CONTRIBUTORS

HIIG project team

Nadine Birner

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Nadine Birner coordinates the EU Hub of Internet and Society Research Centers as well as the research project on the ethics of digitalisation at the HIIG.

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Daniela Dicks is Co-Lead of the AI & Society Lab, accompanying its strategic development and coordinating scientific transfer formats.

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Friederike Stock is a student assistant for the project "Ethics of Digitalisation" and the Network of Centers (NoC).

Research team

I. Governance perspective

Vincent Hofmann

Researcher: The Ethics of Digitalisation | AI & Society Lab – HIIG

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Vincent Hofmann has been working as a junior researcher at the HIIG since June 2021. He is working on the project "The Ethics of Digitalisation".

He studied law at the Goethe University in Frankfurt am Main (on a scholarship from the Deutschlandstipendium) with a focus on the Internationalisation and Europeanisation of law. His research is focused on Platform Governance.

In addition to his studies, he produced the weekly podcast "Wer will was von wem woraus [Who wants what from whom]", in which he discussed the content and problems of law studies for students.

Matthias Kettemann

Associated Researcher – HIIG

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Dr. Matthias Kettemann is head of the research programme "Regulatory Structures and the Emergence of Rules in Online Spaces" at the Leibniz Institute for Media Research │ Hans-Bredow-Institut (HBI). He leads a team of doctoral and postdoctoral researchers who investigate the rules under which new forms and practices of communication are realized in digital communication spaces, and especially in social networks. Dr. Kettemann previously led the projects "Crisis of Normativity and Normativity of the Crisis in the Internet" and "The Normative Order of the Internet" at the Cluster of Excellence "The Emergence of Normative Orders" at Goethe University Frankfurt am Main. He was a member of the directorate of the Cluster of Excellence, Convenor of the Frankfurt Colloquium for Internet Research, Co-Convenor of the "Norms, Plurality,

Critique, Postdoctoral Dialogue Series" and founder and co-lead of the Research Focus "Internet and Society".

Judith Simon

Professor for Ethics in Information Technology – University of Hamburg

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Prof. Judith Simon is Full Professor for Ethics in Information Technologies at the Universität Hamburg. She is interested in ethical, epistemological and political questions arising in the context of digital technologies, in particular in regards to big data and artificial intelligence. Judith Simon is a member of the German Ethics Council as well as various other committees of scientific policy advice and has also been a member of the Data Ethics Commission of the German Federal Government (2018-2019). Her Routledge Handbook of Trust and Philosophy has been published in June 2020.

Wolfgang Schulz

Research Director – HIIG

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In November 2011 Prof. Schulz was appointed professor for "Media Law and Public Law including Theoretical Foundations" at the Faculty of Law at the University of Hamburg.

Since July 2001 he has been a member of the directorate of the Hans-Bredow Insitute. The focus of his work is on issues regarding the regulation of media content (specifically the portrayal of violence), issues regarding the regulation of new media – especially exposure of violence – questions concerning the legal basis of new communication media, specifically digital television and legal issues of journalism as well as questions tackling a legal basis of the freedom of communication and, according to systems theory, descriptions of

journalistic systems.

He also works on legal instruments of the state, for instance with regards to 'regulated self-regulation'. Wolfgang Schulz is a member of Committee of Experts on Internet Intermediaries (MSI-NET) of the European Council as well as a member of the committee of experts 'Communication and Information' and of the advisory board 'Diversity of Cultural Forms of Expression' of the German UNESCO-Commission. Furthermore, he is a member of the Editorial Committee of the Journal of Media Law and leads the Law-Group of Hamburg@Work, a cluster initiative for the 'MITT-Wirtschaft' (Mass Media, IT, Telecommunication), which was founded by the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg and by Hamburg firms as a public private partnership.

