

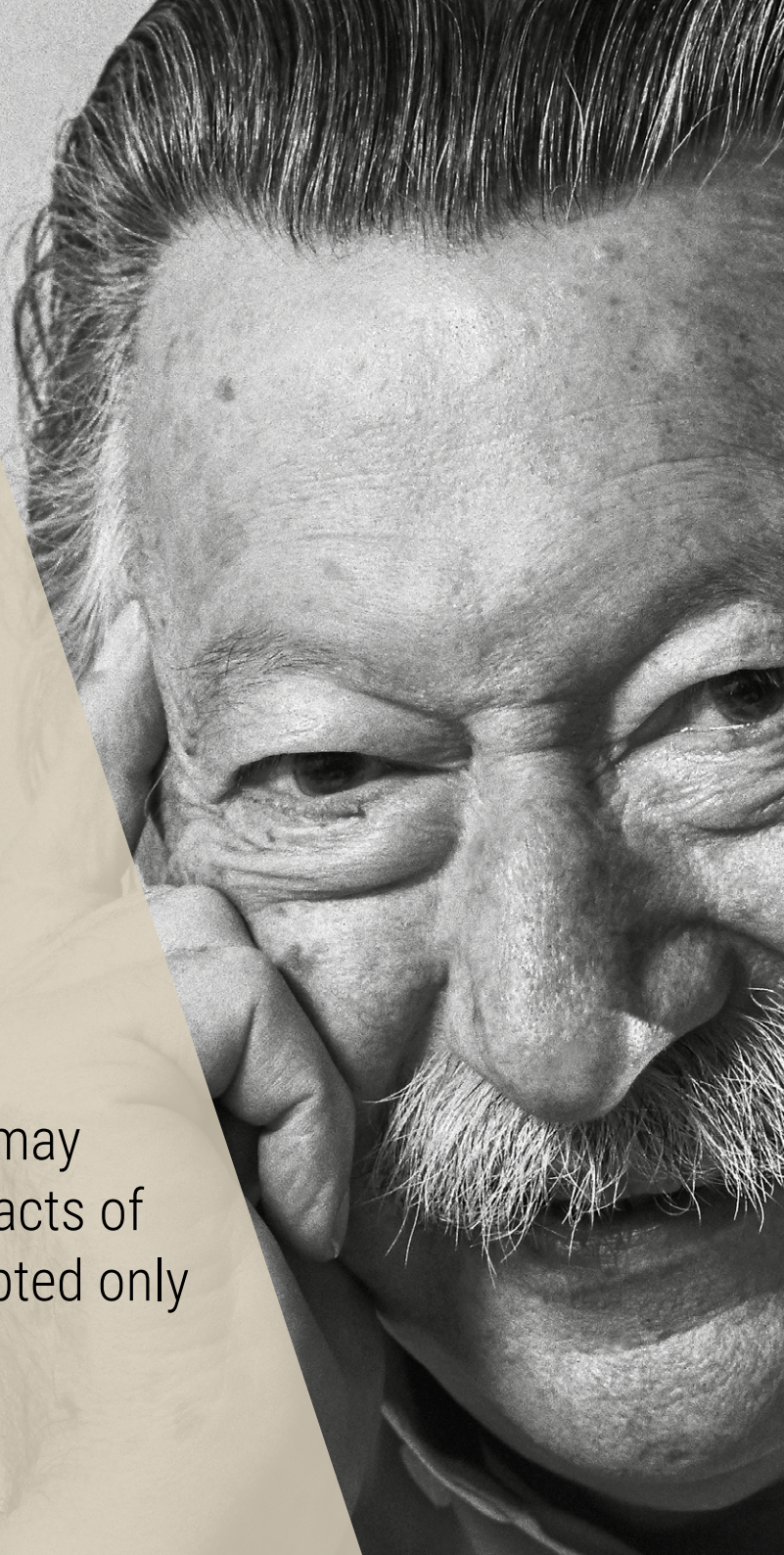


THE WEIZENBAUM INSTITUTE

Research for the
Networked Society

“However intelligent machines may be made to be, there are some acts of thought that ought to be attempted only by humans.”

Joseph Weizenbaum





Who We Are and What We Do

The Weizenbaum Institute stands for excellent, independent, interdisciplinary and fundamental digitalization research.

We provide well-founded findings and value-based recommendations for policymakers, businesses, and civil society. In doing so, we help to ensure that the digitalization of society is not only better understood, but also shaped in a sustainable, self-determined, and responsible manner.

We also conduct our own research into digitalization. We promote open science and the digitalization of science. Offering specific networking and infrastructure services and a wide range of innovative impulses, the Weizenbaum Institute contributes to the development of interdisciplinary digitalization research in Germany.

The institute is named after Joseph Weizenbaum, the German-American computer science pioneer and critic of the computer society.



Research Program



DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES IN SOCIETY

Well-being in the Digital World

Digitalization, Sustainability,
and Participation

Design, Diversity, and New
Commons

Data, Algorithmic Systems,
and Ethics

ORGANIZING KNOWLEDGE

Working with Artificial
Intelligence

Reorganization of Knowledge
Practices

Digitalization and Opening up
Science

Education for the Digital World

WEIZENBAUM DIGITAL SCIENCE CENTER

Meta Research

Research Syntheses

Weizenbaum Panel

Methods Lab

DIGITAL MARKETS AND PUBLIC SPHERES ON PLATFORMS

Digital News Dynamics

Digital Economy, Internet
Ecosystem, and Internet Policy

Platform Algorithms and
Digital Propaganda

Dynamics of Digital
Mobilization

DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURES IN DEMOCRACY

Norm Setting and Decision
Processes

Digitalization and Networked
Security

Security and Transparency of
Digital Processes

Technology, Power, and
Domination

The research is organized into four interdisciplinary focal points, with topics and research questions developed concerning specific social areas of tension. These research groups are supported by the Weizenbaum Digital Science Center, providing orientation and infrastructure services for interdisciplinary digitalization research and enhancing research coherence.

