

DIGITAL SOCIETY

Digital Transformation in Society & Culture

Common Futures. The Role of Ethics in Digital Transformations

Opening lecture by

Prof. Dr. Matthias Braun

Department of Social Ethics, University of Bonn

Why do so few people still believe in a better future? This talk explores how experiences of crisis, social uncertainty, and declining trust in political and technological progress shape—or even erode—our visions of the future. It examines the conditions under which digitisation can contribute to a future worth living. Rather than treating technological development as an end in itself, the talk argues that it must be evaluated according to its contribution to the common good: whether it strengthens social participation, distributes opportunities and risks fairly, protects human freedom, and enables people collectively to shape their future.

Matthias Braun is Professor of Ethics at University of Bonn where he directs the department of Social Ethics as well as co-directs the Transdisciplinary Research Center for Individuals, Institutions and Societies. Further he is a Research Associate at the University of Oxford. Formerly he has conducted research at the Universities of Bergen (Norway), Maastricht (Netherlands) and Erlangen (Germany). Matthias Braun's research focuses on questions of political ethics, ethical and governance-related challenges of emerging technologies, as well as questions of justice and solidarity.

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16:15-17:45

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