

# Dr. Theresa Züger

## Curriculum Vitae



### Personal Details

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### Professional Experience

Since 04/2020 – today	<p>Head of the <a href="#">AI &amp; Society Lab</a> at the Alexander von Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society (HIIG). I am responsible for the labs strategy and the management and lead of various research projects. Since 2025, I am leading the Impact AI research project. Before, I headed the Public Interest AI research group, the <a href="#">civic coding study</a> and <a href="#">policy paper</a> about public interest AI in Germany for a collaboration of three German ministries, a project aiming at the <a href="#">explainability of AI for citizens</a> which resulted in the development of a <a href="#">card game</a> and an <a href="#">online experiment</a>, as well as an international project to improve the role of <a href="#">women*in tech</a>. My tasks include beyond research and strategy the supervision of PhDs, public lectures, policy advice, expert consultations, design and hosting of academic events and building and maintaining a network with numerous network partners from politics, business and civil society.</p> <p><u>Successful funding applications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Impact AI (Volkswagen Foundation ~1.8m €)</li><li>- Public Interest AI Research Group (BMBF, ~1.78m €)</li><li>- Civic Coding Study (BMUV, ~100k €)</li><li>- Explainable AI (neuland &amp; gestalten, 150k €)</li><li>- Women*in Tech (GIZ, ~380k €)</li><li>- Follow up projects Third Engagement (BMFSFJ, ~230k €)</li></ul>
01/2025 – today	<p><a href="#">Change! Fellowship at the Volkswagen Foundation</a> to lead the <a href="#">Impact AI research group</a>, to audit and evaluate AI projects in regards to their impact for sustainability and the public interest</p>
10/2020 – 09/2024	<p>Head of the BMBF-funded research group "Public Interest AI", investigating the meaning of AI systems serving a <a href="#">public interest in theory</a> and practice, developing <a href="#">prototypes in sub-projects</a> and mapping public interest AI and relevant stakeholder globally on <a href="#">www.publicinterest.ai</a></p>
10/2018 – 03/2020	<p>Head of the Third Engagement Report, which researches young engagement in the digital age on behalf of the Federal Government. Responsibilities were leading a team of six researchers to co-produce the report with an expert commission on „<a href="#">The Future of Civil Society: Young Engagement in the Digital Age</a>“ (Budget: ~750k€)</p>
03/2017 – 09/2018	<p>Project lead for digital projects for the Media Authority Berlin-Brandenburg. My responsibility was the establishment and management of the <a href="#">Media Policy Lab</a>, a think tank for the development and coordination of policy advice on the regulation of digital intermediaries. This included strategic consulting, coordination of publications, public relations, stakeholder management, knowledge transfer and moderation of events and workshops</p>
09/2012 – 07/2016	<p>Doctoral Researcher at the HIIG in the research area "Global Constitutionalism and the Internet"</p>

02/2014 – 03/2014	Visiting Scholar at the Berkeley Center for New Media, University of California
2011 – today	University Teaching: "Digital Citizenship" (M.A. seminar), 2022 ongoing, Vienna University of Economics and Business; "Understanding the digital society" (M.A. seminar) 2019 Leuphana University; "Digital civil disobedience" (M.A. seminar) 2014 Humboldt University of Berlin; Academic skills and methodology (B.A lecture & seminar) 2011-2012, University of Applied Sciences Osnabrück; Facilitating media literacy (M.A. seminar) 2011 Ruhr-University Bochum

## Academic Education

04/2013 – 05/2017	PhD at the Humboldt University of Berlin (Magna cum laude), Department of Media Studies PhD topic " <a href="#">Civil Disobedience in the Digital Age</a> "
10/2003 – 07/2009	Magister Artium (M.A.), Grade: 1.0 (with distinction) University of Cologne, Media Studies, Philosophy, German Language and Literature, Thesis on "Internet Ethics and Internet Governance"

## Public speaking

Since 2014	Media and public appearances (selection) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Radio Interview <a href="#">Deutschlandfunk Kultur</a></li> <li>• Webinar "<a href="#">Mapping Public Interest AI</a>"</li> <li>• <a href="#">re:publica 2017, 2022</a></li> <li>• More listed <a href="#">here</a></li> </ul>
08/2015 – 02/2016	Curator and moderator for <a href="#">transmediale 2016</a> , a yearly international festival for art and digital culture in Berlin

## Honorary activities & Advisory Boards

Since 2023 – today	Jury Member of the <a href="#">Deep Tech Award</a> in the category AI of the senate administration of Berlin
Since 2020 – today	Member of the <a href="#">German UNESCO working group</a> Communication and Information
2024	Jury Member <a href="#">Land der Ideen</a> (German Award for digital Innovation)
2023	Consulting expert for the Alfred Herrhausen Gesellschaft for the Project <a href="#">Democracy by Design</a>
2021-2022	Member of the Advisory Board for Digitization for CARITAS e.V.
Since 2018 – 2024	Consulting expert for the Acatech research project „ <a href="#">TechnikRadar</a> “

## Additional skills

Professional qualification	Certified Mediator Certified project manager Trained in interdisciplinary research
Language Skills	German: native language; English: fluent; French: basic; Spanish: basic