

## ISA Working Group 10 Digital Sociology

### Call for Session Proposals

XXI ISA World Congress of Sociology | *Global Sociology in Turbulent Times*

Gwangju, South Korea | 4–10 July 2027

Dear Colleagues,

The theme of the XXI World Congress of Sociology, *Global Sociology in Turbulent Times*, comes at a moment when digital sociology's central question—what kind of social formation we are living in and what does it require of us to understand it—has never been more urgent. International Sociological Association (ISA) Working Group 10 (WG10) on Digital Sociology was established within the ISA's network as a home for scholars at all career stages and interested practitioners working worldwide toward answering this question. WG10's fast-growing membership has actively engaged with the rapidly evolving socio-technical digital becoming and its associated paradoxes, providing a critical lens for understanding both the global digital society and the digital. We invite all curious researchers to join us in exploring the simultaneously unfolding global processes of constituting, contesting, undoing, remaking, propelling, dissipating, and reconfiguring. These unprecedented processes are global, entailing shared vulnerabilities and responsibilities, common failings, and a common liberating potential. Digital—as its most recent iteration, Artificial Intelligence (AI), including its emerging agentic and self-learning forms, demonstrates—is the ground from which both domination and emancipation grow. Therefore, we are obliged to seek opportunities to enlarge human freedom and well-being by aligning digital with planetary limits in the face of the global regime of unsustainability.

WG10's primary interest for the Congress is to further the theorising, in sociological terms, of the landscape and the world-shaping of the current, unique digital social formation while experimenting with new approaches and methods of inquiry into it. We invite theoretically strong, methodologically rigorous, empirically rich, and comparatively concentrated Session proposals, avoiding shallow impressionist descriptivism and reductionist techno-determinism. We welcome submissions from both established and early-career researchers, as well as practitioners from around the world. Scholars from Asia, Africa, Latin America, and European countries outside the European Union are strongly encouraged to propose Sessions. With the advantage of hosting the Congress, Korean sociologists could make a significant contribution through comparative proposals that highlight their country's unique digital governance and the social wielding of digital technologies.

***To orient the Session proposals, the following topical questions could be helpful; not all need to be addressed. Depth and precision are preferred over breadth.***

**Theory, Epistemology, and Methods**—What theories explain global digital society as a distinct socio-technical formation on sociology's own terms? How does AGI's move beyond extracting knowledge from human data toward superhuman intelligence transform the foundational questions of digital sociology? What methods—computational, ethnographic, participatory, mixed—

adequately study digital social formation? What do Western, Chinese, East Asian, African, and Latin American traditions offer each other in building a genuinely global digital sociology?

**Relationships, Intimacy, Body, and Digital Social Life**—How are self, body, intimacy, identity, integrity, belonging, digital mobilities, and migrations constituted through digital mediation and immediacy—and how do they vary transnationally across class, race, gender, generation, and geography? How does digital mediation simultaneously deepen connection and loneliness, solidarity and hatred, collective effervescence and polarisation?

**Spaces, Infrastructures, and Socio-Technical Structures**—How do platforms, algorithmic architectures, metaverses, digital twins, AR/VR/XR, IoT and the Internet of Bodies reorganise social space, time, and presence as socio-technical structures—not mere technologies? What is digital infrastructure as social infrastructure, and who builds, owns, and is excluded from it?

**Practices, Culture, Labour, and Precarity**—How do platform capitalism, gig work, digital labour, digital poverty, prosumption, digital fashion, lifestyles, gaming, religion, and digital spiritualities simultaneously produce new forms of exploitation, creativity, discrimination, and resistance comparatively and transnationally, and to what effect for whom? How do digital poverty and digital precarity intersect with race, gender, age, and geography? Who and how contest them?

**Power, Elites, Governance, and Democratic Life**—What inequities and how do tech company networks, algorithmic governance, data extractivism, surveillance, disinformation, and digital discrimination produce and how are they countered? What digitised institutions amount to democratic backsliding, and how do digital elites frame and capture public goods? Who, why and how contest digital inequalities politically? What do ongoing conflicts—from the simultaneous deployment of social media and AI for disinformation, warfare, mobilisation, and solidarity—reveal about the versatility of digital power and its sociological anatomy? How do AI governance frameworks differ across the Global South and the Global North? What is the state of global digital governance, who is accountable, and who governs the governors?

**Generations, Health, Education, and Public Life** — How do ageing, youth, digital poverty across the life course, and precarity constitute distinct digital formations of dignity, creativity, exclusion, and resistance? How does digitalisation restructure health, education, democratic institutions, and the public good—and under what conditions does it serve justice rather than deepen inequalities? How does AI's restructuring of universities and knowledge institutions reshape the production of sociological knowledge itself?

**A Just Society on a Safe Planet**—What would a digital society look like if every human life, everywhere, and nature were equally respected, free from exploitation, and sustainable? Where should authority rest—scientific, institutional, communal, global—in orienting digital life toward justice? How can digital sociology claim and exercise its responsibility to those most harmed by the formation it studies?

**Since WG10's objective is to advance digital sociology knowledge by gathering together all working at the intersection of digital technology and society from a sociological perspective in building bridges between North and South, East and West, theory and practice, and academia and communities our research serves, we look forward to receiving the outstanding Session proposals and developing an amazing WG10 Programme part for the overall exquisite Congress Programme in Gwangju.**

## ***How to Submit***

Session proposals must be created exclusively in the **ISA Conference System** at [isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/wc2027](http://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/wc2027). Email submissions are not accepted.

<b>Step</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Detail</b>
<b>Step 1</b>	<b>Select session type</b>	Open, Invited, or Joint — select first, as it determines the proposal structure.
<b>Step 2</b>	<b>Provide a clear title</b>	Concise, thematically specific. Reflect the working language(s) in the title where relevant.
<b>Step 3</b>	<b>Write the description</b>	Maximum 250 words. Maximum 3 Session Organisers.
<b>Step 4</b>	<b>Add keywords</b>	Select or enter keywords reflecting the session's substantive focus and methodological approach.
<b>Step 5</b>	<b>Indicate language(s)</b>	ISA's official languages are English, French, and Spanish. Multilingual sessions are encouraged; reflect this in the title where relevant.
<b>Step 6</b>	<b>Proofread and submit</b>	Edit and proofread the full proposal carefully. No editing is possible after 25 June 2026 at 23:59 UTC/GMT. What you submit is what will be published.

### **SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 25 June 2026 at 23:59 UTC/GMT**

**Strictly enforced. No extensions granted under any circumstances.**

Proposals are published exactly as submitted. Edit and proofread carefully before the deadline — no changes are possible after.

### **Membership requirement — grace period: 22–29 July 2026**

Under ISA rules, at least one Session Organiser must be an ISA member and a member of Working Group 10 by the end of the membership grace period (22–29 July 2026). Sessions for which this requirement is not met will be removed from the Programme without exception. Please verify and, if necessary, renew or establish your ISA and WG10 membership well in advance.

Please address inquiries regarding WG10 Session proposals and related matters for the Congress to WG10 Programme Coordinators Jelica STEFANOVIC-STAMBUK ([vzorin@gmail.com](mailto:vzorin@gmail.com)) and Mayurakshi CHAUDHURI ([mayurakshi.chaudhuri@flame.edu.in](mailto:mayurakshi.chaudhuri@flame.edu.in)).

Thank you, and with best regards,

WG10 Programme Coordinators

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