Our Achievements



5
national

18
international

scientific awards for
WI scientists

More than
1,700
scientific
publications, including
articles in
peer-reviewed
journals



540

€4M
in third-party
funding



120 reports,
statements, and
expert opinions

50%
of all publications
are open access
(since 2021)



100%
of in-house
publications are
open access



25
disserta-
tions

habilita-
tions

6

7 appoint-
ments to pro-
fessorships



More than
2,000
presentations / con-
ference participations

from WI founding until 12/31/2023

Formats and Projects

The Weizenbaum Institute has established itself nationally and internationally as hub for of exchange and networking. Through various formats and projects, we facilitate constructive dialogue between academia and practitioners.

WEIZENBAUM JOURNAL OF THE DIGITAL SOCIETY

The Weizenbaum Journal of the Digital Society (WJDS) is an open-access journal with peer review. The articles published deal with the conditions, forms, and consequences of the digital transformation of society from an inter- and transdisciplinary perspective.

WEIZENBAUM REPORT

The annual Weizenbaum Report presents selected findings from a longitudinal study (Weizenbaum Panel) conducted annually on the political participation of citizens in Germany, online and offline.

WEIZENBAUM CONFERENCE

Renowned experts from various disciplines meet once a year at the International Weizenbaum Conference to discuss current research on cross-cutting topics. The aim is to generate a holistic view of the digital society and discuss possibilities for making it better.





QUALIFICATION PROGRAM DIGITALIZATION RESEARCH

Together with the Bavarian Research Institute for Digital Transformation (bidt) and the Center for Advanced Internet Studies (CAIS), the Weizenbaum Institute offers doctoral students and postdocs an interdisciplinary education program in which basic skills in digitalization research are taught.

RESEARCH SYNTHESIS

Our research syntheses present the current state of research on key digitalization issues in an understandable and compact form for target groups in science and society. Where possible, recommendations for digital practice are derived.

INTERDISCIPLINARY DIGITALIZATION RE- SEARCH CARTOGRAPHY

The Weizenbaum Institute not only researches digitalization but also researches digitalization research itself. This carefully curated, interactive map provides an overview of interdisciplinary digitalization research in Germany.

Transfer and Dialogue

Knowledge transfer, continuous dialogue with stakeholders and mutual learning are central to our self-image. Based on our own research findings, we can make well-founded and sovereign contributions to social debates and identify concrete options for action. The research groups are

closely networked with digital practice. Here too, the Weizenbaum Institute is guided by its guiding values of “self-determination” and “sustainability”. With numerous event and publication formats, it reaches target groups in politics, business, and civil society as well as the general public.

INDUSTRY 4.0 CENTER

Automation technology, logistics, robotics and operational application systems are combined in a hybrid laboratory environment. Here, concepts, products, technologies, and processes can be analyzed and further developed with international research and practice partners at the University of Potsdam.



MENSCHEN UND MUSTER

In the YouTube universe, social sciences are a hitherto neglected field. In this weekly videocast produced by rbb, Sascha Friesike (board member, director, and principal investigator at the Weizenbaum Institute) takes an unusual look at (digital) everyday phenomena and explains them with the help of scientific concepts.





POLICY PAPERS

The Weizenbaum Institute's Policy Papers are scientifically founded position papers and briefings on current issues and political decision-making processes at state, federal, and EU level. To date, more than 120 reports, expert opinions, and statements have been published, for example on these topics:

- \ Digital Services Act (2023)
- \ Data Institute for Germany (2022)
- \ Digital Euro (2022)
- \ Data Governance Act of the European Commission (2021)
- \ Draft of the Digitalization Act of the government of Schleswig-Holstein (2021)
- \ Data strategy of the federal government (2020)

EXPLAINING, ADVISING, AND NETWORKING

We develop participatory, co-creative, integrative, and interdisciplinary formats in which we present research findings, advise stakeholders and decision-makers, and create spaces for dialogue and networking. In addition to the Weizenbaum Debate and the Weizenbaum Forum, this also includes low-threshold formats such as "Pizza and ..."



People at the Weizenbaum Institute



180 employees,
including **120**
scientists

240 research fellows
from **38** nations
(since 2018)



weizenbaum
institut

40% female researchers
in leadership positions

45 affiliated
researchers from
6 nations

10%
of employees with an
international background

as of 12/31/2023

Research with Strong Partners

The Weizenbaum Institute was founded in 2017. It is based on a close partnership between seven institutes in Berlin and Brandenburg. These partners are: Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Technische Universität Berlin, Universität der Künste Berlin, Universität Potsdam and, as non-university research institutions, the Fraunhofer-Institut für Offene Kommunikationssysteme (FOKUS) and the Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung (WZB).



The Weizenbaum Institute is currently funded with approximately EUR 36.1 million from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research and EUR 3.5 million from the State of Berlin, covering the period from 2022 to 2025.

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