

ICA 2020 Post-conference Call For Papers:

Digital Inequalities and Emerging Technologies: Regimes, Spaces, and Imaginaries

Date: Wednesday, **May 27, 2020, 9:00am-5:00pm**

Location: S226, Lvl 2, John Woolley Building (A20), University of Sydney, Sydney

Sponsoring ICA Divisions: Activism, Communication and Social Justice Interest Group;
Communication and Technology Division

Organisers:

Sharon Stover, University of Texas-Austin, sharon.stover@austin.utexas.edu

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Keynote speakers

Professor Eszther Hargittai, University of Zurich

Others TBD

Description

Problems of digital exclusion have traditionally been associated with lack of access to technology. Increasingly digital exclusion also emerges with the active agency of state and corporate institutions using AI, smart city infrastructures, surveillance systems and even robotics. The aim of this post-conference is to make connections between a diverse range of disciplinary areas that have studied digital inequalities including digital inclusion research, data justice, critical race and digital media studies, data sovereignty and digital rights.

Inequalities occur along multiple fronts including geography, social class, race, gender, age, and institutional systems and policies. They also can be shaped by powerful imaginaries of digitally-enabled futures promising efficiency, safety and economic prosperity. Data-driven and algorithmic processes related to smart technologies, artificial intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), facial-recognition and robotics demand an extension from traditional concerns around digital exclusion to account for the potential to produce systemic abuses and extenuate disadvantage.

The post-conference is an opportunity to examine the ways in which new technologies, including those that link digital networks and data via tracking tools and algorithms, add to the unequal distribution of digital benefits and perpetuate and even worsen inequalities in the expansion of the Digital Welfare State and other kinds of neoliberal, policing and techno-centric systems. It also examines the kinds of civic, open and public institutions – such as libraries, local governments, community media, and justice movements – that are increasingly important for ameliorating digital inequalities and countering imaginaries premised upon techno-centric fixes.

Co-organised by the University of Sydney, University of Canberra, the University of Texas at Austin, Western Sydney University and the University of Melbourne, this Digital Inequalities Post-ICA Conference recontextualizes digital inequalities within the context of emerging technologies and their affiliated social and political regimes, spaces and imaginaries.

We seek to bring together researchers from multiple disciplinary perspectives to discuss the impact of digital inequalities in multiple sites. We welcome submissions from theoretical and empirical inquiries that examine the following areas:

- Digital inclusion practices in social institutions
- Inequalities and algorithmic governance in data driven society
- Market logics and digital inequalities
- The lived experience of digital exclusion
- Alternative imaginaries for social justice and activism
- Bias in algorithms, interface and design
- Big data, smart technologies and surveillance
- Intersectionality and digital inequalities
- Digital media and algorithmic literacies in platform capitalism

Submitting your abstract: Please submit abstracts for 15 minute paper presentations through [this Form](#) no later than Feb 1, 2020. Abstracts are limited to a maximum of 4,000 characters including spaces (approximately 500 words).

Contributors will be selected by peer-review and will be notified of decisions on or before March 1, 2020. Authors are expected to attend the post-conference and present in person.

We will explore the potential of a thematic publication of post-conference materials as a special issue in a journal or as an edited volume.

All participants must register for the post-conference. Registration costs will be \$50.00 USD or \$75 AU which covers coffee breaks and lunch. To register, participants should follow the instructions on: www.icahdq.org.

Key dates:

- 1 Feb 2020: Deadline for abstract submission
- 1 March 2020: Corresponding authors notified of decisions
- 1 May 2020: Post-Conference registrations close
- 21-25 May ICA Conference, Gold Coast
- 27 May 2020: Post-conference in Sydney

Location: Please note that this event will take place off-site at the University of Sydney in room S226, Level 2, John Woolley (A20) at Camperdown campus. The post-conference will conclude at 5:00pm on May 27 with a cocktail reception following. Recommendations for nearby hotels will follow.

Contact: If you have any questions regarding the submission, please contact Sora Park at sora.park@canberra.edu.au