**The Rise of Digital Authoritarianism? Authoritarian and Democratic Politics in the Age of Artificial Intelligence**

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Within just a couple of years, artificial intelligence (AI) has evolved from an object of scientific curiosity to a salient political issue. Driven by the promise of deep learning algorithms, which infer patterns from massive datasets to make predictions, AI systems have become a pervasive feature of public and private life. In democratic and authoritarian states alike, governments have sought to leverage the efficiency of AI systems to their advantage.

Unsurprisingly, the rapid uptake of AI systems worldwide has sparked a lively debate about the possible implications for democratic norms and processes. Scholars and policymakers have focused on the dangers of so-called *digital authoritarianism*, i.e., the use of digital information technology to surveil, repress, and manipulate domestic and foreign publics. Most prominently, they point to China as a cautionary tale for the repressive potential of an AI-powered surveillance state, as it integrates practices such as live biometric identification, online content control, and censorship to control its population. Similarly, scholars increasingly highlight the transnational dimension of digital authoritarianism, for instance, China’s export of surveillance technology to other countries or Russia’s targeted disinformation campaigns to disrupt democratic elections abroad.

Yet, AI’s potential to undermine democratic norms and processes is not necessarily limited to non-democratic regimes. The widespread adoption of possibly biased, unsafe, or untransparent AI systems by democracies has produced its own set of challenges. As these governments automate decisions over social benefits, parole sentences, or asylum procedures, they challenge fundamental rights such as the rights to non-discrimination, a fair trial, privacy, or the freedom of movement. Furthermore, in the absence of robust regulation, corporations and other private actors may produce AI systems that undermine fundamental democratic norms without being held accountable.

In this workshop, we want to explore the use and contestation of AI technologies in the context of democratic, non-democratic, and transitioning states. We encourage contributions that help us piece together a theoretically informed, empirically grounded picture of whether and how AI constitutes a challenge to democratic processes and movements across the world. Contributions from a wide variety of disciplinary and methodological perspectives are welcomed.

More specifically, we invite contributions touching upon the following topics: :

* AI and its impacts on human rights norms
* Digital authoritarianism and the export of AI surveillance technology
* Use of AI systems in border control and migration
* Predictive policing, surveillance technology, and biometric identification systems
* Challenges to democratic norms from automated decision-making in the public sector (e.g. education, chatbots, allocation of benefits)
* AI, resistance, and (transnational) social movements
* Technology corporations and questions of accountability and democratic control
* International discussions and negotiations on AI governance, ethics, and human rights