



University of  
Zurich<sup>UZH</sup>

IKMZ – Institute of Communication and Media Research

The IKMZ Speaker Series presents:  
“**Gestures of silence in networked media**”

**Prof. Dr. Taina Bucher**

University of Oslo

**Monday, 27.2., 2023  
15:00-16:00, Room 3.46**

**Abstract:** At the centre of (deliberate) democratic theory lies a fundamental belief in the power of speech as the modus operandi of democratic life. Rather than measuring a well-functioning democracy through active participation and vocal citizenship, this talk shifts the attention to the significance of silence as an alternative for thinking about the boundaries and limits of democracy. Even if a model of non-communication is hard to sustain in a digital environment designed to compute everything, including seemingly silent data points (e.g., skipping, scrolling, hesitations), this talk examines the affirmative potentials of silence in a society that valorizes values of voice and speech.

**Taina Bucher** is professor in media studies at the Department of media and communication, University of Oslo (UiO), and Head of the Screen Culture research and teaching cluster at the Faculty of Humanities, UiO. She studies the relationships and entanglements between algorithms, social and political concerns – examining how users experience and make sense of algorithmic power and politics. She is the author of *If...Then: Algorithmic Power and Politics* (OUP, 2018) and *Facebook* (Polity Press, 2021). Her current research focuses on the politics of silence in the networked media environment.

