



Käte Hamburger Kolleg  
Cultures of Research

**RWTH**AACHEN  
UNIVERSITY

**Inauguration of the Käte Hamburger Kolleg: Cultures of Research c:o/re  
July 4th, 2022, Coronation Hall, Town Hall Aachen**

Key Note Lecture

**From Loving the Data to Loving Automation: Epistemic Shifts in the Digital Age**

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*Abstract*

Detailed historical and ethnographic studies remain the gold-standard for the investigation of changing research cultures. However, some shifts affect more than one special field of research, leading to more widespread tendencies and challenges of existing practices and beliefs. In this presentation, I examine several tendencies that can be associated with digitalization, broadly understood. I begin with the notion of “data” as a concept that captures empirical reality, but I will also discuss the notion automation and its replacement by autonomy as well tensions that arise around established scientific codes and the challenges that occur when representational vocabularies and our methods of sustaining them become challenged.