



**Angewandte Linguistik**  
**IAM Institut für Angewandte  
Medienwissenschaft**

# **algorithms + language / language + algorithms**

**A Colloquium on the Interface  
between Linguistics and Computer  
Science**

**Thursday,  
17.10.2019**  
17:00 to 19:30

**IAM  
MediaLab**



# A Colloquium on the Interface between Linguistics and Computer Science

In the last decade, advances in AI ('artificial intelligence') have been boosted by machine learning and deep learning. This has seen AI becoming commercially viable in new ways, most notably in the form of image and speech recognition. Some of the most high-profile instances of these applications are machine translations, voice-user interfaces and virtual assistants such as Siri or Alexa, as well as the recognition of signs and pedestrians by so-called driverless cars. All of which have immediate, concrete ramifications for people's everyday lives, too.

Neither good nor bad, AI can be used in different ways. Speech recognition may be used to improve customer services while image recognition can help facilitate better, faster medical diagnoses. Both may, however, also be used for the purposes of monitoring, manipulating and controlling people. Not surprisingly, AI has its staunch advocates and its fierce critics. These tensions are at the heart of this special interdisciplinary colloquium.

Hosted by the IAM MediaLab in co-operation with the [VALS-ASLA Research Network on Communication and Digitization](#), the colloquium brings together two scholars working at the interface of language and machines.

The colloquium will open with presentations by the invited speakers who will outline their current research agendas. This will be followed by a dialogue and open discussion about current and potential interfaces between linguistics and computer science.

**Date/Time:** Thursday, [17 October 2019](#), 17:00 to 19:30

**Location:** ZHAW, School of Applied Linguistics, Theaterstrasse 15c, Winterthur

**Speakers:** [Rodney Jones](#), Professor of Sociolinguistics, University of Reading, UK  
[Thilo Stadelmann](#), Professor of Computer Science, ZHAW, Switzerland

**Organizers and co-sponsors:** Professors Aleksandra Gnach (ZHAW)  
Marcel Burger (University of Lausanne)  
Crispin Thurlow (University of Bern)