



INFORMATICS COLLOQUIUM

Speaker:

Prof. Dr. Oliver Krüger

Professor for the Study of Religions at the University of Fribourg

Religion and technology - a twofold approach

Abstract:

Every technological innovation invites a thorough examination of its practical implications that involve a careful evaluation of the advantages and disadvantages of its applications in conjunction with associated costs. Concurrently, a societal and cultural discourse unfolds, delving into the merits, impacts, and prospects of the new technology. This is particularly the case when it comes to the relationship between humans and computers.

In the context of religion we have to follow a twofold approach. On the one hand we have to consider how specific religious communities deal with digital media and how common religious norms evolve to a global moral code (e.g. the ban of nudity). On the other hand digital media emerge as pivotal components of a comprehensive transhumanist vision encompassing all life on Earth. They envision the boundless augmentation of human capabilities through cybertechnologies, while posthumanists foresee computers offering a pathway to digital immortality. Here, digital media (esp. the hoped-for artificial intelligence) are integrated into a larger, cosmic salvation history.

Bio:

Since September 2022, Margarita Boenig-Liptsin is a tenure-track Assistant Professor for Ethics, After holding academic posts in Bonn, Heidelberg, and Princeton, Oliver Krüger has been Professor for the Study of Religions at the University of Fribourg (Switzerland) since 2007. His research covers the fields of religion and media, posthumanism and transhumanism, as well as the theory of religion. Most recent publication: Virtual Immortality. God, Evolution, and the Singularity in Post- and Transhumanism. Bielefeld: transcript 2021.

Date and time:

Tuesday November 28th, 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.