

# I AM NOT A ROBOT

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## C://Opening\_words

Dear colleagues, it is with great pleasure that I write these lines for the first Newsletter of the newly created TG10 Digital Sociology. The creation of our Thematic Group represents an important step forward in the consolidation and visibility of our research and a great opportunity to build our path in the following years.

The **digital has undoubtedly impacted the way our societies work** by adding a new layer of complexity to social life that constantly interacts and transforms the way we deal with the traditional and already complex existing dimensions of human life.

With this idea in the back of our minds, we proposed the creation of this TG aiming to establish a recognizable meeting point for sociologists working in 'the digital', who will find here a place where to advance the theoretical and empirical available knowledge, as well as to discuss methodological and ethical aspects related with our practice.

This debate aims to reach scholars in various stages of their academic careers in this field, so we can both provide high-quality debates and discussions with experienced researchers, attract young researchers and provide them support and guidance.

**Our development strategy can only be open and accumulative.** We should be open to establishing fruitful interactions across various ISA groups, but also with other organizations and Local, National, or Regional committees. But, at the same time, we should aim to provide relevant and attractive activities for our members, who can feel that the TG10 Digital Sociology is a place where interesting debates occur and where their perspectives and approaches are welcome.



David Duenas-Cid

Finally, I would like to invite you to contribute to the TG with ideas, proposals, and projects. **Our dissemination tools will only be useful if you all make them yours:** send us your publications, CFPs, job openings, et cetera, we will put them online and give them visibility.

Wishing for great future cooperation,

David Duenas-Cid

President of the TG10 Digital Sociology

### Bullet point facts

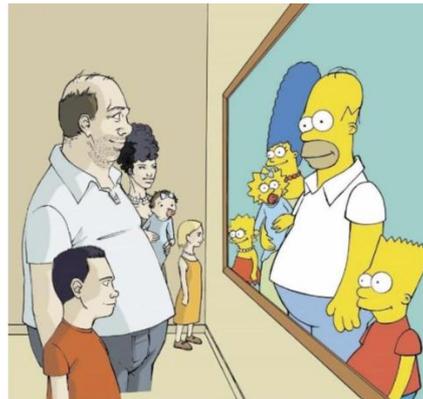
- David Duenas-Cid is Assistant Professor at the Management in Networked and Digital Societies (NERDS) in Kozminski University (Poland) and Research Fellow at the Johann Skytte Institute of Political Studies in Tartu University (Estonia)
- His research is connected to the development of e-democracy, e-governance and internet voting. In the following years will be conducting research on the processes of creation of trust and distrust towards voting through the internet.
- Serves as a General Chair for the E-Vote-ID Conference,

## A brief history of the TG

The Thematic Group 10 on Digital Sociology was approved by ISA in May 2020 and had the first Business Meeting in Porto Alegre 2021, but the story is a bit longer. To keep the roots of the TG for the memories, hereby we will summarize the process of creation followed.

A seminal meeting was held at Toronto 2018 conference by a small group of sociologists interested in "the digital" the discuss the lack of space devoted to this topic in ISA conferences and how that was making it difficult to create a roadmap to track digitally related contents in the conferences. In ISA World Conference 2014, 16 Sessions in 12 Research Committees were devoted to digitally related contents, meaning around 64-80 papers. These numbers increased in ISA World Conference 2018, where 27 sessions in 19 Research Committees were thematically linked to digital contents, meaning around 108-135 papers presented. Our proposal aimed to accommodate some of these presentations and foster relevant discussions to help the field grow. After an initial rejection, due to the internal complexity

of ISA concerning the increase of groups and committees and the dispersion of knowledge, the decision was reconsidered and the TG10 Digital Sociology was finally accepted as a new member of the sociological family, allowing us to hold our first sessions in the next World Conference in Melbourne.



## Composition of the Board

The following Board has been approved for the period 2021-2024:

**President:** David Duenas-Cid (Kozminski University, Poland and University of Tartu, Estonia)

**Vice-President:** Esther Brainin (Ruppin Academic Center, Israel)

**Secretary:** Damilola Adegoke (King's College London, United Kingdom)

**Treasurer:** Tanja Carstensen (University of Hamburg, Germany)

**Publication Committee:** Laura Robinson (Santa Clara University, USA), Anu Masso (University of Tartu and Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia), Attila Marton (Copenhagen Business School, Denmark), Anabel Quan Haase (Western University, Canada), and Barbara Barbosa Neves (Monash University, Australia)

**Session Coordinators for ISA World Conference – Melbourne:** Regev Nathansohn (Sapir Academic College, Israel) and Barbara Barbosa Neves (Monash University, Australia)

**Extended Board Members for the Period 2021-2024:** Anna Domaradzka (University of Warsaw, Poland), Marta Ortega (University of Malaga, Spain), Shira Rivnai (Ben Gurion University, Israel) and Pilar Rodríguez (Universidad de Almería, Spain)

**Community Managers:** Matías Valderrama (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile) and Karolina Mikołajewska (University of Queensland, Australia)

Publication Committee

## Call for Volumes

### Call for Volume 1: Research from the ISA IV Forum of Sociology

The Publications Committee of the Digital Sociology Thematic Group of the ISA is delighted to announce a call for research from the ISA IV Forum of Sociology.

