IKMZ Speaker Series

Deplatforming the far-right: The conceptual and methodological implications of platform interventions

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Monday, 17th May 2021
16:00 – 17:00
Zoom *[Link will be communicated]*

The practice of deplatforming, i.e. the removal of undesired actors, has become a common practice on social media platforms such as YouTube. Little research has gone into understanding the scope and impact of deplatforming. I will use the case of the far-right in the US to discuss the conceptual and methodological consequences of platform interventions. I will first introduce my research about the far-right on YouTube in Germany as well as the US. Secondly, I will show the scale and effect of deplatforming on YouTube. In my conclusion I will discuss how such interventions lead to new methodological and conceptual challenges.

Adrian Rauchfleisch is an assistant professor at the Graduate Institute of Journalism at the National Taiwan University. In his research, he focuses on the interplay of politics, the internet, and journalism. His research about YouTube has been funded by the Ministry of Science and Technology (Taiwan R.O.C). Furthermore, he helped to develop the Twitter Listener in collaboration with the Research Center for the Public Sphere and Society (fög) and is a Co-PI for the NRP 77 project The Relevance of Journalism in the Digital Information Source Repertoires of Young Adults. In his research he also focuses on science communication and is a member of the Science Barometer Switzerland Advisory Board as well as the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics Public Attitudes, Knowledge, and Interest Expert Panel. His critical research about YouTube as well as bot detection methods has been covered by news media such as the New York Times, the Guardian, CNBC, 天下雜誌, and BuzzFeed News.

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