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The newsletter of the WG10 Digital Sociology



Message from the President

By David DUEÑAS-CID

Dear members of the WG10 Digital Sociology,

We are pleased to announce the successful organization of the First Mid-Term Conference on Digital Sociology, which took place in Warsaw, Poland, coorganized in collaboration with the University of Warsaw, in particular, with the Digital Economy Lab ([DELAB](#)) and the [Civil City Lab](#). With over 60 participants from diverse backgrounds, the event fostered rich and engaging discussions on the intersection of society and digital technologies, spanning from theoretical developments, methods for digital sociology research and case studies in diverse topics. Our participants discussed a wide range of topics, including the influence of social media on identity, the role of data and algorithms in shaping public opinion, and the ethical implications of new digital tools. The conference helped bonding our research community, share insights, and deepen our collective understanding of how sociology is a necessary discipline for understanding digital environments and its intersection with our societies.

As we look ahead, we want to remind everyone that the deadline to submit abstracts for the 5th Forum of Sociology, organized by the International Sociological Association, is fast approaching (October 15) and no extension is expected. The Forum, set to take place in Rabat, Morocco, will be a key gathering for sociologists from around the world. If you are interested in presenting your work, we strongly encourage you to submit your abstract as soon as possible to secure your place at this important event.

Newsletter Highlights

Message from the President

Summary: First MidTerm Conference on Digital Sociology

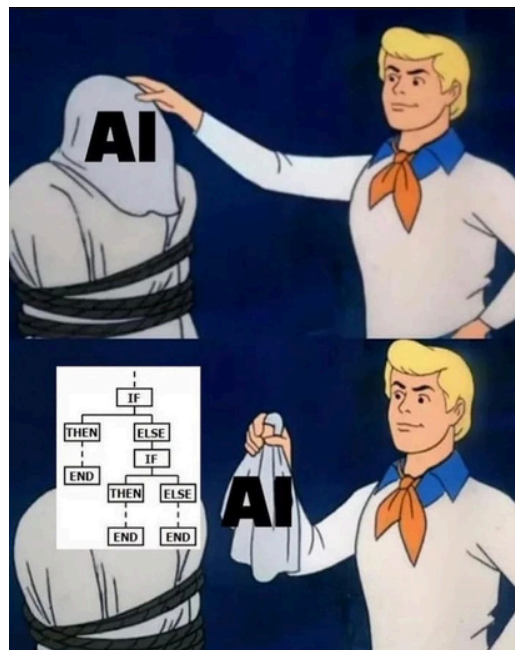
New Publications

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WG10 Sessions for the 5th ISA Forum of Sociology

Reminder

Don't miss the chance to contribute to the conversation and showcase your research! For the second time we are going to have our own program of sessions, curated by Jelica Stefanovic and Pilar Rodríguez, whose work has been invaluable for selecting the sessions and merging some with similar focus, allowing for the community to have a good selection of topics. A total of 28 sessions are offered under our umbrella, 8 of them shared with other RC/WG/TG. You can find the list of sessions for the WG10 Digital Sociology in this Newsletter, as well as in the following [link](#).



Finally, in recent months, several pressing issues have gained increasing attention from the expert community. The growing sense of global insecurity is affecting how we engage with digital spaces, while disinformation and fake news continue to rise, particularly in the lead-up to major events like the forthcoming American elections. The rapid advancement of artificial intelligence (AI) is also provoking new debates around its societal impacts, from ethics to automation. These are critical areas that will likely shape the future of society and where sociologists are necessary part of the discussion. We invite you to follow and participate in these discussions at the forthcoming Forum of Sociology in Rabat, where these topics will certainly be important elements in our dialogues.

Summary: First MidTerm Conference on Digital Sociology

The WG10 Digital Sociology 2024 Conference, hosted by the University of Warsaw on September 16th and 17th, provided a dynamic platform for exploring the complex intersections between technology and society. Kicking off with an opening ceremony, attendees were greeted by main organizers and hosts namely David Duenas-Cid, Julia Kubisa, Renata Włoch, and Anna Domaradzka, setting an inspiring tone for the event. This was followed by a keynote address from Professor Giuseppe Veltri, who presented "A Personal Journey through the Three Stages of Digital Social Research," framing the evolution of digital sociology as a field.

