

## SYLLABUS OF A SUBJECT OF DOCTORAL STUDIES

Title of the Subject	Science Category (Code)	Faculty
<b>Theories and Research of Digital Inequality</b>	Communication and Information S 008	Communication

Mode of Study	Number of allocated ECTS credits	Mode of Study	Number of allocated ECTS credits
Lectures		Consultations	2 ECTS
Individual work	5 ECTS	Seminars	

### **Subject annotation**

**The aim of the subject** is to gain knowledge on the theories and models of digital inequality discussing its causes, structure and manifestation in various contexts and at different levels. The development of the theoretical explication of digital inequality is outlined. The subject is intended to help students gain theoretical and methodological access to the manifestation of inequality in digital environments, especially the unevenness of the use of digital media. Students are also expected to reflect on the exclusion stemming from digital inequality and an increase in inclusion in the context of other social and economic inequalities.

At the end of the course, students are expected to be able to comment on the origin of the different theories of digital inequality, the key points of these theories and their differences, to analyze their fundamental statements, strengths and weaknesses, to align their theoretical attitude to digital inequality to the applicable methods of research, and to apply the theories for field investigation.

### **Content of the subject**

The manifestation of the levels of digital inequality in various cultures and regions; inequality among different social groups. Theoretical models of digital inequality generalizing on the manifestation of digital inequality between different regions of the world and nation states, and also within a specific country or region. The concepts of absolute and relative inequality and their application in the research of digital inequality. Manifestation of digital inequality and its consequences at various levels: physical and material, skills and capacities, motivation and benefits. Empirical research providing foundations for the theories of digital inequality and the application of the theories in Lithuania and worldwide. The concepts of digital exclusion and inclusion, the scope and methods of their research. Research of the reduction of digital exclusion and the promotion of digital inclusion featuring firsthand participation of research subjects.

### **Study methods**

1. Individual consultations with the lecturers supervising the subject.
2. Individual research of scholarly literature and the preparation of an academic paper on the subject outlined and worded jointly by the student and the Professors supervising the subject.

### **Methods of assessment**

1. Academic paper (from 20 000 to 25 000 symbols including spaces) on a topic focusing on the questions posed by the Professors supervising the subject.
2. Oral discussion based on the academic paper.

**Note:** along with the outlined main literature of the subject, doctoral students are expected to look further sources of literature conforming to the academic interests of the doctoral student, the topic of the paper and the profile of the doctoral thesis.

### Main literature

van Dijk, Jan. *The digital divide*. Polity, 2020. vi, 184 p.

Hargittai, E. (2002). Second-level digital divide: Differences in people's online skills. *First Monday*, 7(4). <https://doi.org/10.5210/fm.v7i4.942>

van Deursen, A. J. A. M., Helsper, E. J., Eynon, R., & van Dijk, J. (2017). The compoundness and sequentiality of digital inequality. *International Journal of Communication*, 11, 453–473. Retrieved from [http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/68921/1/Helsper\\_Compoundness%20and%20sequentiality.pdf](http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/68921/1/Helsper_Compoundness%20and%20sequentiality.pdf)

Warschauer, M. (2002). Reconceptualizing the digital divide. *First Monday*, 7(7). <https://doi.org/10.5210/fm.v7i7.967>

Dutton, W. H., Reisdorf, B. C. (2019). Cultural divides and digital inequalities: attitudes shaping Internet and social media divides. *Information, Communication & Society*, 22(1), 18–38.

Helsper, E. J. (2012). A corresponding fields model for the links between social and digital exclusion. *Communication Theory*, 22(4), 403–426.

Consulting Professors	Pedagogical and research title	Key publications in the field (branch) of science during the last 5 years
Elena Macevičiūtė	Prof. Dr.	<p><b>Macevičiūtė, Elena;</b> Manžuch, Zinaida; Gudiniavičius, Arūnas. The role of curiosity triggers and features in digital literacy training // <i>Library &amp; information science research</i>. New York : Elsevier. ISSN 0740-8188. eISSN 1873-1848. 2023, vol. 45, iss. 4, art. no. 101268, p. [1–9]. DOI: 10.1016/j.lisr.2023.101268.</p> <p><b>Macevičiūtė, Elena;</b> Kepalienė, Fausta. Factors influencing Lithuanian researchers' use of open access repositories as a publishing channel // <i>Information research: Proceedings of ISIC: the information behaviour conference, Berlin, Germany, 26 - 29 September, 2022</i>. Sheffield : University of Sheffield. ISSN 1368-1613. 2022, vol. 27, spec. iss., art. no. 2210, p. [1–17]. DOI: 10.47989/irisic2210.</p> <p>Wilson, Thomas D.; <b>Macevičiūtė, Elena</b>. Information misbehaviour: modelling the motivations for the creation, acceptance and</p>

