



ALGORITHM WATCH

Annual Report 2019

Contents

///	This was 2019	3
///	Highlights 2019	4
///	Our work	5
	#project 1 – Atlas of Automation	5
	#project 2 – Automated Human Resources Management and Labor Rights	6
	#project 3 – AI Ethics Guidelines Global Inventory	8
	#project 4 – Automating Society – Taking Stock of Automated Decision Making in the EU	9
	#project 5 – Governing Platforms	10
	#journalism and stories	12
///	Media and public relations	14
///	Governance	15
///	Policies	17
///	Finances	18
///	Contact	18
///	Media review 2019	19
///	Events & participations 2019	27

This was 2019

2019 was an exciting and eventful year for AlgorithmWatch. In this report, we would like to share some important developments, a summary of projects we worked on in 2019, and an outlook on the next steps with you. We will detail developments in our team and what we achieved in reaching out to different audiences and communities. We also provide transparency about where our money came from and how we spent it. With regard to raising support for our ideas, 2019 was an outstanding year: We were successful in getting a total of 14 grant applications approved, some smaller, some larger. Some highlights:

- Schöpflin Stiftung committing to three years of organizational funding;
- Open Society Foundations agreed on a 12-month programmatic grant to pave the way for strategic funding;
- Civitates, a philanthropic initiative for democracy and solidarity in Europe, supports our Governing Platforms project, aimed at developing governance proposals to protect and enhance a healthy digital public sphere;
- the German Ministry for Education and Research will fund a five-partner consortium, led by AlgorithmWatch, for three years to develop a platform for data donation projects;
- the German Ministry for the Environment will finance a project on developing criteria for sustainable Artificial Intelligence Systems;
- the Dutch SIDN Fund, in cooperation with

Adessium, agreed to support the project “TAMI – Towards a Monitoring of Instagram”, a controlled experiment to provide more insight into the operation of the Instagram algorithm;

- we were selected as a Mozilla Host organization, with our Mozilla Fellow Anouk Ruhaak, an expert in data governance models in general and data trusts in particular, joining AlgorithmWatch in October.

In combination with the continued support we received from Bertelsmann Stiftung and Hans-Böckler-Stiftung, this enabled us to broaden our team, increase our reach and improve our organizational structures.

So, in case you're interested to find out more about our work and next steps – and we certainly hope you are – have a look at the following pages for some of the milestones we achieved last year and be sure to follow us on our website, newsletter, Twitter or Facebook feeds.

With kind regards
Matthias Spielkamp and the AlgorithmWatch team

Highlights 2019

Winter

- In January, AlgorithmWatch published the report Automating Society – Taking Stock of Automated Decision Making in the EU. The report is the first comprehensive study on the state of ADM in Europe – on the EU level as well as 12 selected EU member states. We presented the report and its findings at the European Parliament in Brussels as well as many international conferences throughout the year, from CPDP to re:publica and RightsCon.

Spring

- In April, with a public presentation at Mozilla Berlin, we launched the Atlas of Automation, in which we map the state of ADM systems used in Germany that have an impact on participation and inclusion. The Atlas refers not only to the potential for discrimination that results from the automation of processes and decisions, but also highlights opportunities and advantages that are or can be made possible through the use of automated decision-making systems.

Summer

- In June, AlgorithmWatch was nominated for the Grimme Online Award 2019, Germany's most prestigious online journalism award. The nomination was for the crowdsourcing project OpenSCHUFA, which we conducted together with the Open Knowledge Foundation in 2018. The project was nominated in the category "special". We are grateful for the acknowledgement of the campaign's success. We didn't win the reward in the end, but what's worse is the problems with credit scoring we identified remain unsolved.

Autumn

- In September, our newly created supervisory board met for the first time. The supervisory board meets with the executive management one to two times a year in order to exonerate the executive management and sign off on the annual financial report as well as the annual work plan. Our supervisory board consists of Katharina de La Durantaye, professor for media law at Viadrina University Frankfurt/Oder, Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger, former German Federal Minister of Justice, and Steffen Wenzel, executive director of NGO Politik Digital.

Our work

#project 1 – Atlas of Automation



problem statement

Automation has long been an integral part of our lives – often without being aware of it. In the past decade we have experienced an increase in software-based automation like never before. Systems of automated decision-making (ADM) improve our quality of life and are an important engine of social progress. But they also shape to what extent social participation and inclusion is fostered or hampered. In order to prevent misuse of ADM systems, they should be made intelligible and effectively overseen.

Despite these advances, in today's ADM, neural networks (that are often referred to as "Artificial Intelligence") are rarely employed. Instead we find more or less complex software applications that calculate, weigh and sort data according to sets of rules. We speak of decision-making systems because the respective software only selects from pre-set decision options. However, these decisions are determined by people who take part in the design and the programming, as well as the employment of ADM software.

objective

With the "Atlas of Automation", funded by Bertelsmann Stiftung, AlgorithmWatch aims to map the state-of-the-art ADM systems used in Germany that have an impact on participation and inclusion. We want to show how everyone's daily life is already immersed in automated decisions. We may not realize it – but they have consequences. The Atlas is a compilation of topics that are relevant for addressing the question of how these systems affect access to public goods and services as well as the exercise of civil liberties, especially for people who are disadvantaged or marginalized. The Atlas refers not only to the potential for discrimination that results from the automation of processes and decisions, but also to opportunities and advantages that are made possible or conceivable through the use of automated decisions.

what happened in 2019

The Atlas of Automation was officially launched in April 2019 with a public presentation at Mozilla Berlin.

