

DEPARTEMENT D'INFORMATIQUE

## INFORMATICS COLLOQUIUM

Speaker:

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

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

## **Abstract:**

There is much talk of "transformation" today and it is true that things appear to be rapidly changing at the intersection of digital technologies and society. Meanwhile, important human questions and realities persist. What's transforming and what's staying the same? How are new digital capacities layered on older histories of the digital in their broader societal contexts? In this talk, I will explore these questions by identifying a sociotechnical imaginary of data and justice alive today whose origins can be traced back to the 1970s United States, when risk discourses, practices and institutions converge with John Rawls' theory of distributive justice and visions of the information society. If transformations are also inflection points where societies can take a radically different course, then how, given the understanding of the co-production of data and justice, can interpretive social scientists aim to intervene in this moment in pursuit of a more just digital human future?

## Bio:

Since September 2022, Margarita Boenig-Liptsin is a tenure-track Assistant Professor for Ethics, Technology and Society in the Department of Humanities, and Social and Political Sciences at ETH Zürich. She is trained in the field of Science, Technology and Society (from the Harvard STS Programcall\_made) and holds a PhD in History of Science (Harvard University) and in Philosophy (Université Paris-Sorbonne).

Her research examines transformations to human identity and citizenship in relation to information technologies across time and cultures. She also studies the meaning, practices, and institutions of ethics and democratic governance in contemporary technological societies.

From 2018 - 2021 she was the Director of the Human Contexts and Ethics Programcall\_made in the Division of Computing, Data Science, and Societycall\_made at UC Berkeley and Lecturer in the History Department. At Berkeley, Boenig-Liptsin led a team that developed the Human Contexts and Ethics (HCE) component of data science education. In 2021-2022 Boenig-Liptsin held the Sorbonne Université - Paris IAS Chair on "Major Changes"call\_made research fellowship at the Institut d'Études Avancéescall\_made in Paris.

She teaches about the relationship between technology, power, democracy, and ethics with a foundation in Science, Technology, and Society (STS) to students in both technical and social science/humanities fields. She aspires to translate social science theory and methods for students of all backgrounds. She values building connections between engineering and social sciences by bringing together faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates into a community of scholars focused on issues of technology and society in ways that connect to the expertise and local needs of communities in Zürich, Switzerland, and Europe.

Date and time: Tuesday November 14th, 2023, 5:15 pm

Location: Pérolles 21, room A230, Bd de Pérolles 90, Fribourg Contact person: Prof. Denis Lalanne, Prof. David Bozzini, Dr. Anna Jobin

The colloquium is free and open to the public.