# DEMOCRACIES AND STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Hamburg, 16 - 17 December 2019

Warburg Haus, Heilwigstr. 116

The workshop addresses challenges that the digital age poses for democracies. Technical progress, such as the rise of industrialization or the rise of new modes of communication such as radio and television, have influenced societies and legal orders in the past centuries. Digitalization represents the most recent major change in the information and communications spheres that societies and legal orders worldwide are facing. Are the challenges the digital era poses for democracy similar to prior technological changes or does digitalization raise entirely new and more troubling challenges for democracy? What are the most appropriate legal and regulatory approaches for dealing with the challenges of the digital era? How are the internet, artificial intelligence and algorithms changing democracies and democratic institutions? During the workshop, these challenges will be addressed from national and international perspectives and from different disciplines, such as law, history and political science.

## Monday, 16 December 2019

2:30 pm        **Registration & Coffee**

2:45 pm        **Welcoming remarks**

Markus Kotzur, Vice Dean of the Faculty of Law of the University of Hamburg

*Anne Dienelt,* University of Hamburg | University of Bremen

3:00 pm        **Keynote**:

**The Communications Revolution and the End of Political Authority**

*Rick Pildes*, New York University

*Discussion*

4:00 pm        *Coffee Break*

**Session 1:**        **Crisis and Future of Online 'Publics':**

**Normative Perspectives on Whether the Internet Can be Made to Work for Democracy**

4:30 pm        **Digital Sovereignty: States and Networks in Times of Digitalization**

*Julia Pohle*, Berlin Social Science Center

4:50 pm        **Towards A Digital Transformation of European Democracy?**

*Justus Vasel*, European University Institute

5:10 pm      **The Contributions of German and US Courts**

*Matthias C. Kettemann*, Leibniz Institute for Media Research | Hans-Bredow-Institute Hamburg

5:30 pm      **Social Media and Their Impact on the "Public"**

*Stefan Oeter*, University of Hamburg

*Discussion*

Chair: *Arne Pilniok*, University of Hamburg

7:30 pm      ***Speakers' Dinner***

**Tuesday, 17 December 2019**

*9:00 am      Coffee*

**Session 2:      Technology and Democracy**

9:30 am      **Is a Digital Democracy Next?**

*Dirk Helbing*, Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin | ETH Zürich

9:50 am      **Democracy and Artificial Intelligence**

*Paul Nemitz*, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers of the European Commission

**10:10 am**    **The Democratic Deficit of Digital Infrastructure**

*Alon Jasper*, Tel Aviv University


**10:30 am**    **Artificial Intelligence and International Law – How is it Challenging the Rule of Law?**
*Thomas Burri*, University of St. Gallen


*Discussion*

Chair:  *Hans-Heinrich Trute*, University of Hamburg


**11:20 am**    **Concluding remarks**

*Anne Dienelt*, University of Hamburg | University of Bremen


*11:30 am*    *Coffee & Franzbrötchen*