To cover the individual as well as collective and intersectional impacts of ADM systems, we decided to look into key areas which are exemplary for other societal sectors. The results were presented in form of a written compilation which highlight how these systems affect access to public goods and services as well as the exercise of civil liberties.

In the **“Labor”** chapter, we examine automated recruitment procedures and the impact of ADM on personnel management and the administration of unemployment. In the **“Health and Medicine”** chapter, we focus on diagnostic systems and health apps. We include analysis of ADM systems deployed in diagnosis and therapy as well as healthcare management. The chapter **“Security & Surveillance”** highlights issues such as face and speech recognition which are used on asylum seekers and in “predictive policing.” In the **“Education, Stock Trading, Cities & Traffic”** chapter we delve into a diverse set of topics ranging from high frequency trading to university admissions.

The Atlas also provides an overview of the **actors** who have a decisive influence on the discourse around ADM: Authorities, research institutions, interest groups and non-governmental organizations. In addition, it summarizes existing **regulatory approaches** and consumer protection aspects of ADM systems with an impact on participation and social inclusion. It was important for us that the Atlas not only refers to the perils of ADM, but also its promises. However, to realize these opportunities, conditions have to be met. Therefore, an important component of the project was to draw conclusions and identify **policy recommendations** that spur decision-makers, companies and civil society organizations into action.

summary of outcomes

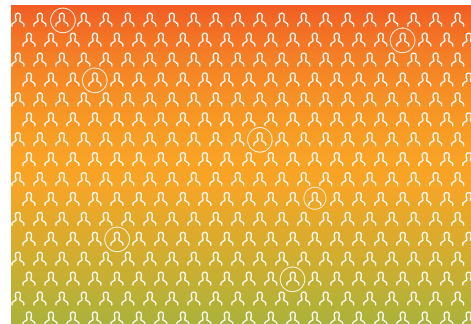
- a definition of ADM, including its technological and social components
- an analysis of ADM's societal impact in relevant sectors

- a data base of the examined systems, stakeholders, regulations as well as ethical guidelines and code of conducts
- policy recommendations

The ‘Atlas of Automation’ is available [online](#). Another output is the freely accessible online database containing around 150 actors, regulations, software systems and technologies (available in German only). The database can be searched for products, type/methods, actors and regulations. Search results can be filtered by topic and keyword.

#project 2 – Automated Human Resources Management and Labor Rights

Positionen zum Einsatz von KI im
Personalmanagement. Rechte und
Autonomie von Beschäftigten stärken –
Warum Gesetzgeber, Unternehmen
und Betriebsräte handeln müssen



Eine Publikation von
 ALGORITHM
WATCH

problem statement

Companies use ADM systems to identify, retain, support, or promote employees. Which member of staff is likely to leave soon due to low job satisfaction and should be offered a raise? Who has high potential and should be put on a fast-

track career path? Who doesn't pull their weight and should be warned in their next performance review that their performance puts their job at risk? ADM systems used in human resources typically collect data from employees that allow employers to quantify and assess their performance against a set of criteria. For some, these systems present a chance to improve both employer and employee satisfaction; for others, it is a step towards a dystopian society of surveillance and control.

objective

In this 2-year-project funded by the Hans-Böckler-Stiftung, AlgorithmWatch explores the use of ADM and decision-support systems in human resources (HR) management and its implications on labor rights. What types of ADM systems are on offer, what information is provided to employers and employees about their functionalities, to what extent are staff members informed that their data is collected to measure their performance, and what rights do or should staff have to influence or object to the use of the system in question? We aim to find initial answers to these questions and to foster public debate.

what happened in 2019

In 2019 we gathered information about the available systems and their use in companies to robustly evaluate their impact on employee autonomy and workers' rights. Together with partners from academia, we also conducted legal analyses to assess the implications of ADM systems from a labor rights as well as a data protection perspective. As part of the project, a report on "Current and future regulations pertaining to the use of Algorithmic Systems in HR management" was commissioned from Prof. Lewinski et al. Focusing on the German context, the [report](#) summarizes the regulatory frameworks relevant to the use of ADM in HR management from a variety of perspectives. Lewinski et al. developed a "topography" of regulations: The topography's x-axis covers relevant legal areas, including labor law, data protection

law, and anti-discrimination law among others. The y-axis focuses on the impact of these regulations on damages, individual rights, workforce rights, technical regulations and regulations with an impact on the whole of society.

summary of outcomes 2019

The report by Lewinski et al. led to a set of important interim outcomes which will guide the project going forward:

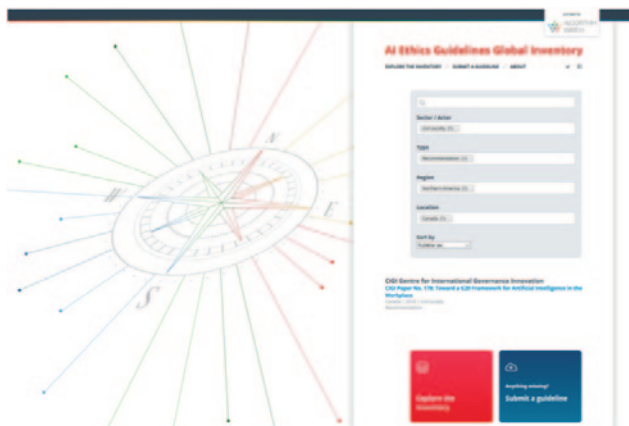
- Definition of algorithmic systems in the HR context.
- Damage claims are primarily based on anti-discrimination law and require a high threshold of evidence.
- Data protection law grants substantial rights to individual employees.
- The workforce as a whole is primarily protected through labor law, which places a special focus on workers' councils ("Betriebsräte").
- Regulations of the technical systems as such remain scarce but offer potential for regulatory innovation.
- Regulatory approaches for society as a whole barely exist. In this context, the focus should be on capacity-development and the building of institutions.

what's next?

In the next stage of the project, we will publish a dossier highlighting some of the ethical implications of ADM use in HR. This dossier will include studies a report on labor law, an ethical analysis of ADM applications in HR, a paper outlining AlgorithmWatch's position on the use of ADM in HR as well as an HR puzzle – a simulation tool – to illustrate how such systems might work in practice. The consolidated analysis will be published online,

and the simulation tool will allow us to identify potential gaps in regulation arising from the use of ADM systems on the one hand and their results and implications on the other. Lastly, we aim to identify ways in which workers' councils and the wider public should be informed about these systems.

#project 3 – AI Ethics Guidelines Global Inventory



problem statement

In recent years, a large number of actors have begun to develop normative guidelines for the use of so-called Artificial Intelligence. These include international organizations, NGOs, representatives of civil society, professional associations, businesses of all sizes and trade unions, as well as various governments, intergovernmental organizations such as the United Nations and the European Union. The number and diversity of actors and their different goals make it all the more necessary to clearly define the different guideline “genres” – ranging from binding agreements to recommendations – and their respective compliance mechanisms. Artificial Intelligence, robotics or machine ethics is a research area between computer science and philosophy. Researchers are concerned with the development of machines, robots or autonomous systems as „explicit moral actors“, assuming that these actors are able to independently make plausible moral judgements and give reasons for their moral choices.

objective

The discussion around ADM systems and their impact on society frequently focuses on whether “Artificial Intelligence” should be regulated, and if so, how and by whom. Voluntary self-regulation is often mentioned as a solution. Proponents point to existing standards and commitments – but no-one knows what these standards are and whether they are adhered to. Therefore, we called for submissions of guidelines on “ethical AI”. Our goal was to document the developments in the field of “Ethics of AI”: who is developing what, and what commitment do these initiatives require?

what happened in 2019

The inventory was first published in April 2019. The echo to the inventory was overwhelmingly positive. Within months, academic publication based on the inventory were published. By the end of the year, the inventory had grown to more than 80 entries. All of the submissions can be accessed and searched online according to a variety of criteria.

summary of outcomes 2019

Most documents are recommendations, presentation of principles, or guidelines. Of the 21 examples that can be labelled as voluntary commitments, quality seal or similar, only three mention some sort of oversight mechanism or quality control. This does not mean that the other guidelines have no oversight mechanisms, but they are not explained in publicly accessible material. Without oversight, there is little incentive to adhere to ethical principles in the development of ADM systems.

As voluntary self-regulation is a popular means to avoid regulation, it is unsurprising that most initiatives in the inventory are industry-led. Companies such as SAP, Sage, Facebook, Google and many others have either developed internal principles, or published general guidelines, partially as members of alliances (for example the Partnership on AI) or led by industry associations.

The most important insight remains the lack of oversight and control. Many initiatives are new – it is possible that they will develop further. However, some think that these publications do not represent a sincere effort, but are merely window dressing to evade governmental regulation.

what's next?

During the coming year, we plan to continually update our data base and publish the results online. In addition, the overwhelming majority of AI ethics guidelines in our directory comes from Europe and the US. We hope to diversify the geographic origin of our data base to make it more inclusive of regional variations within the debates on ethics and AI. We are sure that there are more initiatives and therefore ask for further submissions.