The volume will celebrate research on Digital Sociology that was presented at the ISA Forum in February of 2021. Given the breadth of the fields contributing to the emergent field of study known as Digital Sociology, the parameters are set as broadly as possible to encompass research on emergent phenomena, as well as studies with a historical or longitudinal dimension. Although the submissions must be written in English, submissions with an international, comparative, and/or global angle of vision are particularly welcome. Submissions may be empirical, theoretical, or methodological, using any method or approach.

Please send an abstract of 500-1000 words by March 1, 2022, to [editorial@emeraldmediastudies.com](mailto:editorial@emeraldmediastudies.com).

Selected authors will be invited to submit a full manuscript by December 1, 2022

For more information, please see <http://www.emeraldmediastudies.com/Current-Call.html> or email [editorial@emeraldmediastudies.com](mailto:editorial@emeraldmediastudies.com).

### Call for Volume 2: Mapping the Field of Digital Sociology

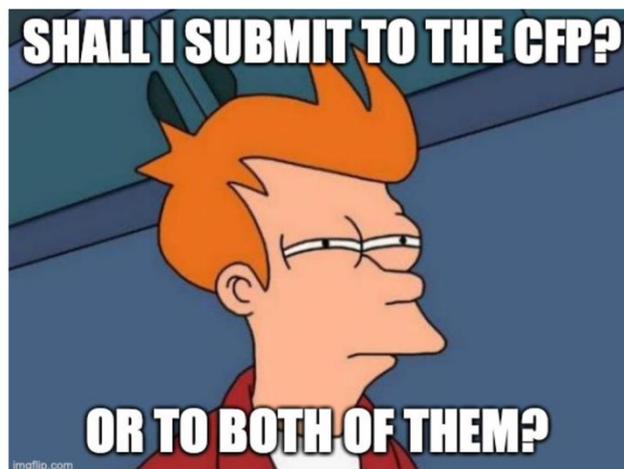
The Publications Committee of the Digital Sociology Thematic Group of the ISA is delighted to announce a call for research mapping out the field of Digital Sociology

The volume will map out the field of Digital Sociology and provide a panorama of international research building this increasingly important area of inquiry. Given the breadth of the fields contributing to the emergent field of study known as Digital Sociology, the parameters are set as broadly as possible to encompass research on emergent phenomena, as well as studies with a historical or longitudinal dimension. Although the submissions must be written in English, submissions with an international, comparative, and/or global angle of vision are particularly welcome. Submissions may be empirical, theoretical, or methodological--using any method or approach.

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For more information, please see <http://www.emeraldmediastudies.com/Current-Call.html> or email [editorial@emeraldmediastudies.com](mailto:editorial@emeraldmediastudies.com).



## News from our members

### By Matias Valderrama:

A project that may be of interest to the thematic group is "[Artificial Intelligence and Inclusion in Latin America](#)" developed by the NGO Derechos Digitales thanks to the support of IDRC, which seeks to analyze different initiatives related to automated decision systems and AI in four Latin American countries (Chile, Brazil, Uruguay, and Colombia), identifying areas for improvement in light of existing international principles and good practices. The four case study reports, in Spanish for now, are openly available on the website, as well as a document reflecting on the implementation of automated decision-making systems at the regional level. Link: <https://ia.derechosdigitales.org/en/>

A second publication that I would like to share is an article we published with Martín Tironi in the journal *Science as Culture*: "Experimenting with the Social Life of Homes: Sensor Governmentality and Its Frictions". This is a sociological study about the National Monitoring Network (or ReNaM), a state initiative that installed 300 environmental sensors in homes from five cities of Chile to know in real-time the performance of houses in variables such as temperature, humidity or CO2. The data is expected to improve the design of sustainable building policies and regulations. In our article, we critically interrogate the forms of knowledge and power that are activated by sensor-based state initiatives such as ReNaM. Link: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/09505431.2021.1893682?src=&journalCode=csac20>

Want to know more? [mbvalder@uc.cl](mailto:mbvalder@uc.cl)

### By Barbara Neves:

Recent publications:

Neves BB, Wilson, J, Sanders, S, Kokanovic, R (2021), '[Using crystallization to understand loneliness in later life: integrating social science and creative narratives in sensitive qualitative research](#)', *Qualitative Research*.

Neves, BB & Mead, G (2020), '[Digital Technology and Older People: Towards a Sociological Approach to Technology Adoption in Later Life](#)', *Sociology*.

