



Cognitive Science Colloquium

Winter term 2026/2027

Tuesday, 12.15 – 13.15 h; Lecture Hall 24, Kupferbau

When	What
Tuesday, 27.10.2026 12.15 – 13.15	Prof. Dr. Jürgen Buder (IWM Tübingen): Between Habermas and Hate Speech: Studying Human Behavior in Comment Sections
	In the 1990s, many scholars believed that exchanging opinions in online forums and comment sections would be the ideal Habermasian public sphere where citizens may engage in rational discourse on societal issues. 30 years later, little is left of this idea: Social media are widely seen as venues for hate speech and hotbeds for societal polarization. This talk introduces psychological research on human behavior in comment sections. Experimental studies and two large-scale field investigations show that humans preferentially engage with dissenting others in comment sections. From the standpoint of deliberate democracy, that is good news. The bad news is that this clash of viewpoints may increase rather than decrease polarization. Current and future directions of this will be discussed.

Host: Cognitive Science Students

Organisation: Bettina Rolke and Volker Franz

Welcome to everybody!