The first day's sessions included "Digital Sociology and its Challenges," chaired by David Duenas-Cid, and "Digital Sociology and Public Services," chaired by Marta Kołodziejska. These sessions covered diverse topics like the challenges of global data migration, human oversight in welfare administration, and the narratives surrounding digital services in Poland. After a lunch break, the conference continued with discussions on digital activism, social movements, and the role of AI in society. One session explored the social influence of hashtags in movements like #MeToo and the potential of social media influencers as change agents. Another session, led by Anna Domaradzka, delved into AI's role in workplace acceptance, digital platforms, and their impact on global labor practices. Concluding the day, Mikołaj Biesaga chaired a session on digital research methods, featuring innovative approaches such as computational sociology and the use of eyetrackers in studying fake news.

On the second day, the morning began with discussions on digital communication, media influence, and the digital public sphere, chaired by David Duenas i Cid and Anna Domaradzka. Presentations explored the impact of digital influencers on food behavior, the emergence of the digital public sphere in conflict settings like Ukraine, and user responses to e-surveillance. Mid-morning sessions examined digitalization in healthcare and family dynamics, with Mikołaj Biesaga and Anna Domaradzka as chairs. Topics included the use of wearable sensors in smart cities, parental control technologies, and the societal implications of digital "sharenting." After lunch, Renata Włoch chaired a session on digital learning and internet skills, where researchers discussed educational strategies for combatting social polarization and how older adults navigate internet privacy concerns. Simultaneously, Anna Domaradzka led a session on digital communities and social equality, focusing on online gendered spaces and the influence of dating apps on social behaviors in diverse cultural contexts.



Summary: First MidTerm Conference on Digital Sociology (continuation)



The final session of the conference, chaired by Mateusz Trochymiak, covered digital capital and consumption, where presentations addressed themes like user perceptions of AI, the social implications of algorithms in consumption, and how digital sociology is represented in popular media. The conference concluded with an evening social event at Paloma nad Wisłą Bistro, allowing attendees to network and celebrate the engaging discussions from the past two days. Throughout the event, participants examined a range of pressing issues, from AI and digital labor to ethical considerations in data use and surveillance, gaining valuable insights into the transformative role of technology in modern society. The WG10 Digital Sociology 2024 Conference successfully fostered interdisciplinary dialogue, collaboration, and a commitment to advancing digital sociology.

The WG10 Digital Sociology 2024 conference brought together researchers, academics, and enthusiasts to explore the pressing issues result from the increased presence of technology in everyday life. Organized by the Institute for Social Studies and Civil City Lab and hosted at the Faculty of Sociology with gracious support of Digital Economy Lab at the University of Warsaw, this event provided a platform for in-depth discussions on how digital transformations are reshaping our world.

Participants discussed key challenges, including digital inequality and the societal impacts of AI, fostering a collaborative and supportive environment for reflection and critical analysis. The conference underscored the importance of understanding technology's role in contemporary life, celebrating the passion and commitment of everyone involved. The organizers would like to express their gratitude to all the engaging contributions, which made the event a memorable success, as well as invaluable members of the organizing team from ISS and DELab. Our thanks also go to conference sponsors including University of Warsaw "Excellence initiative – research university" programme, University of Warsaw Foundation and Minds & Roses market research company.

New Publications

CHECK IT OUT

- Alakitan, M., & Makinde, E. (2024). Where are the ethical guidelines? Examining the governance of digital technologies and AI in Nigeria. *Policy & Internet*, 1–17. <https://doi.org/10.1002/poi3.416>
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- Kaoukaou M. (2023). Digital patriarchy and the Soft Gendred Strategies of Resistance: A Sociological Study (paper in Arabic). https://www.theacss.org/uploads/cke_documents/Working-Paper--Mahjouba-Kaoukaou.pdf
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- Kumkar, N. C., (2023) “Collaborative Mistrust: The Communicative Function of Alternative Facts in Social Media Interactions”, *Ethnologia Europaea* 53(2), 1–21. doi: <https://doi.org/10.16995/ee.8899>
- Le Minh Tien. (2024). Digital society and digital sociology: Sketchings from some publications around the world. *Vietnam Journal of Sociology*, 1.
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- Masso, A., Kasapoglu, T., Kaun, A., & Galis, V. (2024). Citizens' perspectives on platformisation of police work: A scenario and story-based exploration in Estonia and Sweden. *Information, Communication & Society*, 0(0), 1–19. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1369118X.2024.2333842>

New Publications (continuation)

- Mishra, P. (2024). Gendered Surveillance, Family Connections and Conflicts: An Ethnographic Perspective on Mobile Phone Usage by Migrant Brides in North India. In Lakshmi Lingam & Nolwazi Mkhwanazi (Eds.) *Digital Technologies and Gendered Realities* (pp 169-184). Routledge, India.
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- Wright, J. M., & Wright, S. A. (2023). "The Future of QAnon: Emergent Patterns of Social Movement Adaptation and Change." In *The Social Science of QAnon: A New Social and Political Phenomenon*, edited by Monica Miller. Cambridge University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009052061.023>



Interview with Pilar Rodríguez Martínez

Pilar Rodríguez Martínez, alongside Jelica Stefanovic, serves as one of the coordinators for the WG10 Sessions at the 5th ISA Forum of Sociology in Morocco.

