



University of  
Zurich<sup>UZH</sup>

IKMZ – Institute of Communication and Media Research

The IKMZ Speaker Series presents

## The Qualified Self: Social Media & the Accounting of Everyday Life

Professor Lee Humphreys  
Cornell University

**Monday, September 17, 2018**

**16:15-17:15**

**Room AND 4.06**

### Abstract

Many of the ways we use mobile and social media today have longstanding precedents in historical media like letters, diaries, and home movies. What we think of as the 'social media revolution' is part of a much longer story about the use of media for connecting people through the documenting and sharing of everyday life. In this talk, Professor Humphreys will talk about her new book, *The Qualified Self*, which place mobile and social media into a longer historical context to reveal what is really new about these contemporary communication technologies, what future services might learn from historical communication practices, and what fundamental aspects of the human experience emerge through a comparison of technological platforms.

### Bio:

Lee Humphreys is an Associate Professor in Communication at Cornell University. She studies the social uses and perceived effects of communication technology and media. Her research has explored mobile phone use in public spaces, emerging norms on mobile social networks, and the privacy and surveillance implications of mobile location-based services. Often using qualitative field methods, she focuses on how people integrate communication technology into their everyday lives in order to facilitate identity management and social interaction. She co-edited two books on digital media entitled, *Digital Media: Transformations in Human Communication* (Peter Lang, 2006 and 2017) with Paul Messaris. Her book, *The Qualified Self: Social Media and the Accounting of Everyday Life*, was published with MIT Press in 2018. She is an Associate Editor of *Journal of Computer Mediated Communication* and on the editorial boards of *Mobile Media & Communication*, *Communication Methods and Measures*, *Information Communication and Society*, and *Journal of Ethnographic & Qualitative Research*. She was the Chair of the Communication and Technology Division of the International Communication Association from 2016-2018. She received her Ph.D. from the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania in 2007.