#project 4 – Automating Society – Taking Stock of Automated Decision Making in the EU



problem statement

Systems for automated decision-making (ADM) are on the rise in EU countries: Profiling job applicants based on their personal emails in Finland, allocating treatment for patients in the public health system in Italy, sorting the unemployed in Poland, plans for automatically identifying children vulnerable to neglect in Denmark, systems detecting welfare fraud in the Netherlands, credit scoring systems in many EU countries – the range of applications has broadened to almost all aspects of daily life. This begs a lot of questions: Do we need new laws? Do we need new oversight institutions? Who do we fund to develop answers to the challenges ahead? Where should we invest? How do we enable citizens – patients, employees, consumers – to deal with this?

objectives

The project 'Automating Society – Taking Stock of Automated Decision Making in the EU' is funded by Bertelsmann Stiftung and Open Society Foundations and the first comprehensive study on the state of ADM in Europe. It is an explorative study of ADM both on the EU level and in selected Member States. When we set out to produce the report, we had four main goals in mind:

1. To show that algorithmically driven, ADM systems are already in use all over the EU: The discussion around the use of these systems, their benefits and risks, has been dominated by examples from the US. We wanted to make clear that similar and other ADM systems are in use in the EU as well, in order to better inform the discussion about how to govern their use.
2. To give an overview of the state of the political discussion not just on the EU level, but also in the member countries.
3. To serve as the nucleus for a network of researchers focusing on the impact of ADM on individuals and society.

4. To distil recommendations from the results of our findings: for policy makers from the EU parliament and Member States' legislators, the EU Commission, national governments, researchers, civil society organizations, and the private sector.

what happened in 2019

This is the first time a comprehensive study has been done on the state of automated decision-making in Europe: We succeeded in representing all geographical areas: southern (Spain, Italy), northern (Denmark, Finland, Sweden), eastern (Poland, Slovenia), and western/central (Belgium, France, Germany, Netherlands, and the UK). Moreover, the project laid the groundwork for the strategic development of a European policy and advocacy agenda for better governance of ADM systems. We found examples of ADM (discourses, regulatory approaches, diverse oversight mechanisms, cases etc.) in almost all countries we covered. We had anticipated this outcome, but now have evidence (60 cases of uses of ADM systems in 12 countries) to support our initial hunches.

summary of outcomes

- A network of researchers and journalists from various countries and with interdisciplinary backgrounds
- A comprehensive analysis of the status quo of ADM systems in 12 EU countries answering the following questions
 - / How is society discussing ADM?
 - / What regulatory proposals and approaches exist?
 - / What oversight institutions and mechanisms are in place?
 - / What ADM systems are already in use?
- Presentation of the report at the European Parliament in Brussels at the invitation of MEPs Liisa Jaakonsaari (S&D), Julia Reda (Greens/EFA) and Michał Boni (EPP) and discussion with experts (Watch the presentation [here](#))

- Presentation and discussion of the report at the Privacy Camp and at the CPDP Conference in Brussels early 2019

what's next: The upcoming 2020 edition

The focus of our second edition will be the use of ADM systems in the public sector, highlighting the systems' promises and perils.

The 2020 report will feature 17 chapters: 16 individual country studies and, as last year, a chapter on the EU itself. In addition to the 12 countries covered in the first edition, we collaborate with researchers from four additional countries to increase our regional diversity: Portugal, Greece, Estonia and Switzerland. The English version of the entire report will be supplemented by special country reports for which key chapters of the report will be translated into the respective national languages.

The report's character will transition to a more journalistic style, with one in-depth story per country serving as the introduction, followed by examples of ADM systems in use— similar to the encyclopedic style of the 2019 edition.

#project 5 – Governing Platforms

Governing Platforms Project



problem statement

Digitization and the shift towards web-based media platforms has dramatically altered the media landscape in the EU and around the world. In many respects, this shift should be viewed as a positive

development. Search engines provide consumers with unprecedented access to information, and social media sites empower users to self-report on issues relevant to their communities. However, the digitalization of the public sphere has also created immense challenges for public discourse and media pluralism, and the growing reliance on algorithmic gatekeepers has dramatically altered how discourse in the public sphere is constituted, structured, and governed.

A plethora of attempts to regulate intermediaries are underway – at both the EU and member states level. The aim of these regulatory approaches is to mandate Facebook, Google, Twitter, YouTube and other intermediaries to patrol content, by blocking unwanted posts, or ensure plurality and non-discrimination of sources. The reason: the influence of intermediaries on public discourse is perceived as overly powerful and damaging. However, it is doubtful whether current strategies will succeed in strengthening public discourse.

objective

In cooperation with our project partners from the European Policy Centre and the Mainzer Medieninstitut, we are Engaging with civil society and other stakeholders in a participatory design process. Our goal is to develop innovative governance/policy proposals and other tools that we will then feed into the EU and member states' policy processes.

Short-term objectives:

- Identify the negative effects intermediaries have on public discourse. Develop a joint understanding of these effects among participating organizations and the wider civil society, and come up with adequate and effective ideas and policy proposals to mitigate these effects.

Medium-term objective:

- Implement these ideas and policy recommendations by presenting, discussing and actively advocating for them both on the European and in the member state level.

