



Universität Hamburg  
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Philosophisches  
Seminar

Vortrag mit anschließender Diskussion

# Blocking Toxic Speech Online

*A Qualitative Study on Social Media*

by  
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Raum 03080  
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Vortrag

In this talk I present a qualitative study on how social media users counteract online toxic speech, i.e. speech that inflicts psychological or emotional harm and/or incites people to participate in bigoted practices ranging from sexism to homophobia, to racism and more. I focus on the practice of so-called *blocking* (Langton 2018), a counterspeech strategy specifically tailored to address implicit toxic discourse and prevent controversial material from being unwittingly accepted by default. Blocking is both cognitively and socially costly (it requires unpacking implicit material on the spot, and challenging the objectionable contents, thus taking confrontational attitude), and possibly risky. The question arises: do people even engage in online counterspeech? How do they do that, if at all? After having characterized the phenomenon in face-to-face conversations, I explore the specificities of *online* blocking on social networks. With these tools at hand, I put forward a taxonomy of the main kinds of online blocking based on my qualitative study on Twitter and Facebook.

2-G Veranstaltung

Campus Pass reicht als Nachweis *nicht*

Anmeldungen an

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Studierende geben bitte ihre Matrikel-Nr. an

Organisation:  
Vertr. Prof. Dr. Stefan Rinner

Philosophisches Seminar  
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