		<p>dissemination of misinformation // <i>Journal of documentation</i>. Cambridge : Emerald Publishing Limited. ISSN 0022-0418. eISSN 1758-7379. 2022, vol. 78, iss. 7, p. 485–505. DOI: 10.1108/JD-05-2022-0116.</p> <p>MANŽUCH, Zinaida; MACEVIČIŪTĖ, Elena. A life goals perspective on the information behaviour of elderly adults // <i>Information research: vol. 25. no 4: Proceedings of ISIC, the Information Behaviour Conference, Pretoria, South Africa, 28 September - 01 October, 2020</i>. Sheffield : University of Sheffield. eISSN 1368-1613. 2020, vol. 25, no. 4, p. [1–18]. DOI: 10.47989/irisic2005.</p> <p>MANŽUCH, Zinaida; MACEVIČIŪTĖ, Elena. Digital comics reading program for reducing the digital exclusion of people with hearing impairments // <i>Sustainable digital communities: 15th international conference, iConference 2020, Boras, Sweden, March 23–26, 2020 : proceedings</i>. Cham : Springer, 2020. ISBN 9783030436865.</p> <p>MANŽUCH, Zinaida; MACEVIČIŪTĖ, Elena. Getting ready to reduce the digital divide: scenarios of Lithuanian public libraries // <i>Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology</i>. Hoboken : Wiley. ISSN 2330-1635. eISSN 2330-1643. 2019, first published online, p. [1–13]. DOI: 10.1002/asi.24324.</p>
Rita Repšienė	Assoc. Prof. Dr.	<p>Repšienė, Rita. Marija Gimbutas, the 21st Century and the Media: Creating Hope for a Peaceful Future through the Discovery of Prehistoric Civilization = XXI amžius, medijos ir Marija Gimbutienė Atradusi nepaprastą laiką ir sukūrusi taikią viltį ateičiai // <i>Sphairos: Cultural and Media Studies: Marija Gimbutas in 21st Century: Longing for Peaceful Civilisations</i>. Vilnius : Lithuanian Culture Research Institute. ISSN 2029-8560. eISSN 2783-5529. 2022, 13, p. 26–63.</p> <p>Repšienė, Rita. Migracijos pokyčiai XXI a.: egzodas, tapatumo dilema ir transnacionalumo perspektyvos = Migration transformation in the 21st century: exodus, the identity dilemma, perspectives on transnationalism // <i>Migracija: sampratos ir patirtys / sudarytoja Margarita Matulytė</i>.</p>

		<p>Vilnius : Lietuvos nacionalinis dailės muziejus ; Lietuvos kultūros tyrimų institutas, 2022. ISBN 9786094261688. p. 124–150, 484.</p>
		<p>REPŠIENĖ, Rita. Krišškumo metamorfozės, viešieji intelektualai ir „nykstančių galių“ pavojai, <i>Jonas Mekas: Būti atviram ir viešieji intelektualai</i>. Vilnius: LKTI, 2019, p. 68–95. – Lietuvos kultūros tyrimai, 11. ISSN 2029-8560.</p>
<p>Andrius Šuminas</p>	<p>Prof. Dr.</p>	<p>Šuminas, Andrius; Pričins, Mārtiņš; Toode, Ülle; Januškevičiūtė, Justina. Similar aims, different approaches: An analysis of campaign video ads in the Baltic States // <i>The 2019 European Electoral Campaign: In the time of populism and social media</i>. Cham : Springer, 2022, Chapter 12. ISBN 9783030989927. eISBN 9783030989934. p. 219–239. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-030-98993-4_12.</p> <p>Šuminas, Andrius. Lietuvos politikų ir partijų rinkiminių žinučių tematika 2020 m. Seimo rinkimų kampanijos metu = Topics of electoral communication of politicians and parties during 2020 Lithuanian parliamentary elections // <i>Politikos ir komunikacijos sankirtoje: tendencijos, diskursai, efektai</i> : straipsnių rinkinys. Kaunas : Vytauto Didžiojo universitetas, 2022. ISBN 9786094675102. p. 95–104.</p> <p>LEVRATTO, Valeria; ŠUMINAS, Andrius; SCHILHAB, Theresa; ESBENSEN, Gertrud. Smartphones: reading habits and overuse. A qualitative study in Denmark, Lithuania and Spain // <i>Educación XX1</i>. Madrid : Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia. ISSN 1139-613X. eISSN 2174-5374. 2021, vol. 24, no. 2, p. 167–188. DOI: 10.5944/educxx1.28321.</p> <p>GUDINAVIČIUS, Arūnas; ŠUMINAS, Andrius. Reading book covers // <i>The materiality of reading</i> / edited by Theresa Schilhab and Sue Walker. Aarhus : Aarhus University Press, 2020. ISBN 9788771849585. p. 114–126.</p> <p>ŠUMINAS, Andrius; JASTRAMSKIS, Deimantas. The importance of media literacy education: How Lithuanian students evaluate online news content credibility // <i>Central</i></p>

*European journal of communication.*  
Wrocław : Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu  
Wrocławskiego. ISSN 1899-5101. 2020, t.  
13, Nr. 2(26), spec. issue, p. 230–248. DOI:  
[10.19195/1899-5101.13.2\(26\).5](https://doi.org/10.19195/1899-5101.13.2(26).5).

Approved by the Committee of the Doctoral Studies of Communication and Information in  
the Field of Social Sciences of 20 November 2023, Minutes No. (7.17 E) 15600-KT-545

Chairperson of the Committee Prof. Dr. Aušra Navickienė