

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.

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האקדמיה הלאומית הישראלית למדעים
المجمع الوطني الإسرائيلي للعلوم والآداب
THE ISRAEL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES



NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Admission is free of charge. Please register for the Zoom online event via: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_CGn8qUx0RHmaec5IU1h1GQ

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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

22 – 23 June 2021

09:00 – 12:00 Washington D.C.

15:00 – 18:00 Berlin

16:00 – 19:00 Jerusalem

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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.

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

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 Shafi 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