



## PRESS RELEASE

Essen, 07.12.2021

### **Beyond Prediction: Artificial Intelligence and the Crisis of Decision**

Virtual lecture by David Bates to begin the “Carte Blanche IV” series

**20 Dec., 6 p.m. CET, via ZOOM**

**Much of the current debates around [Artificial Intelligence](#) concerns the implicit and even explicit bias of opaque and complex algorithms used in Machine Learning systems. A new wave of scholarship has exposed these failings and in response new organizations and [research centers for “ethical AI” or “human-centered AI”](#) have emerged. The goal is to maintain a human “decision” both in setting goals or norms, and in choosing appropriate methods to guarantee outcomes.**

The lecture will interrogate contemporary AI through the problem of decision, first by highlighting the always technical condition of human cognition, and then through the question of conflicting norms. Finally, through a critical analysis of predictive AI and parallel developments in [Cognitive Science](#), David Bates will argue that human decision is always a break with norms in moments of crisis, and only human beings are capable of these decisions despite the necessity of technological support.

**David Bates** is Professor in the Department of Rhetoric at UC Berkeley, where he teaches Intellectual History. His interests lie in the history of cognition, technology studies, and political thought. He is completing a book on technology and thinking, entitled: *An Artificial History of Natural Intelligence*.

**Eva Weber-Guskar** is a professor of ethics and philosophy of emotions at Ruhr University Bochum (RUB). Currently, she is working on ethical questions in dealing with AI, especially Emotional AI, and on temporal aspects in theories of the good life. She is a PI in the interdisciplinary project “INTERACT! New forms of social interaction with intelligent systems” at the RUB. Prior to this, she held positions in Berlin, Vienna, Zurich and Erlangen and spent one year as a visiting scholar at New York University.

### **SPEAKER**

[David Bates, University of California, Berkeley](#)

#### PRESS CONTACT

Helena Rose (KWI) | +49 201 183-8106 | [helena.rose@kwi-nrw.de](mailto:helena.rose@kwi-nrw.de)

Lea von der Mosel (KWI) | +49 201 183-8106 | [lea.vondermosel@kwi-nrw.de](mailto:lea.vondermosel@kwi-nrw.de)

## RESPONDENT

Eva Weber-Guskar, Ruhr University Bochum (RUB)

## COORDINATION

Danilo Scholz, KWI

## PARTICIPATION

Participants can register for the lecture via e-mail to [emily.beyer@kwi-nrw.de](mailto:emily.beyer@kwi-nrw.de) by Thursday, 16 December 2021. Participants will then receive the Zoom link.

## ORGANISATION

Organised by the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities (KWI) Essen

## FURTHER INFORMATION

[Event on the KWI website](#)

### ABOUT CARTE BLANCHE IV: UA RUHR MEETS INTERNATIONAL GUESTS

Exchanges have always been an essential component of the KWI's activities. We are part of a regional consortium of universities in the Ruhr area and cooperate closely with our local partner institutions. At the same time, our work thrives on an international outlook that taps into debates and developments in the social sciences and humanities abroad. In the new online instalment of our Carte Blanche lecture series, the KWI will provide a platform to bring these two networks into conversation. In each session, an international guest speaker will present original research, which will then be discussed by a scholar from the University Alliance Ruhr.

### We would appreciate the circulation of this press release.

#### About the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities (KWI):

The Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities (KWI) Essen, Germany, is an interdisciplinary research centre following the tradition of international Institutes for Advanced Study. In its role as an inter-university institution connecting the Ruhr-University Bochum, the Technological University Dortmund and the University of Duisburg-Essen, the institute works together with researchers and scientists from its neighbouring universities as well as other partners from the federal state NRW and places in- and outside of Germany. Within the Ruhr area, the KWI is a place to share and discuss the questions and results of ambitious research with interested parties from the city and the greater region. Currently, work at the KWI focusses on the following areas: "cultural studies of science and science policy making", "sociology of literature and culture", "science communication", and a "teaching lab". Projects in the established research field "culture of communication", as well as individual projects, will be continued.

[www.kulturwissenschaften.de](http://www.kulturwissenschaften.de)

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**New:** The KWI newsletter provides news about the institute twice a semester. Please click [here](#) to register

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