

Governing the Digital Society. Challenges for Agent-Based Modelling

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Modern societies of the 21st century are facing a fast-growing digitisation of almost every sphere of life and work, from industrial production to transport logistics, retailing and, finally, private life such as sleeping, cooking, leisure activities et cetera. Smart devices are collecting large amounts of data that allow to identify persons *and* objects and to check their current status and position. It rather seems that algorithms are governing our world.

Hence, the digital society is in need of new governance approaches in order to cope with these challenges, to keep pace with the rapid technological development, to maintain control and to guarantee a worthwhile future of our society. Our main research question is how to govern complex systems and which mode of governance (soft vs. strong control) produces best results. Agent-based modelling (ABM) with the simulation framework SimCo, developed at TU Dortmund, may help to better understand the functioning of complex systems and to provide means to govern the digital society.