Long-term objective:

- To preserve a public discourse that enables and supports the deliberative processes necessary for a democracy to function properly.

what happened in 2019 & summary of outcomes

In October 2019, Governing Platforms Project participants from civil society and academia convened at a workshop, where they voiced their frustrations with platforms' lack of meaningful transparency mechanisms and the resulting power and information asymmetries. While platforms collect and analyze massive amounts of user data, journalists, civil society and academic researchers have very limited access to the kind of data they would need to identify and scrutinize problematic behavior by intermediaries, and therefore to devise meaningful and effective governance proposals. This dilemma is perhaps best illustrated by the discussions surrounding the Social Science One (SSO) partnership between Facebook and researchers studying social media's effect on elections and democracy. Citing privacy concerns, Facebook refused to provide researchers with the data it had initially pledged to provide. In December 2019, the situation escalated when the Co-Chairs of the European Advisory Committee of SSO published a strongly worded [public statement](#) outlining the limitations of such voluntary approaches to platform data access and transparency. The oversight board's statement underscored a point we make in our Governing Platforms project: to understand what really happens in the world of algorithmic moderation and curation of content, we must demand access to quality, privacy-protecting data.

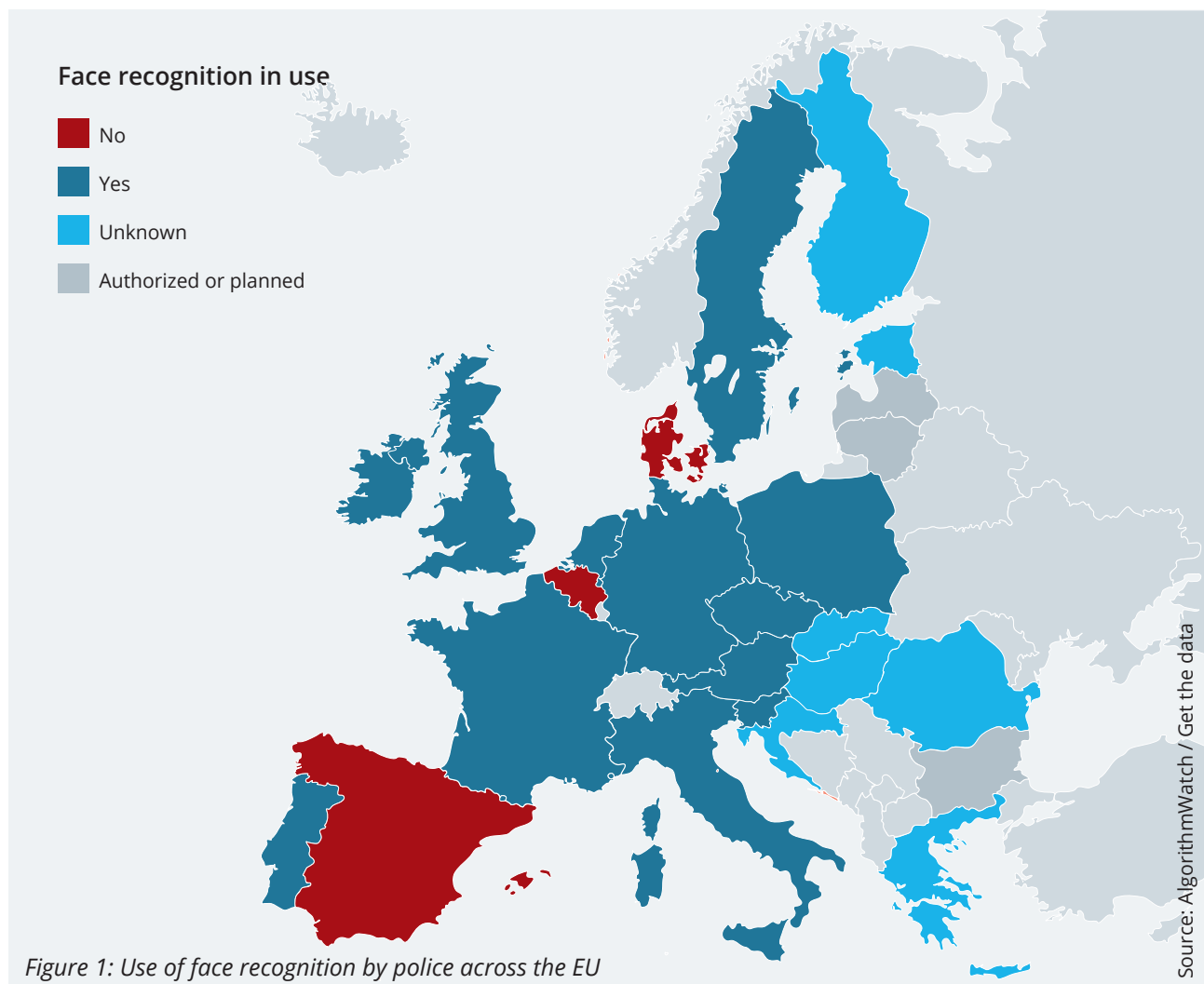
what's next?

In May 2020, AlgorithmWatch, the European Policy Center, and its academic partners at the Mainzer Medieninstitut will publish communications and legal analyses highlighting empirical findings into the effects of algorithmic gatekeeping as well as current regulatory attempts to dealing with

challenges posed by information intermediaries in Europe. In addition to our own research mapping the barriers to accessing and scrutinizing platform data, we will also be working with researchers from the University of Amsterdam's Institute for Information Law to identify how best practices in handling sensitive data for the public interest might be applied in the context of intermediary governance. This case study analysis will draw lessons from existing data-access practices and procedures such as e.g. client information exchange in the financial sector, or public access regimes for government census data. At the second governing platforms convening, we will discuss the results of these studies, and provide participants from civil society and academia the opportunity to use this input to develop policy recommendations for the European institutions.

