



PRESS RELEASE

Essen, 09.01.2023

On Twitter Lecture by Nan Z. Da

Monday, 23 January 2023, 16:00 CET

Online via ZOOM

This talk asks what Twitter is, what it does, appending it to a longer literary-theoretical history. It isolates Twitter's principle of design, available for anyone to see: that it visibilizes, publishes, and records speech acts and reactions to speech acts, all in real time and at scale. At scale, this formatting has implications for natural human language and, in turn, for modern society (as an engineered object that generates and responds to data).

Thus, while ideological siloing, censorship, harassment, disinformation, and geopolitical sabotage remain among the top complaints against the platform, regardless of corporate changes, Twitter's moral hazard and transformative potential lie outside, and prior to, these issues of content management and formal control. Twitter, or anything that borrows its principle of design, clarifies the consequences of modern society's technological outsourcing of moral interpretation, and brings to a head the digital management of the public sphere and the greater republic of letters. As an object of study it belongs to the field of literary theory because literary theory pays the closest attention to the dynamic between recorded human communication and social design, looks most carefully at the beginnings of engineering, wherever it may occur, that wants to determine the purpose of natural human language, and the point of understanding it.

SPEAKER

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PARTICIPATION & REGISTRATION

Participation online via ZOOM. Please register with Emily Beyer via kwi.zoomevents@gmail.com with the indication of „Participation via ZOOM – 23.01.2023“ by 20 January 2023.

ORGANISER

An event organised by the Institute for the Advanced Study in the Humanities (KWI) Essen

MORE INFORMATION

[The event on the KWI website](#)

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 focuses 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/en

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