OSKAR VON MILLER FORUM

Press release

Ethics and Digitisation

A lecture by Julian Nida-Rümelin, Director of the Chair of Philosophy and Political Theory at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, at the Oskar von Miller Forum on 7 June 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

Digitisation presents us with the challenges of redefining what is genuinely human and of revitalising humanistic values. This includes implications for the ethics of building.

Digital communication and interaction technologies expand our sphere of action and create new opportunities. However, digitisation and the role played in it by large corporations involve a number of risks: loss of informational self-determination, compromising on trust and reliability in the Internet economy, and the fragmentation of the political public. Central humanistic educational ideals are gaining more importance than ever as digitisation proceeds within the spheres of technology, economy and culture. Mere knowledge of facts is losing its value; their critical assessment and the ability to deal with information overload are becoming more important.

Digitisation has only made a minor contribution to productivity development. At present it does not seem likely that this will change in the near future. This is also due to the fact that digital technologies have been used predominantly for communication and advertising purposes, and that the project of a networked Industry 4.0 initiated by Germany is still in its infancy.

Digital humanism encourages a consistent focus on human values when making use of technological possibilities, ensuring that human individuals can continue to be the authors of their lives worldwide, even in times of digitisation. Digitisation must be compatible with and supportive of individual and collective self-determination.

About the speaker

Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Julian Nida-Rümelin, retired Minister of State, is Director of the Chair of Philosophy and Political Theory at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, where he heads the extra-occupational Master's programme in Philosophy, Politics and Business.

In recent years, Julian Nida-Rümelin has engaged in profound studies of anthropological, epistemological and technology-related philosophical issues. He headed an EU research project on the ethics of robotics (within the RoboLaw research cluster) and has dealt with the philosophical and ethical aspects of autonomous driving and, in more general terms, the use of software systems in professional and private

life. Nida-Rümelin has been speaker of the cultural research group of the Bavarian Digitisation Centre (Zentrum Digitalisierung Bayern, ZD.B).

Julian Nida-Rümelin is a member of the Berlin Academy of Sciences and the European Academy of Sciences. His most recent book publications include: *Die Optimierungsfalle. Philosophie einer humanen Ökonomie* (btb 2015), *Humanistische Reflexionen* (Suhrkamp 2016), and *Über Grenzen denken: eine Ethik der Migration* (edition Körber, 2017).

Lecture in German.

Registration for the lecture until June 4 on info@ovmf.de