

Siegfried Zielinski (born 1951) is a German media theorist. He held the chair for Media Theory: Archaeology and [Variantology](#) of the Media at [Berlin University of the Arts](#),^[1] he is [Michel Foucault](#) Professor for Techno-Culture and Media Archaeology at the [European Graduate School](#) in [Saas Fee](#),^[2] and he is director of the International [Vilém-Flusser-Archive](#) at the [Berlin University of the Arts](#).^[3] In 2016 until March 2018, he succeeded [Peter Sloterdijk](#) as head of the [Karlsruhe University of Arts and Design](#).^[4]

Biography

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Siegfried Zielinski studied theatre, [modern German literature](#), [linguistics](#), [semiotics](#), [sociology](#), [philosophy](#), and [political theory](#) in [Marburg](#) and Berlin, at the [Free University](#) and the [Technical University](#). The major focus of his studies were on the field of advanced technical media, with [Friedrich Knilli](#), whose institute had developed out of Walter Höllerer's Institute of Language in the Age of Technology.

In 1979 he wrote and directed the documentary film "Responses to HOLOCAUST in Western Germany" which is collected at [Paley Center for Media](#) in New York.^[5] He graduated in the same year with a thesis on [Veit Harlan](#), which was also his first monograph published in 1981. His Ph.D. dissertation in 1985 on the *History and Cultural Technique of the Video Recorder* became the book "Zur Geschichte des Videorecorders". His habilitation, in 1989, was on high-definition television.

In 1989 he took up his first full professorship in audiovisual studies at the [University of Salzburg](#) in Austria, where he set up a department for teaching, research, and production of "Audiovisions". "Audiovisions" was also the title of [his first book translated into English](#). In 1993, Zielinski was appointed professor of communication and audiovisual studies at the [Academy of Media Arts Cologne](#); where, in 1994, he became its founding director. In mid-2001, he returned to teaching and research, concentrating on history and theory, developing his multi-dimensional (or non-linear) approach to diverse genealogies of media he would call *an-archaeology* or [variantology](#) of media.^[6]

From 2007 until 2015, Zielinski held the chair in media theory and archaeology/Variantology of media at [Berlin University of the Arts](#).^[7] From 2016 until March 2018, he was rector at [Karlsruhe University of Arts and Design](#). He also teaches techno-aesthetics and media archaeology at the [European Graduate School \(EGS\)](#) in Saas Fee, Switzerland, where he holds the [Michel Foucault](#) professorship.^[2]

Publications (selection)

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- *Variations on Media Thinking* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2019). [ISBN 978-1-5179-0708-2](#).
- *Dia-Logos - Ramon Llull's Method of Thought and Artistic Praxis*. Ed. and written with Amador Vega and Peter Weibel (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2019). [ISBN 978-1517906092](#).
- *Potential Spaces - Research and Education in Art and Design*, ed. with Daniel Irrgang (Karlsruhe: ZKM books, 2019). [ISBN 978-3-928201-58-2](#).

- *Erkundungen im anthropologischen Viereck. Lektionen im Kontext des Flusserschen Denkens*, ed. by Daniel Irrgang and Siegfried Zielinski (Paderborn: Wilhelm Fink, 2018). [ISBN 978-3-7705-6338-8](#).
- *Zur Genealogie des MedienDenkens - Siegfried Zielinski im Gespräch mit Peter Weibel, Boris Groys, Friedrich Knilli, Hand Belting, Valie Export, Sybille Krämer, Otto E. Rössler et al.*, ed. by Florian Hadler and Daniel Irrgang (Berlin: Kadmos, 2017). [ISBN 978-3-86599-312-0](#).
- *Allah's Automata: Artifacts of the Arab-Islamic Renaissance (800-1200)*, ed. by Siegfried Zielinski and Peter Weibel, exhibition catalogue, [ZKM Center for Art and Media Karlsruhe](#) (Berlin/Stuttgart: Hatje Cantz Verlag, 2015). [ISBN 978-3775741064](#).
- *Bodenlos – Vilém Flusser und die Künste*, ed. by Siegfried Zielinski and Daniel Irrgang for the Academy of Arts, Berlin (Berlin: Akademie der Künste, 2015). [ISBN 978-3883312149](#).
- *Flusseriana: An Intellectual Toolbox*, ed. by Siegfried Zielinski, Peter Weibel and Daniel Irrgang, tri-lingual English/German/Portuguese (Minneapolis: Univocal Publishing, 2015). [ISBN 978-1937561529](#).
- *Over the Head – Projecting Archaeology & Variantology of Arts & Media. Zur Archäologie & Variantologie der Künste und Medien*, ed. by Marcel René Marburger. bilingual (Köln: edition 2014).
- *AnArchive(s) - A Minimal Encyclopedia on Archaeology of the Arts and Media*. Idea by Siegfried Zielinski, ed. by Claudia Giannetti, compiled by Eckhard Fülus. bi-lingual German/English (Oldenburg/Cologne). [ISBN 978-3-00-046018-0](#).
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Lectures

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- [Siegfried Zielinski. A Trilogy of Time](#). A Keynote at transmediale 2010.
- [Siegfried Zielinski. On An-Archaeology](#). Interview 2007.
- [Siegfried Zielinski. Interview for Imágenes del Rojas, UBA TV](#). Buenos Aires 1999.
- [Siegfried Zielinski. Is New Media really new?](#) Interview for The Lounge in 1999.

Memberships

[\[edit\]](#)

Siegfried Zielinski is elected member of, amongst others, the [European Film Academy](#) (EFA),^[9] the [Academy of Arts, Berlin](#) [1], the Akademie der Wissenschaften und der Künste Nordrhein-Westfalen ^[10] and the Magic Lantern Society of Great Britain [2].

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