#journalism and stories

In September 2019 AlgorithmWatch started receiving designated funding for our journalistic work. With the Journalism and Advocacy Grant by the Open Society Foundation we were able to employ a journalist. The objective is to raise awareness for the use of ADM systems in Europe, mainly (not exclusively) by the public sector in the fields of social welfare, health and migration, among the general public, policy makers and the expert community. As well as to help non-experts better understand the consequences and implications of the use of ADM systems and expand the discussion beyond domain experts. With this grant we were able to publish more stories on ADM systems and their effects on society, of which we will present three examples here:



Use of face recognition by police forces across the EU

Responding to AlgorithmWatch, police departments across the EU said they were in the process of introducing face recognition or had already done so. Face recognition systems are plagued by a systemic lack of transparency, making it difficult to identify error rates and generating a substantial accountability gap.

- Read the full story here: <https://algorithmwatch.org/en/story/face-recognition-police-europe/>

Spain: legal fight over public sector algorithm source code

After an ADM system had denied many Spaniards an electricity subsidy they were legally entitled to, the Spanish NGO Civio unsuccessfully tried to obtain the system's source code. AlgorithmWatch reported that while all EU countries have freedom of information laws, requests for publicly owned source code are rarely met with success.

- Read the full story here: <https://algorithmwatch.org/en/story/spain-legal-fight-over-an-algorithms-code/>

Welfare payment algorithm in Sweden goes rogue

In Sweden, an ADM system of the Swedish Public Employment System went rogue. The system had an error rate of 10 to 15% which left many claimants of unemployment benefits without money on their accounts. This news comes amidst a major push in Sweden to replace public sector workers with ADM systems.

- Read the full story here: <https://algorithmwatch.org/en/story/rogue-algorithm-in-sweden-stops-welfare-payments/>

Media and public relations

From the outset, AlgorithmWatch has attracted a high level of attention, as our media review (appendix) shows.

Our outreach strategy rests on following pillars:

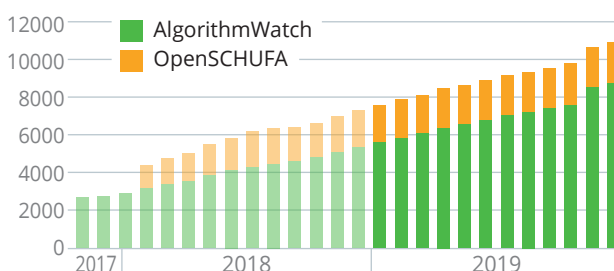
- Our **website**: It is the core outlet for all our products: journalistic stories, research reports, project outcomes and other news. Projects with complex outputs have their own websites, like the Automating Society Report or the Atlas of Automation with its database.
- The number of subscribers to our **bi-lingual newsletter** has increased significantly in 2019. Thanks to increased promotional efforts, the number of subscribers to the English version has more than quadrupled. At the end of the year, more than 2200 readers received the AlgorithmWatch newsletter.

Newsletter: Subscribers



- This year AlgorithmWatch gained around 4.000 **Twitter followers**, having more than 11.000 in total by the end of December 2019.

Twitter: Follower



Event participations

In 2019, AlgorithmWatch was invited to events at national, European and international level. These included various formats, such as invitations to hearings, discussion groups and panel discussions in the German Bundestag, in EU institutions and lectures and workshops at academic institutions and with civil society initiatives. AlgorithmWatch was also asked to give lectures and hold workshops at international conferences and symposia, e.g.

- **European Parliament, Brussels (January)**
Launch event of the report 'Automating Society – Taking Stock of Automated Decision-Making in the EU'
- **re:publica 2019 Berlin (May)**
Citizen Scoring in the EU – it happens at home, not only in China!
- **Data Ethics Commission of the German Government, Berlin (May)**
International Public Round Table Session 3: Participatory Digitization: Civil Society and Democracy
- **RightsCon, Tunis (June)**
Lightning Talks: Exploring the complex world of artificial intelligence
- **Council of Europe, Strasbourg (November)**
1. Meeting if the Ad Hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence – CAHAi
- **Internet Governance Forum 2019, Berlin (November)**
Open Forum #35: Strengthening Digital Transformation through Digital Security

Governance

organizational profile

AlgorithmWatch is a charitable non-profit limited liability company under German law. The Berlin tax authorities conferred the status of charitable non-profit in 2017 ("Gemeinnützigkeit").

