The Academies

The Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities is the preeminent scientific institution in Israel. It was established by law in 1961, and acts as a national focal point for Israeli scholarship in all branches of the sciences, social sciences, and humanities. The Academy comprises 132 of Israel’s most distinguished scientists and scholars who operate in two divisions—the Sciences Division and the Humanities Division. It is tasked with promoting Israeli scientific excellence; advising the government on scientific matters of national interest; publishing scholarly research of lasting merit; and maintaining active contact with the broader international scientific and scholarly community.

The Leopoldina is a classical scholarly society and has 1,600 members from almost all branches of science. In 2008, the Leopoldina was appointed as the German National Academy of Sciences and, in this capacity, was invested with two major objectives: representing the German scientific community internationally, and providing policymakers and the public with science-based advice.

The U.S. National Academy of Sciences (NAS) is a private, non-profit society of distinguished scholars. Established by an Act of Congress, signed by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863, the NAS is charged with providing independent, objective advice to the nation on matters related to science and technology. Scientists are elected by their peers to membership in the NAS for outstanding contributions to research. The NAS is committed to furthering science in America, and its members are active contributors to the international scientific community. Approximately 500 current and deceased members of the NAS have won Nobel Prizes, and the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, founded in 1914, is today one of the premier international journals publishing the results of original research.

Digitization and Democracy

Joint Symposium by the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities and the U.S. National Academy of Sciences

Admission is free of charge. Please register for the Zoom online event via: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_CGnBqUx0RHmaecSU1h1GQ

When using the Zoom video conferencing system, the privacy policy of the provider applies: https://zoom.us/privacy

22 – 23 June 2021
09:00 – 12:00 Washington D.C.
15:00 – 18:00 Berlin
16:00 – 19:00 Jerusalem

www.academy.ac.il
www.leopoldina.org
www.nasonline.org
Digitization and Democracy

Digitization is an integral part of democracy today. This is particularly evident in election campaigns, political initiatives and societal debates that are increasingly being conducted via social media. The COVID-19 pandemic and related public measures for social distancing have further intensified this trend towards digitization. The virtual space offers new opportunities for democratic participation, but at the same time, there is rising concern for its place and influence in politics and society. Fake news, hate speech and conspiracy theories are able to sway political opinions and the results of elections, and the power of transnational social networks and platforms is also the subject of many recent public debates.

The Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, and the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina are organizing the webinar Digitization and Democracy to discuss associated risks, policy options and trends from a scientific point of view. This includes content moderation as well as the potential of digitization for enhancing democracies. Renowned speakers from Germany, Israel and the United States will discuss the topic over four virtual sessions, in an interdisciplinary manner. The audience is kindly invited to ask questions via chat.

Program
Virtual event via Zoom

**Tuesday, 22 June 2021**

**Session 1**

**Input Statements, Followed by Discussion**
09:00 Washington D.C. - 15:00 Berlin
16:00 Jerusalem

Digitization and Democracy: Where Do We Stand?
Professor Niva Elkin-Koren
Tel Aviv University, Israel

Professor Shafr Goldwasser
UC Berkeley, USA, and Member of the Israel Academy and the National Academy of Sciences

Professor Lisa Herzog
Groningen University, The Netherlands

Moderator: Jennifer Sarah Boone
Freelance Media Journalist, Germany

**Session 2**

**Input Statements, Followed by Discussion**
11:00 Washington D.C. - 17:00 Berlin
18:00 Jerusalem

Content Moderation
Professor Jamal Greene
Columbia University, USA

Professor Gerhard Weikum
Max Planck Institute for Informatics, Germany, and Member of the Leopoldina

Dr. Lior Zalmanson
Tel Aviv University, Israel

Moderator: Professor Karine Nahon
Interdisciplinary Center (IDC), Israel

**Wednesday, 23 June 2021**

**Session 3**

**Input Statements, Followed by Discussion**
09:00 Washington D.C. - 15:00 Berlin
16:00 Jerusalem

New Directions: Potential for Enhancing Democracy
Professor Anat Ben-David
The Open University of Israel, Israel

Professor Andreas Hepp
Bremen University, Germany

Professor Frank Pasquale
Brooklyn Law School, USA

Moderator: Dr. Urs Gasser
Harvard University, USA

**Session 4**

**Input Statements, Followed by Discussion**
11:00 Washington D.C. - 17:00 Berlin
18:00 Jerusalem

Democracy and Digitization: Where Do We Go From Here?
Professor Cynthia Dwork
Harvard University, USA, and Member of the National Academy of Sciences

Professor Michael Birnhack
Tel Aviv University, Israel

Professor Johannes Buchmann
TU Darmstadt, Germany, and Member of the Leopoldina

Moderator: Jennifer Sarah Boone
Freelance Media Journalist, Germany

Scientific committee:

Prof. Michael Birnhack
Tel Aviv University, Israel

Prof. Johannes Buchmann
TU Darmstadt, Germany, and Member of the Leopoldina

Prof. Martha Minow
Harvard Law School – Harvard University, USA

Prof. Shimon Ullman
Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel, and Member of the Israel Academy