

Faculty Club - May 6, 2022

12:00 - 1:30 pm, Generali-Saal (SuperC)

Prof. Ulrik Brandes, ETH Zürich

Soccer Analytics

One of the most dynamic developments in professional sports is the increasing utilization of data analytics and visualization. Clubs are hiring data analysts into newly created departments and the media are sprinkling their coverage with novel bits of information. Although late to the table, association football is catching up quickly.

Those who have been exposed primarily to simple outcome statistics extracted from the „ran database“ in the 1990s may wonder what this is about, and even be dismissive. I will give an overview of historical and recent developments of the use of analytics in football, and point out research challenges in data science. A major motivation for the course on Soccer Analytics I am currently teaching is that football provides an opportunity to study collective behavior in a highly regulated environment with high-quality data collection in place - and simply is fun, too.



Ulrik Brandes is professor for social networks at ETH Zürich. His background is in computer science with a Diploma degree from RWTH Aachen and a PhD from the University of Konstanz. He is vice-president of the International Network for Social Network Analysis (INSNA), coordinating editor of *Network Science*, and on the editorial boards of *Social Networks*, *Journal of Mathematical Sociology*, *Journal of Graph Algorithms and Applications*, and *Computer Science Review*.

His main interests are in network analysis and visualization. He is a co-author of the visone software for network analysis and the GraphML data format. Since his Koselleck Project (2011-2017) on Social Network Algorithmics, he is trying to improve the methodological foundations of network science.

As a principal investigator in the ERC Synergy Project NEXUS 1492 (2013-2019) he was working on reconstructing archaeological networks from fragmented and heterogeneous observations. Currently, he is getting serious about soccer analytics.

Registration

Please register [here](#) by Wednesday May 4, 2022 or send an email to facultyclub@ers.rwth-aachen.de

Please note that a [contribution](#) of 10 Euro for lunch, snack and beverages will be requested on site. Based on your registration, we make a binding order to the catering company. We therefore ask for your understanding that the cost contribution is due unless you cancel your registration by noon of the previous day at the latest.