Please briefly introduce yourself and your research

I am Pilar Rodriguez Martínez, a professor of sociology at the University of Almeria. I have worked on gender, migration, violence against women and values. I have been a member of Digital Sociology since its creation. My interest in this line of research began when I was invited by David Dueñas to analyse the impact of the ways of communicating (online, by phone, by mail) with their loved ones left behind in their country of origin ([link](#)). Since then, I have led several research projects (on extremism and social media) and on hate speech. In the most recent project (funded by the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation), we are studying the use of social media by teenagers (time spent on the Internet, on social media, how they use the networks, etc.). Some recent publications on this topic are here: [Link 1](#), [Link 2](#).

I am coordinating a session on hate speech at the ISA Forum in Rabat. My current concerns about hate speech among young people in secondary education relate to many aspects. Firstly, I am concerned about the amount of time teenagers spend on the internet (more than a third of them spend more than 5 hours a day) and the effect that internet time has on their academic curriculum (the more time they spend on the internet, the more likely they are to fail). In addition, the more time they spend on social media (especially those who use Discord or Telegram), the more likely they are to encounter hate speech. And the more hate speech they encounter, the more likely they are to say they have perpetrated it against others. We also found that online hate speech is closely related to offline hate speech, as there is a high correlation between the two. In other words, there is an increase in the use of violence in the digital world by young people against vulnerable groups (because of their nationality, sexual orientation, physical appearance, ethnicity, gender, disability), which is linked to violent behaviour in and outside the digital world.

These and other issues will be addressed in the session on hate speech. Let us now turn to the programme of the ISA Forum in Rabat.

What key themes in Digital Sociology will be explored during the panels?

The range of topics left in the final proposal is very broad, ranging from theory to methodology, digital citizenship in relation to justice, smart cities and digital governance, trust and mistrust, and digitization in the global south. There are also sessions on issues related to digital workers, feminism and cyber violence. Hate speech, conspiracy theories and insecurity. Finally, there are several sessions on the impact of artificial intelligence in the digital world.

Interview with Pilar Rodriguez Martinez (continuation)

Why is it important to have panels on diverse subtopics under Digital Sociology now, particularly in light of rapid technological advancements?

The various sessions explore the complex interplay between technology, society and individual behaviour. They seek to analyse the impact of the amount of information we handle and the number of people we interact with (online and offline). The digital transformation of everyday life means that every part of our existence is transformed into information and distributed as a new form of value. Websites, internet forums or social networks have been instrumental in spreading misinformation or creating alternative truths, contributing to a new understanding of trust and mistrust. Also, we are witnessing the rise of hate speech on social media, which seeks to exacerbate, monopolise and radicalise people's opinions and attitudes about vulnerable groups.

Digital sociology also analyses the power structures that shape digital technologies, the repertoire of collective action, social participation and its implications for democratic participation. The consequences of these changes for different social groups need to be explored. For example, older adults in adapting to digital technologies; cyber-violence against women and girls as a growing and worrying phenomenon that reflects and reinforces gender inequalities in society; tech workers' experiences of AI, the cultural landscape, surveillance, and their activism and solidarity with other working groups). Aware that digital platforms both perpetuate and resist traditional gender norms and inequalities, researchers analyse in depth the intersection of gender, power and technology in digital societies.

Advanced technologies also affect urban infrastructures, social life, governance and urban inequalities. Researchers will highlight the power dynamics of digital knowledge and how it affects who, when and how, in order to improve our understanding of the injustices of the Anthropocene. Cyber-citizenship is not a new concept in political sociology, but one session proposes an in-depth analysis of its implications for people's political participation.

The diversity of issues raised by these new ways of relating to each other means that we need to update social theories about the nature and form of social interactions (online, offline and the combination of online-offline), and look for new research techniques to study them (for example, in the analysis of social media mentions or in the use of artificial intelligence in data production and analysis).

What should participants expect to take away from the discussions on WG10 panels?

On the one hand, they will learn about the results of concrete research in the different fields in which the researchers work. On the other hand, they will have the opportunity to discuss the social and political implications of the research results.

Interview with Pilar Rodriguez Martinez (continuation)

How do the topics in Digital Sociology vary between different regions or social groups, especially in the Global South?

