just and safe space for digital sustainability

NOV Dr. Ivo Wallimann Helmer
Prof. Dr. phil. in Environmental Humanities, Director of the UniFR_ESH Institute

19 Corporate software cultures: stories from a "middle tech" company

NOV Prof. Dr. Paula Bialski
Associate Professor for Digital Sociology at the University of St. Gallen

03 Religion and technology - a twofold approach

DEC Dr. Oliver Krüger
Professor for the Study of Religions at the University of Fribourg

12 Algorithmic management in the workplace and working time fragmentation

DEC Dr. Jessica Pidoux
Post-Doctoral Researcher and Lecturer at the University of Neuchâtel, Director at PersonalData.io

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CH-1700 FRIBOURG

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DIGITAL SOCIETY INTRODUCTION

UPCOMING

Challenging AI ethics Understanding the Human in “Human Centered AI”

Lunch talk by Prof. Dr. M. Braun

- on Thursday, April 3
- at 12:15
- University of Fribourg, Campus Péroilles
- PER-21, room F207

Digital Society

Challenging AI Ethics: Understanding the Human in “Human Centered AI”

Lunch talk by

Prof. Dr. Matthias Braun

Department of Social Ethics, University of Bonn

Human-centered AI is currently one of the big buzzwords in many ethical and legal debates, but also in important policy documents. Almost every page of the major AI companies also contains a note that AI must be human-centered. However, what exactly is meant by this varies widely and sometimes differs fundamentally. In the lunch talk, I will give a brief overview of current approaches and concepts of human-centered AI. Against this background, we will look at possible objections and alternatives to the concept and venture a brief outlook on the consequences for the design of future AI governance.

Matthias Braun is leading the Department of Social Ethics at the University of Bonn and is a Research Associate at the University of Oxford. His research focuses on questions of political ethics, ethical and governance related challenges of new technologies, as well as questions of justice and solidarity.

Thursday 03.04.2024
12:15-13:00
UniFR, Péroilles 90, Room F207



DIGITAL SOCIETY INTRODUCTION



MINOR Compulsory learning units

- Digital Transformation in Society and Culture (public lecture series)
- Social History of Computing and the Internet
- Perspectives in the Social Studies of Technology (PSST)
- Methods in Studies of the Digital Society (MSDS)
- Foundations of Informatics

DIGITAL SOCIETY INTRODUCTION



- MINOR**
Elective learning units (ex.)
- Governing the digital society
 - Law and the digital society
 - d3c1ph3r hacking
 - Digitalization and the Global South
 - Digital methodology for historical research
 - (Digitized) crisis communication and reputation building for companies and nation states

DIGITAL SOCIETY INTRODUCTION



Master

More information

➔ unifr.ch/go/digitalsociety

Digital Society

Abstract

The interdisciplinary master programme *Digital Society* teaches students about digital media in society as well as technological change. Students acquire specialist knowledge and methods from sociology, social anthropology and science&technology studies (STS) alongside the fundamentals of IT. The programme provides students with an in-depth exploration of the social dimensions of digital technologies in contemporary societies. Graduates will be prepared to apply the specialist knowledge and methods of both social sciences and technology to issues of digital transformation and fostering interdisciplinary thinking and work. The course is taught in collaboration between

[Apply for admission →](#)

[E-mail](#)

[PDF](#)

Key points

Degree conferred

Master of Arts in Social Sciences; Digital Society

DIGITAL SOCIETY INTRODUCTION

Digital Society

Understanding and shaping change



Home

Major

Minor

Courses

Team

More information

➔ digital-society.human-ist.ch

Digital Society

The *Digital Society* programme is a master programme at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland. It is currently offered as a minor programme (30 ECTS) and will also be offered as a Major programme (90 ECTS) starting 2025. It focuses on the social dimensions and consequences of digital technology in today's societies.

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DIGITAL SOCIETY ORGANISATION

Module 1

(15 ECTS credits)

Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Digital Transformation of Society

Compulsory learning units

- Digital Transformation in Society and Culture (public lecture series)
- Social History of Computing and the Internet
- Perspectives in the Social Studies of Technology (PSST)
- Methods in Studies of the Digital Society (MSDS)
- Foundations of Informatics

DIGITAL SOCIETY ORGANISATION

Module 2

(15 ECTS credits)

Theories and Case Studies

elective learning units

Elective learning units

- Theories and empirical case studies
- 3 courses/seminars
- 1 research paper tied to a seminar

DIGITAL SOCIETY ORGANISATION

Module 1

(15 ECTS credits)

Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Digital Transformation of Society

Module 2

(15 ECTS credits)

Theories and Case Studies
elective learning units

MINOR
30 ECTS CREDITS

DIGITAL SOCIETY ORGANISATION

Module 3

(15 ECTS credits)

Methods, Skills and Applications

Modular learning units

- Digital Skills (modular)
- Digital Methods (lecture/seminar)
- Science-practice link (study-week, workshop or internship)
- 1 research paper

DIGITAL SOCIETY ORGANISATION

Module 4

(15 ECTS credits)

Digital Society in the Making:
Analyses and Debates

Elective learning units

- Analyses and debates
- 2 courses/seminars
- 1 research paper tied to a seminar
- MA colloquium

DIGITAL SOCIETY ORGANISATION

Module 1

(15 ECTS credits)

Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Digital Transformation of Society

Module 2

(15 ECTS credits)

Theories and Case Studies
elective learning units

Module 3

(15 ECTS credits)

Methods, Skills and Applications

Module 4

(15 ECTS credits)

Digital Society in the Making:
Analyses and Debates

Masterexam (Master thesis + defense)

(30 ECTS credits)

