

DH for Breakfast

Wednesday Lectures in Digital Humanities



28
January
9.00–10.00 am

DEPARTMENT OF
DIGITAL HUMANITIES

Elisabethstraße 59/III,
Lehrsaal SR 81.31

Transparency, Privacy, and Fairness in
Recommender Systems (and its
connection to Digital Humanities)

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Recommender systems have become a pervasive part of our daily online experience by analyzing past usage behavior to suggest potential relevant content, e.g., music, movies, or books. Today, recommender systems are one of the most widely used applications of artificial intelligence, information retrieval, and machine learning, and are connected to a multitude of sub-disciplines of applied computer science. Therefore, regulations and requirements for trustworthy artificial intelligence, for example, the European AI Act, which includes notions such as transparency, privacy, and fairness are also highly relevant for the design, development, evaluation, and deployment of recommender systems in practice. This talk elaborates on aspects related to these three notions in the light of recommender systems, namely: (i) transparency and cognitive models, (ii) privacy and limited preference information, and (iii) fairness and popularity bias in recommender systems. Additionally, this talk discusses the design process of a recommender system in the case of a digital humanities application, namely the digital archive [Monasterium.net](https://monasterium.net).



Dominik Kowald is professor for AI-based information retrieval in digital humanities at University of Graz as well as research area head of the FAIR AI group at Know Center Research GmbH, a leading research center for trustworthy AI. He holds a *venia docendi* in applied computer science at the Institute of Human Centred Computing of TU Graz. He has finished his PhD in October 2017 on psychology-informed recommender systems and his habilitation in June 2024 on trustworthy recommender systems.

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