



University of
Zurich^{UZH}

IKMZ – Institute of Communication and Media Research

The IKMZ Speaker Series presents:

Substantial differences between gossip, story-telling, and other topics in spontaneous communication

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16:15-17:15

Room AND 4.06

Gossip constitutes a large proportion of human communication. There are several potential explanations why people gossip so much and what it brings for them. As the different accounts on the functions of gossip have mostly been addressed in qualitative, experimental, and survey methods, we lack solid evidence about the nature of gossip in spontaneous human communication. In this presentation, we describe a quantitative approach to identify gossip and describe the topics of informal communication in a large corpus containing unfiltered spontaneous discussions among eight participants

Károly Takács is the Principal Investigator of MTA TK “Lendület” Research Center for Educational and Network Studies (RECENS). He received his Ph.D. from the University of Groningen / ICS in 2002. His main research interests are the theoretical, experimental, and empirical analysis of the dynamics of social networks and reputations, in relation to problems of cooperation and conflict. He has received the “Lendület” grant of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in 2012 and runs an ERC Consolidator Grant since 2015. His main international publications appeared in *Advances in Complex Systems*, *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, *Journal of Applied Mathematics*, *JASSS*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Journal of Theoretical Biology*, *Organization Science*, *Physica A*, *PLOS One*, *Research Policy*, *Scientometrics*, *Social Networks*, and *Social Psychology Quarterly*.