Neves, BB & Baecker, R (2020), '[Mixing Methods and Sciences: A Longitudinal Cross-Disciplinary Mixed Methods Study on Technology to Address Social Isolation and Loneliness in Later Life](#)', *Journal of Mixed Methods Research*.

Want to know more? [barbara@bbneves.com](mailto:barbara@bbneves.com)

### By Damilola Adegoke:

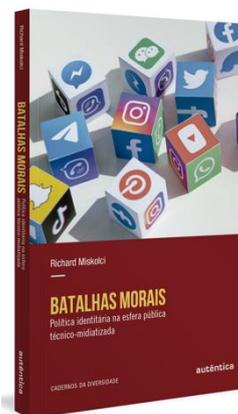
Recent publication:

Adegoke, Damilola & Comunian, Roberta (2022). [Creative Coworking in Nigeria: emerging trends, opportunities and future scenarios](#). In Hracs, Brian J., Roberta Comunian, and Lauren England (Eds.), *Developing Creative Economies in Africa: Spaces and Working Practices* (pp. 57-73). Routledge.

### By Richard Miskolci:

New Book (In Portuguese): "Batalhas Morais: política identitária na esfera pública técnico-midiaticizada" available for purchase on Amazon and other online book stores.

It resulted in my thesis for a Full Professorship at the Federal University of São Paulo (UNIFESP). The book analyses how the public sphere has changed since the hegemony of commercial social network platforms in the decade of 2010. Based primarily on the Brazilian case, it shows how the techno-mediatic public sphere arose during the 2013 protests paving the way for the extreme-right successful campaign against human rights and winning the 2018 elections.



In a social-shaping of technology perspective, I avoid any technological determinism in the book adopting a clear sociological analysis based on the association of the reconstitution of social and historical context, the role of the new mediatic ecosystem with the cultural practices spread through them.

The book shows how the new techno-mediatic public sphere has at least three main features:

1. It is shaped by the commercial interests of the online social network platforms;
2. The techno characteristics of the interactions in these platforms and this new public sphere in particular, like their algorithms and unification of profiles;
3. The mediatic rules that shape the interactions creating entrepreneurs of all kinds, individual, segmented and collective.

Based on the Brazilian case, the book gives special attention to the fact that the new techno-mediatic public sphere created the best conditions for the extreme-right to reorganize itself as moral entrepreneurs while creating competition and divisions inside the advocates of social justice now transformed into entrepreneurs of themselves (and particular causes).

Want to know more? See the Book presentation in Portuguese on [YouTube](#) or reach the author: [richard.miskolci@unifesp.br](mailto:richard.miskolci@unifesp.br)

By Laura Robinson:

2021 Virtual Media Sociology Symposium

Thursday the 5th of August 2021

Keynote Speaker: Ralph Schroeder

As ASA has gone virtual for Chicago 2021, the Media Sociology Symposium is following suit. Plans are in the works for 2022 in Los Angeles when we hope to have another f2f meeting. Thanks to Julie Wiest who did an amazing job hosting the event in 2019, plans are also underway for our 2023 meeting in Philadelphia.

This year's virtual event features Keynote Speaker Professor Ralph Schroeder of the Oxford Internet Institute, as well as the panel "Work @ a Crossroads: Opportunities, Challenges & Inequalities of Digital Work" organized by Anabel Quan-Haase (Western University) & Christo Sims (University of California).

Thanks to our generous sponsors, CITAMS and Emerald Studies in Media and Communications, the event is FREE (registration required).

GET YOUR FREE REGISTRATION [HERE](#)

We look forward to seeing you virtually in 2021, in Los Angeles in 2022, and Philadelphia in 2023!

Organizing Committee Members (in alphabetical order): Wenhong Chen, Ken Kambara, Laura Robinson, Jeremy Schulz, Ian Sheinheit, & Julie Wiest

Questions? Please email:

[mediasociologysymposium@gmail.com](mailto:mediasociologysymposium@gmail.com)



### Contact Us

\_By [email](#)

\_Via [web](#)

\_On [Twitter](#)

\_On [Facebook](#)



By David Duenas-Cid:

I am happy to announce that I have been awarded an H2020 Widening Fellowship from the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Program of the European Union to explore the impact of trust and distrust in the process of creating individual and collective opinions towards Internet voting.

I will conduct my research at Gdansk University of Technology (Poland) during the period 2022-23, including study visits to the Fraunhofer FOKUS Institute - Competence Center Public IT, under the supervision of Prof. Peter Parycek, and to the University of New South Wales, under the supervision of Prof. Lemuria Carter.

Want to know more? [Dduenas@kozminski.edu.pl](http://Dduenas@kozminski.edu.pl)

Want to share news, CFP, publications?

Please send all the information that you think might be of interest to the community to [tg10digsoc@gmail.com](mailto:tg10digsoc@gmail.com) and we will share it online and will include it in our Newsletter.