II.   Technical perspective

Aljoscha Burchardt

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Aljoscha Burchardt is deputy site spokesman for the German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI) in Berlin. He is an expert in language technology and artificial intelligence. Burchardt is co-developer of the MQM framework for assessing translation quality and co-editor of the book "IT for Social Inclusion." He is a Research Fellow of the Weizenbaum Institute for the Networked Society and Vice-Chair of the Berlin Scientific Society. He is also an expert member of the Enquete Commission "Artificial Intelligence" of the German Bundestag.

Freya Hewett

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Freya Hewett joined the 'Public Interest AI' research project at the Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society in January 2021. Her research is focused primarily on AI related to language and linguistics.

During her Bachelor's in Italian and English Philology at the Freie Universität Berlin, Freya specialised in sociolinguistics and wrote her thesis on conversation analysis in Italian WhatsApp messages. She then continued her studies at the University Potsdam, with the Master's program Cognitive Systems, and completed modules on machine learning, computational linguistics and logical programming. Her thesis was on the automatic assessment of text complexity, with a specific focus on the conceptual complexity in German texts. Prior to working at HIIG, Freya was a student assistant at the Department for Romance Languages at the University Potsdam and worked on projects related to Open Data and Digital Humanities. Her dissertation examines how computational methods can be used in the context of text complexity, with the goal to make written texts more accessible using automated methods.

Nils Feldhus

Researcher Speech and Language Technology – DFKI

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Nils Feldhus is a researcher and software engineer at the Speech and Language Technology department of the German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI) in Berlin and a PhD candidate in Computer Science advised by Prof. Dr.-Ing. Sebastian Möller starting April 2021. He joined the DFKI in January 2020 as part of the European Language Grid technical team. His research is focused on natural language generation and the explainability/interpretability of neural models. He also co-authored papers on multi-agent dialogue systems and language technology platforms.

Prior to his work at DFKI, he did his masters in Cognitive Systems at Uni

Potsdam (MSc Thesis about bootstrapping abstractive summarization models using a German dataset synthetically translated from English) with Prof. Dr. Manfred Stede, and his bachelors at Uni Heidelberg in Computational Linguistics (BA Thesis about evaluating Timeline Summarization metrics) with Prof. Dr. Katja Markert.

Jakob Stolberg-Larsen

Researcher: AI & Society Lab – HIIG

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Jakob is a part of the Public Interest AI research group at Alexander von Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society (HIIG), which he joined in February 2021. His research is primarily focused on machine learning and artificial neural networks, particularly for computer vision.

Jakob graduated from the University of Copenhagen (UCPH) in 2020. He did both his bachelor and master in mathematics. The bachelor was primarily focused on theoretical mathematics, and he did his thesis on applications of groupoid theory in algebraic topology. During his Master's, the focus pivoted to more applied mathematics in combination with a number of computer science courses, primarily in the areas of cryptography and machine learning. His thesis was on the latent space geometry of deep generative neural networks, investigating a manifold atlas interpretation of hybrid discrete-continuous latent spaces.

Prior to starting at HIIG, Jakob worked as a research assistant at UCPH, continuing the research of his Master thesis.

In his dissertation at HIIG, Jakob investigates the possibility of using machine learning and computer vision tools to map barrier-free accessibility of public spaces.

III. Design perspective

Hadi Asghari

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Hadi Asghari is a postdoctoral researcher in the Public Interest AI research group. His research focuses on safeguarding public values in AI systems.

Hadi employs a mix of empirical, computational, and design methods to make sense of the digital ecosystem, and subsequently to propose technical and institutional mechanisms to better safeguard values. Example values include privacy, access, freedom, and transparency. Hadi has published on a number of these topics, including a series of studies on the impact of privacy laws worldwide.

Hadi collaborates closely with researchers and experts from various disciplines and backgrounds, including civil society, industry, and government. He is a member of the AI & Society Lab (at HIIG), the Access Request Advocacy & Research Network (at VU Brussels), and the Open Tech Fund advisory council, among others.