In 2019 AlgorithmWatch had three governance structures: The executive management, the shareholders meeting and the supervisory board.

executive management

The organization is led by executive director Matthias Spielkamp.

shareholders meeting

The company's shareholders are the two co-founders Lorenz Matzat and Matthias Spielkamp with equal partnership shares. The shareholders meeting signs off on the annual financial report, has the right to appoint and dismiss the executive director, commands the company's capital and needs to be convened to decide about exceptional affairs.

supervisory board

We established a supervisory board in 2019. The supervisory board meets with the executive management one to two times a year in order to exonerate the executive management, to sign off on the annual financial report as well as the annual work plan. The board's first meeting took place late summer 2019.

Members:

- **Dr. Steffen Wenzel**, executive director of the non-profit Politik Digital, chair
- **Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger**, former German Federal Minister of Justice
- **Dr. Katharina de La Durantaye** (LL.M.), professor for Private Law and Media Law at Europa-Universität Viadrina

our team in 2019:

- / **Andreas Eisenhauer**
finance and accounting
- / **Anouk Ruhaak**
Mozilla Fellow
- / **Fabio Chiusi**
project manager (from August 2019)
- / **Kristina Penner**
executive advisor
- / **Leonard Haas**
intern (October – December 2019)
- / **Lorenz Matzat**
co-founder, project lead
- / **Lukas Zielinski**
intern (January – March 2019)
- / **Mackenzie Nelson**
project manager (from August 2019)
- / **Maike Majewski**
office assistant
- / **Marc Thümmeler**
communication and outreach / public relations
- / **Matthias Spielkamp**
co-founder, executive director, project lead
- / **Nicolas Kayser-Bril**
journalist (from July 2019)
- / **Sebastian Gießler**
researcher
- / **Veronika Thiel**
senior researcher (until November 2019)

You can read about the current team members of AlgorithmWatch on our website: <https://algorithmwatch.org/en/team-en/>.

memberships and affiliated organizations

- There is no membership in any other organization.
- We have no legal links with any organizations and do not hold any shares in other organizations.
- AlgorithmWatch became a partner in the ARC (Australian Research Council) Centre of Excellence for Automated Decision-Making and Society, including 7 Australian Universities, non-Australian universities and research institutes (NYU, Cornell, Amsterdam, Birmingham and others) and organizations like the Data & Society Research Institute, the Digital Asia Hub, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation and many more (<https://www.arc.gov.au/2020-arc-centre-excellence-automated-decision-making-and-society>).

Policies

We are continually reviewing and establishing new policies that help navigate our work internally to ensure they truly reflect the work we are doing.

We strive to be transparent, responsive to stakeholders and focused on delivering impact. AlgorithmWatch seeks to meet best-practice standards on public accountability and transparency, including in good governance, ethical fundraising, responsible advocacy and multi-stakeholder participation.

organizational ethics / transparency

We fulfill the requirements of the German initiative for a Transparent Civil Society ("Initiative Transparente Zivilgesellschaft").

- Please find all information according to our commitment on our website here: <https://algorithmwatch.org/transparency>
- More information about the initiative can be found here: <https://www.transparency.de/mitmachen/initiative-transparente-zivilgesellschaft/> (in German only)

Data protection

Please find all information on our privacy policy here:
<https://algorithmwatch.org/en/privacy/>

Finances

AW AlgorithmWatch gGmbH, Berlin Income Statement 01.01. – 31.12.2019

Revenues, Grants	568.457,92 €
Revenues, Donations	2.435,00 €
Revenues, other	22.619,49 €
Personnel expenses	
Wages and salaries	259.587,13 €
Social Security	55.243,08 €
Depreciation	479,00 €
Other	265.768,20 €
Annual net	2.435,00 €

Financial compliance

Our organization's financial report 2019 was audited by Martina Schmidt:

Certified Public Accountant, Dipl.-Kffr. (FH) Martina Schmidt
Barbarossastraße 39, 10779 Berlin

Legal

This report refers to the activities of the non-profit organization AW AlgorithmWatch gGmbH in the year of 2019.

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Registered Charity in Germany
Registered at district court Amtsgericht Berlin Charlottenburg
Registration number: HRB 186522 B

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linkedin.com/company/algorithmwatch

Media review 2019

AlgorithmWatch in the press

10 January 2019

COLUMBIA JOURNALISM REVIEW: What a report from Germany teaches us about investigating algorithms
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Events & participations 2019



10 April / BitKom Big-Data.AI Summit, Berlin

How to Make your AI Ethics-Proof? A Primer

Keynote by Matthias Spielkamp

7 May / re:publica 2019, Berlin

Citizen Scoring in the EU – it happens at home, not only in China!