Most of the sessions have been proposed by researchers from universities in the Global North, but there are also sessions proposed by researchers working in universities in the South. In the Global South, digital transformation strategies have been adopted to remodel the integration and incorporation of digital technologies in economic development, business practices and service delivery improvements. However, the impact of these digital transformations varies according to people's access to resources (including technological). The coordinators of Digital Sociology have endeavoured to welcome the proposals of researchers from universities in the South, in the hope that they themselves will be the ones to present us with the current challenges, dilemmas and perspectives in the study of digitalisation and digital transformation in - and from - the Global South.

Lastly, how do the panels on Digital Sociology contribute to the broader theme of "Knowing Justice in the Anthropocene"? Specifically, how can digital technologies be harnessed to address issues of justice and inequality in a time of profound environmental and social change?

Several sessions will deal with digital activism, issues of personal insecurity in the Anthropocene, digital health and well-being, alluding to new phenomena such as 'data activism', 'algorithmic resistance' or the 'contentious politics of data'. The question is not only how to use these technologies, but how to put them at our service, how to prevent them from being used against us, and hindering the development of a healthier and more comfortable social life in a more sustainable environment.



WGIO Sessions for the 5th ISA Forum of Sociology

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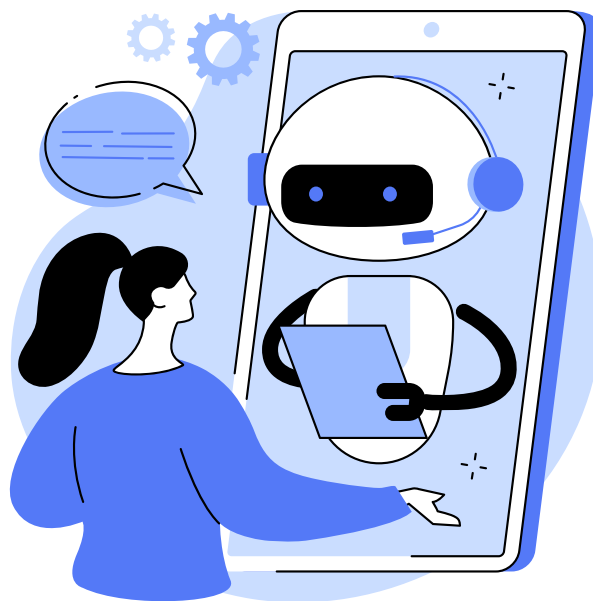
Sessions: (Click to access the description and submission pages)

- [A Society of Genai?](#)
- [A Sociology of Digital Government: How Has Citizens' Experience of the State Been Transformed?](#)
- [AI, Gender and the Future of Work](#)
- [Application of the Customer-Centricity Principles in State Bodies in the Domain of Getting Public Feedback](#)
- [Cyberviolence Against Women and Girls](#)
- [Digital Futures: Contesting Power and Visions](#)
- [Digital Health and Wellbeing: Sociological Perspectives on Emerging Technologies](#)
- [Digital Knowledge for Justice in the Anthropocene](#)
- [Digital Sociology of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management](#)
- [Digitalization, Digital Transformation and Economic Development in the Global South](#)
- [Dignified Aging in Digital Age?](#)
- [Disinformation and Framing Battles in the New Technomediatic Public Sphere](#)
- [Electronic Citizenship in the Context of Emigration and Immigration: A Comparative Approach to Online Mobilizations of Diasporas from the Global South](#)
- [Engaged Feminist Digital Social Research: Epistemological, Ethical and Political Debates](#)
- [Global Data Migration As a Challenge to Digital Sociology](#)
- [Governing Digital Commons: Diversity, Inclusion and Democratic Participation](#)
- [Internet Uses Associated with Hate Speech](#)



continuation...

- Methodological Challenges in Digital Sociology in the AI Era
- Myths and Realities of Digitalisation
- New Frontiers in the Study of Digital Religion
- Online Conspiracy-Making and Digital Ethnography
- Personal Insecurity and the Anthropocene - What Are People Experiencing in Their Media Use?
- Smart of Just Smartass City? Insights into the Development and Impact of Smart Cities
- Sociological Theories of the Digital
- Tech Workers in Current Times: Contexts, Identities, and Actions
- The Bright and Dark Sides of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Its Potential Solutions
- Transforming Collective Action: From Digital Activism to Datafied Movements
- Trust and Distrust in the Digital Society



Reminder!



Digital
Sociology

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS!

5th ISA FORUM OF SOCIOLOGY

RABAT, MOROCCO, JULY 6 - 11, 2025

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SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 15, 2024



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