Previously, Hadi worked at TU Delft, where he also received his PhD degree on the topic of "Analyzing Security Metrics for Public Policy". In 2016, he was a visiting researcher at Princeton University's Center for IT Policy. Prior to his research career, he worked as a software engineer and entrepreneur in Tehran.

Johannes Baeck

Web Experience Manager – Continental

Johannes Baeck (M.A. International Information Management, focus: Human-computer interaction) is a user experience professional and certified digital product owner with more than 10 years of industry experience. Before joining Continental in 2018 where he is establishing a user-centered design practice, Johannes worked as a user research and design consultant for clients like Adidas, Siemens and Volkswagen.

Selected projects:

- User research, concept & design for an AI-driven assistant for radiologists (patent co-inventor) / with Siemens Healthineers, Fraunhofer MEVIS, usability.de
- Concept & design for a data analytics application for market researchers / with GfK
- User research & concept for a personalized holiday planning platform for travelers / with TUI

Since 2014, Johannes has been a lecturer for user-centered design at the University of Hildesheim and a speaker at conferences like Mensch & Computer, International Symposium for Information Science, EuroIA and Interaction Design Association (IxDA) Frankfurt.

Judith Faßbender

Researcher: AI & Society Lab – HIIG

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Judith Faßbender joined the Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society as a doctoral researcher in November 2020. Within the framework of the research project Public Interest AI, funded by the Ministry of Education and Research, she is looking at Public Interest AI from a design perspective.

After her bachelor's degree in design at Burg Giebichenstein Kunsthochschule Halle and Design Academy Eindhoven, she received her master's degree at Zeppelin University Friedrichshafen where she majored in cultural and communication sciences with a minor in economics.

In her bachelor thesis, Judith studied decision manipulation in Graphical User Interfaces. Her installations have been exhibited in Milan, Graz, Cologne and Eindhoven. During her master studies she specialised in the field of AI Ethics. In this context, she conducted a research project in which she analysed different stakeholder roles on the basis of AI Ethics Guidelines.

Judith gained work experience in the cultural sector and at research institutions, as an intern at Die Neue Sammlung at Pinakothek der

Moderne in Munich and as a design and research assistant at Studio Knol in Amsterdam. She wrote her master thesis in collaboration with the Fraunhofer Center for Responsible Research and Innovation in Berlin where she studied the integration of civil society actors in deliberative forums on AI Ethics.

In her dissertation at HIIG she brings the elements of AI, public interest and design together.

Theresa Züger

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Theresa Züger is head of the Public Interest AI research group funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). The group is concerned with the question of how AI can serve the public interest and which technical and social criteria must be fulfilled for this to happen. She is also co-lead of the AI & Society Lab. The Lab was launched by HIIG in 2020 and is an inter- and transdisciplinary research lab at the intersection of academia, industry and civil society. Theresa's research focuses on the political dimensions of digital technologies and cultures, with particular interest in questions of democratic theory.

Previously, she headed the office of the Third Engagement Report from the Federal Government on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ), which focuses on the digitalization of civic engagement. For the Medienanstalt Berlin-Brandenburg, she developed and managed the Media Policy Lab, a project on science networking in the field of intermediary regulation.

In 2017, Theresa received her PhD in Media Studies from the Humboldt University of Berlin. Her PhD, "Reload Disobedience", focuses on digital forms of civil disobedience. During her PhD, Theresa was a research assistant in the research area "Global Constitutionalism and the Internet" under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Ingolf Pernice. In 2016, she curated and moderated for transmediale, a festival for media art and digital culture, on the thematic field of security politics and culture.

In 2013 she was a Visiting Researcher at the Berkeley Center for New Media at the University of California, Berkeley and in 2017 a Research

Fellow at the Center for Advanced Internet Studies. She is part of the scientific council of the Acatech TechnikRadar and a member of the commission of the Digital Transformation Think Tank of the German Caritas Association.