

EINLADUNG ZUM KOLLOQUIUM

Daniela Rosner

(Washington)

Bringing Repair to the Masses? Hobbyist Repair Cultures as Theaters of Alternative Industry

In this talk, Professor Daniela Rosner will describe her ethnographic study of "fixer collectives," public community-operated events dedicated to the repair of broken consumer electronics. Drawing on interviews and fieldwork with more than 80 fixers in Seattle and the San Francisco Bay area, Rosner describes the gendered demarcation of repair despite fixers' attempts to shift the redistribution technological skill. In exploring these tensions, Rosner finds surprising connections between repair and social movements that, in turn, reveal deep ties between contemporary hobbyist repair and countercultural design practices of the 1960s. These links, Rosner argues, open new and important areas for examining technological change.

Daniela K. Rosner is an Assistant Professor of Engineering at the University of Washington. Her research investigates the social, political, and material circumstances of technology development, resulting in new theoretical frameworks and interactive systems for spaces of making, such as hackerspaces, craft circles and fixer collectives. Her work has been supported by multiple awards from the U.S. National Science Foundation, including an NSF CAREER award. She is the author of several articles on craft and technoculture, including "Legacies of craft and the centrality of failure in a mother-operated hackerspace," Journal of New Media & Society, 2016 and "Binding and Aging," Journal of Material Culture, 2012. Her forthcoming book examines entanglements of intervention and inquiry across design and reflexive social science traditions (Under contract with MIT Press).

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Thomas Heinze Volker Remmert Heike Weber