Prof. Leah Wright Rigueur

Monday, May 28, 2018, 18:15–19:30

Trolls, Bots, Social Media and Protests: Race and Democracy in the Age of Technology

In Cooperation with the CSElab, ETH Zurich [Computational Science and Engineering Laboratory]

The lecture is part of the main topic «Digital Societies» of the fellow period 2016–2020 at Collegium Helveticum.
This conversation will explore some of the ways in which political operatives and protest movements have harnessed technology and social media for political means. Of particular focus are the ways in which various groups have deployed new technological techniques – some in the interest of advancing democracy and racial equality; others as a means of depressing democratic ideals and minority rights. Given the increasing international power and reach (and subsequent scrutiny) of technological innovators like Facebook, this discussion is an opportunity to ask ourselves: what does the next wave of technological politics and innovations actually mean for the intersection of democracy and race in our society?

Leah Wright Rigueur is an Assistant Professor of Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. Her research interests include 20th Century United States political and social history, and modern African American history. Her work emphasizes race, civil rights, political ideology, the American two-party system and the presidency. Last Book Release: *The Loneliness of the Black Republican: Pragmatic Politics & The Pursuit of Power* (Princeton University Press, 2015).

**Date**
Monday, May 28, 2018
18:15–19:30

**Venue**
Collegium Helveticum
Schmelzbergstrasse 25
8006 Zürich

**Speaker**
Prof. Leah Wright Rigueur
[Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University]

[www.collegium.ethz.ch](http://www.collegium.ethz.ch)