



IT Expert and Thought Leader for Socioinformatics

**Professor of Theoretical Computer Science at the Department
of Computer Science at the TU Kaiserslautern**

Katharina Anna Zweig is one of Germany's most important female computer scientists. As an IT expert and thought leader for socioinformatics, she is called upon by the German Wissenschaftsrat (Science and Humanities Council) and the Chancellor's Office. She is a professor of theoretical computer science at the Department of Computer Science at TU Kaiserslautern and head of the Algorithm Accountability Lab at the Department of Computer Science and was honoured as one of 39 "Digital Minds" of Germany.

As a researcher, Katharina Anna Zweig explores the issue of how algorithms can be better used to answer social questions. Many of her research topics are highly relevant to society and politics, for example in debates about fake news or the controversy about the form of copyright in Europe. As a policy advisor and speaker, she analyses the impact of socially relevant algorithms and decision-making systems.

After a double degree in biochemistry and bioinformatics in Tübingen, postdoctoral studies on the analysis of complex networks in Budapest and Heidelberg, Katharina Anna Zweig (*1976) went to the TU Kaiserslautern in 2012 and headed the Algorithm Accountability Lab at the Department of Computer Science there. Here she created Germany's first degree programme in "Socioinformatics", which examines the effects of digitalisation, namely algorithms, on individuals, organisations and society. She is particularly concerned with integrating science communication into teaching and sensitising her students to dialogue with social groups. The innovative degree programme was awarded the Ars Legendi Faculty Prize in Engineering and Computer Science in 2017.

She has received numerous additional awards for her work: Together with other co-founders of AlgorithmWatch, she received the Theodor Heuss Medal in 2018 and the Communicator Award the following year for her dedicated and versatile communication on the ethical, political and social implications of algorithms and their use. In 2018, she was appointed as an expert to the newly constituted Enquete Commission on Artificial Intelligence - Social Responsibility and Economic, Social and Ecological Potentials of the German Bundestag. In 2020, Anna Katharina Zweig was appointed AI Ambassador of the state of Rhineland-Palatinate.

Through her diverse lecturing activities, participation in panel discussions and numerous interviews as well as reports in renowned media, membership in ministerial advisory boards and commissions, Katharina Anna Zweig actively shapes the public discourse on the relationship between algorithms and social values. In her lectures, she makes clear how algorithms are already influencing our lives and how important it is to critically engage with them.

Topics (Selection):

- AI Ethics
- ChatGPT
- Algorithmic decision making