Past the Silicon Valley: Towards a European Digital Public Sphere
In Europe’s intellectual history, physical places as well as communication spaces like journals and magazines have played a pivotal role in shaping a particular form of critical modernity. But what about the new virtual infrastructures? What kind of ‘digital public sphere’ is emerging here, and what role could or should ‘Europe’ play in this regard? Do we need a governance of the European virtual space and who should be entrusted with it? Should we work towards lifting the national regulations and harmonize European policies in order to create a unified European digital space, on the model of a ‘unified market’? Or should a European digital public sphere be conceived of as a digital commons, emerging through a bottom-up process of civil society? Silicon Valley has a clear vision of what the digital future should look like. Does Europe have the force to imagine convincing alternatives?

19:30 Welcoming and Introductory Remarks

19:40 Käte Hamburger Dialogue Panel

Emmanuel Alloa  Research Leader at the School for Humanities and Social Sciences, University of St. Gallen

Jean-Baptiste Soufron  IT lawyer, FWPA Avocats, Paris, and former General Secretary of the French Digital Council (CNNum)

Dirk Messner  Co-Director, KHK/GCR21, and Director, German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE), Bonn

20:45 Plenary Discussion

Please register until 19 October 2017 at events@gcr21.uni-due.de.