MAJOR
90 ECTS CREDITS

DIGITAL SOCIETY ORGANISATION

Module 1

(15 ECTS credits)

Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the
Digital Transformation of Society

Module 2

(15 ECTS credits)

Theories and Case Studies
elective learning units

Module 3

(15 ECTS credits)

Methods, Skills and Applications

Module 4

(15 ECTS credits)

Digital Society in the Making:
Analyses and Debates

Masterexam (Master thesis + defense)

(30 ECTS credits)

Elective Master Minor

(30 ECTS credits)

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

- Flexible studies depending on your background and interests
- Programme entirely in English
- Elective classes in FR / DE
- Take classes in any order (exceptions apply)
- Max. duration: 9 semesters for a 90 ECTS Major (12 semesters with a MA minor)
- Admission with a BA (with or without conditions)



DIGITAL SOCIETY

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Admission:

unifr.ch/go/digitalsociety

Due date:

enrol by April 30, 2025

Language requirements:

None; uni administration in FR/DE

Cost:

application fee, [semester fees](#), exam fees, cost of living

How much does the semester fee cost? ^

	Basic registration fee*	Tuition fee	Semester fee (total)
Students of Swiss or Liechtenstein nationality, students with a C residence permit or whose parents are domiciled in Switzerland or Liechtenstein	CHF 115.-	CHF 720.-	CHF 835.-
Foreign students	CHF 115.-	CHF 870.-	CHF 985.-

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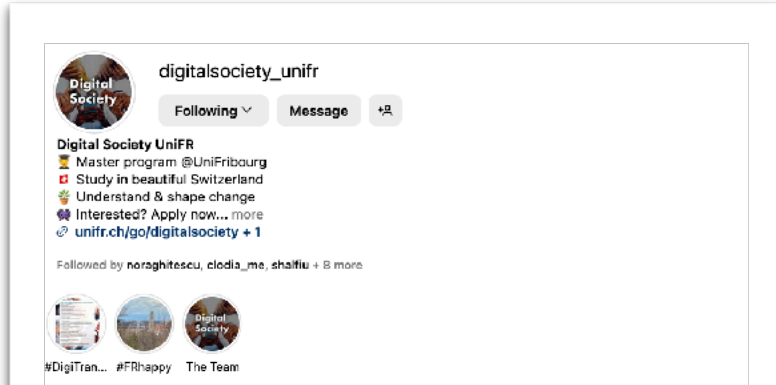
More information

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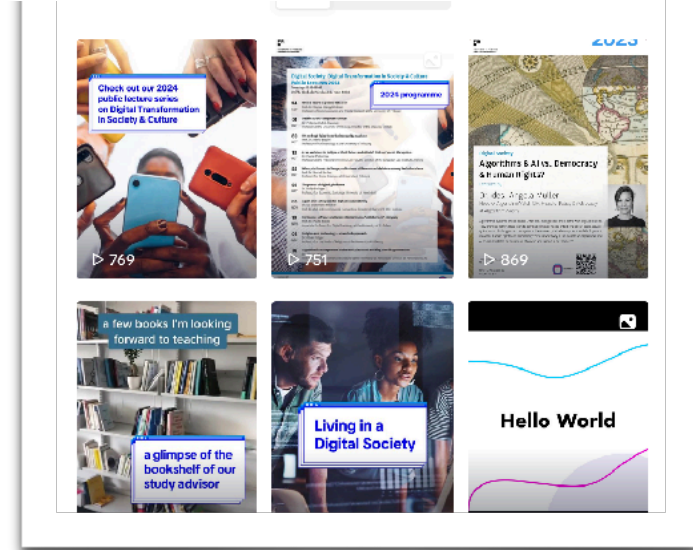
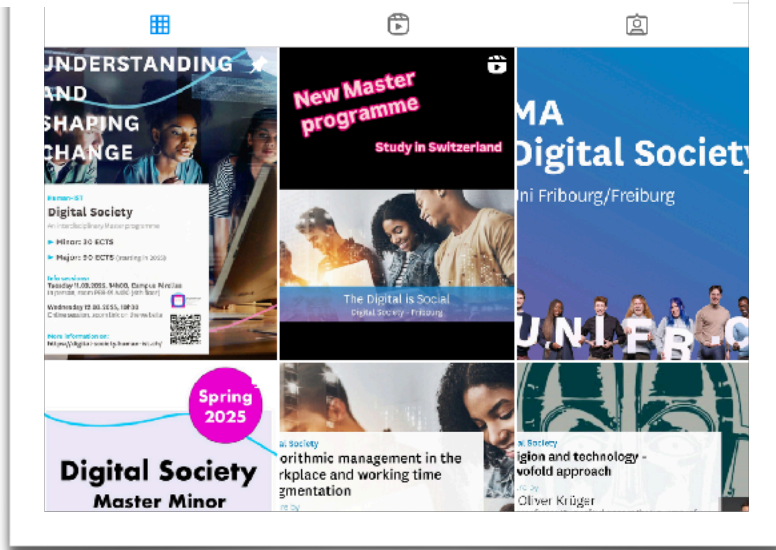
DIGITAL SOCIETY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



Instagram: [@digitalsociety_unifr](https://www.instagram.com/digitalsociety_unifr)



TikTok: [@digitalsociety_unifr](https://www.tiktok.com/@digitalsociety_unifr)



DIGITAL SOCIETY **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Start any semester:
enrol by April 30, 2025 to start
Digital Society in autumn 2025

Questions re: enrolment, classes,
the schedule, or something else?

➔ Get in touch a.s.a.p. with the
Digital Society study advisor:
anna.jobin@unifr.ch

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Thank you

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