



University of
Zurich^{UZH}

IKMZ – Institute of Communication and Media Research

The IKMZ Speaker Series presents:

“Designing and Aligning AI for Journalism”

Prof. Dr. Nicholas Diakopoulos

Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois

Monday, 15.5., 2023

16:15-17:15

Room AND 3.46

Abstract: Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies now play a major role in the modern media system, whether through personalized content recommendations and platform feeds, automatically generated news content, or by informing myriad other production processes. Designing AI so that it is aligned with domain values of responsible journalism is crucial, both to support underlying civic, democratic, and professional goals as well as to mitigate possible harms in the media system. In this talk, I’ll present a framework for thinking about the design and alignment of AI-driven tools to support journalistic use-cases, illustrating these ideas using a series of news discovery tools and supporting machine learning models that we have designed, developed, and empirically evaluated to help journalists in political, investigative, and science journalism reporting scenarios. Stepping back, I’ll then offer some broader reflections on how scholars in communication and journalism fields can more fully incorporate and adopt a design orientation in an effort to not only study, but to also shape the sociomaterial conditions of media and communication.

Nicholas Diakopoulos is an Associate Professor in Communication Studies and Computer Science (by courtesy) at Northwestern University where he is Director of the Computational Journalism Lab (CJL) and Director of Graduate Studies for the Technology and Social Behavior (TSB) PhD program. He is also an Associate Professor II at the University of Bergen Department of Information Science and Media Studies and is on sabbatical as a visiting researcher at the University of Amsterdam IVIR during the 2022-23 academic year. His research focuses on computational journalism, including aspects of automation and algorithms in news production, algorithmic accountability and transparency, and social media in news contexts. He is author of the award-winning book, *Automating the News: How Algorithms are Rewriting the Media*, published by Harvard University Press. He received his Ph.D. and M.S. degrees in Computer Science from the School of Interactive Computing at the Georgia Institute of Technology, and his Sc.B. degree in Computer Engineering from Brown University.