Talk by Kristina Penner and Matthias Spielkamp

8 May / re:publica 2019, Berlin

KI: Mensch, Macht, Maschine

BMAS panel discussion with Björn Böhning, Matthias Spielkamp, Martin Ebers & Chris Kranzinger

9 May / Data Ethics Commission of the German Government, Berlin

International Public Round Table – Session 3: Participatory Digitization: Civil Society and Democracy

Session with Matthias Spielkamp, Ursula Pachi & Francesca Bria; Session Chair: Paul Nemitz

29 January / European Parliament, Brussels
Launch event Automating Society – Taking Stock of Automated Decision-Making in the EU

Project presentation & panel discussion hosted by MEPs & AlgorithmWatch

18 March / Civitates, Brussels

European Democracy meeting with Civitates: Why digital literacy is a vital link to democracy'

Speaker: Matthias Spielkamp

2 April / Mozilla, Berlin

Launch event 'Atlas of Automation'

Project presentation & panel discussion, hosted by AlgorithmWatch and Mozilla

18 May / EIJC & Dataharvest, Mechelen

Let's see the evidence! Where algorithmic decisions are used in real life

Session by Brigitte Alfter, Matthias Spielkamp & Nicolas Kayser-Bril

20 – 21 May / Amnesty International Netherlands

PHRP Expert Meeting on Predictive Policing

Workshop with Kristina Penner

12 June / RightsCon, Tunis

Lightning Talks. Lightning Talks: Exploring the complex world of artificial intelligence

Talk by Matthias Spielkamp

12 June / RightsCon, Tunis

Let's See the Evidence! Algorithmic decisions in real life – where and how are they used?

Session hosted by Upturn and AlgorithmWatch

14 June / Forum for German-French Dialogue, Genshagen

Im Dienste der Bürger? Das politische Gemeinwesen und die digitale Revolution

Plenary debate with Matthias Spielkamp, Dorothee Bär, Bruno Patino & Francesca Bria

14 June / Annual conference netzwerk recherche, Hamburg

BlackBox Schufa: Was wir über Kredit-Scoring wissen...

Panel with Matthias Spielkamp

10 September / Forum Bits & Bäume, Berlin
Künstliche Intelligenz für eine nachhaltige Entwicklung?

Discussion with Matthias Spielkamp

16 September / Central European University, Budapest

Populism, Technology and Law

Workshop with Mackenzie Nelson

28 September / Global Investigative Journalism Conference, Hamburg
Investigating Artificial Intelligence Issues

Session by Hilke Schellman & Matthias Spielkamp

2 October / LABOR.A 2019, Berlin

Mitbestimmung beim Einsatz von „Künstlicher Intelligenz“

Session by AlgorithmWatch and the Hugo Sinzheimer Institute for labour law

11 October / Conference Super-Scoring, Cologne

Scoring-Practices in Western-style democracies (case studies)

Session with Nicolas Kayser-Bril

13 October / Landesstelle für Gleichbehandlung – gegen Diskriminierung, Berlin

Fachwerkstatt: Algorithmen und das Recht auf digitale Gleichbehandlung

Keynote & Workshop with Lorenz Matzat

17 October | RheinMoselCampus, Koblenz

Fachtagung soziale Arbeit digital: Professionelles Handeln in Zeiten der Digitalisierung

Plenary talk by Lorenz Matzat

21 October / Jena eHealth Centre for Canver Theraies

1. eHealth-Hackathon & Fachtag: „KI in der Gesundheitswirtschaft: Chance oder Risiko?“

Panel with Veronika Thiel

27 October / MozFest 2019, London
Governing AI

Panel with Matthias Spielkamp

18 November / Council of Europe, Strasbourg
1st meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence – CAHAI

Presentation by Matthias Spielkamp

22 October / Hamburg Open Online University

Zukunft / Gesellschaft / Technologie

Discussion with Kristina Penner

22 November | Tagung Digitalisierung und Sozialrecht

Kritische Sicht der weiteren Entwicklungen einer Digitalisierung im Sozialrecht

Talk by Matthias Spielkamp

24 November / KI & Wir – Convention zu KI & Gender, Magdeburg

Die demokratische Dimension von Algorithmen – Ein Bericht aus der Praxis

Talk by Kristina Penner

23 November / Fiffkon 2019, Bremen

Viel Lärm um Wenig: Ethische Richtlinien in der Algorithmenentwicklung

Keynote by Veronika Thiel

24 November / KI & Wir – Convention zu KI & Gender, Magdeburg

Medizin, Gender und KI – Chancen zur Verbesserung der Diagnose und Therapie

Keynote by Veronika Thiel

25 November / Internet Government Forum 2019, Berlin

Pre-event: AI and discrimination – whose problem is it?

Council of Europe session with Matthias Spielkamp

25 November / Internet Government Forum 2019, Berlin

Algorithms down-to-earth: Sharing experience of investigations

IGF side event by ADC and AlgorithmWatch

26 November / Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und nukleare Sicherheit, Berlin

KIxKlima: Künstliche Intelligenz im Umweltschutz – eine Erfolgsformel?

Presentation by Kristina Penner

28 November / Internet Governance Forum 2019, Berlin

Strengthening Digital Transformation through Digital Security

Open Forum with Matthias Spielkamp

30 November / Web Days 2019, Berlin

Die Demokratische Dimension von Algorithmen

Keynote by Kristina Penner

3 December / Linz Institute of Technology

How to make your AI ethics-proof? A primer

Talk by Matthias Spielkamp

16 December / Berlin Institute of Health

Gesunde Algorithmen? Frauen und KI im Gesundheitswesen

Talk by Veronika Thiel

18 December / Arbeitplus Innovation Lab, Vienna

Algorithmen & BigData in der Arbeitsmarkt – und Sozialpolitik

Talk by Kristina Penner