

COURSE SYLLABUS FOR DOCTORAL STUDIES

Name of the course	Field of study and its code	Faculty
Theories and Research of Digital Inequality	Communication and information S 008	Communication

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

Course abstract

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.

Course literature

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

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

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.

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>

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

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

Name of consulting lecturer	Academic rank	Major works published in the last 5 years
Elena Macevičiūtė	Prof. Dr.	MACEVIČIŪTĖ, Elena; MANŽUCH, Zinaida; GUDINAVIČIUS, Arūnas. The role of curiosity triggers and features in digital literacy training // <i>Library & 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.
		MACEVIČIŪTĖ, Elena; 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.
		WILSON, Thomas D.; MACEVIČIŪTĖ, Elena. Information misbehaviour: modelling the motivations for the creation, acceptance and 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.
		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.
		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</i> : proceedings. Cham : Springer, 2020. ISBN 9783030436865.
Rita Repšienė	Doc. Dr.	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.
		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</i> / sudarytoja Margarita Matulytė. Vilnius : Lietuvos nacionalinis dailės muziejus ; Lietuvos kultūros tyrimų institutas, 2022. ISBN 9786094261688. p. 124–150, 484.
		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</i> / sudarytoja Margarita Matulytė. Vilnius : Lietuvos nacionalinis dailės muziejus ; Lietuvos kultūros tyrimų

		<p>institutas, 2022. ISBN 9786094261688. p. 124–150, 484.</p>
Andrius Šuminas	Prof. Dr.	<p>PETREIKIS, Tomas; ŠUMINAS, Andrius; GRIGAS, Vincas; GUDINAVIČIUS, Arūnas. Lietuvos mokslo žurnalų leidybos kiekybiniai pokyčiai 2015–2022 m.: viešojo ir privataus sektorių prisitaikymas prie kintančių sąlygų = Quantitative changes in the publishing of Lithuanian scientific journals in 2015–2022: public and private sectors' adaptation to the changing conditions // <i>Knygotyra</i>. Vilnius : Vilniaus universiteto leidykla. ISSN 0204-2061. eISSN 2345-0053. 2024, vol. 82, p. 206-242. DOI: 10.15388/Knygotyra.2024.82.8.</p> <p>ŠUMINAS, Andrius; PRIČINS, Mārtiņš; TOODE, Ülle; JANUŠKEVIČIŪTĒ, 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 XXI</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>

	ŠUMINAS, Andrius; JASTRAMSKIS, Deimantas. The importance of media literacy education: How Lithuanian students evaluate online news content credibility // <i>Central European journal of communication</i> . 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 .
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Approved by the Doctoral Committee of the field of Communication and Information of the Social Sciences area on 16 December 2024, minutes of the meeting No. (7.17 E)15600-KT-646

Chair of the Committee Prof. Dr. Aušra Navickienė
