

Call for Abstracts for an Interdisciplinary Workshop

“Digitalization, Neighborhood Change, and Social Integration”

May, 2nd-3rd, 2022

Cologne, Germany

supported by the Fritz Thyssen Foundation

Technological innovations bear the potential to alter societal conditions drastically. This is also true at the smaller scale of the urban neighborhood. Some examples include: platform economies like AirBnB that are affecting housing availability and living conditions in neighborhoods, local social networks like nextdoor.com that are transforming the way we engage with our neighbors and the dynamic (re)construction of neighborhood images via social media and online real estate brokerages. In many ways, it becomes clear that peoples’ experiences of urban space are increasingly mediated through digital technologies, and their widespread use—in turn—affects neighborhood change, segregation and local social interaction, cohesion and integration.

We announce an interdisciplinary workshop, “Digitalization, Neighborhood Change, and Social Integration,” which aims to explore these themes. The workshop is organized by Profs. George Galster (USA) and Jan Üblacker (Germany) and will be held in Cologne, Germany on May 2-3, 2022, as well as virtually. Costs for travel and accommodation for those participating on site can be covered through funding by the German Fritz Thyssen Foundation.

Those seeking to participate in the workshop (either in person or virtually) should submit via email their *curriculum vita* and an abstract of their proposed presentation to the workshop organizers by Feb. 28, 2022. The abstract should be as detailed as possible about research questions, analytical approach, and (if possible) tentative findings. Scholars from all social sciences and national backgrounds are encouraged to submit abstracts. The workshop organizers will issue invitations by mid-March to facilitate travel planning.

The workshop aims to undertake a two-fold exploration into the impact of digitalization on: (1) neighborhood characteristics and dynamics of change, and (2) the ways neighborhoods affect individual attitudes, actions, and social opportunities. The following questions might be addressed by presenters; these are suggestive, not exhaustive:

- What are the causes and motives behind residents’ use of digital communication technologies in the neighborhood context?
- Which population groups use these technologies and how do they affect neighborhood life?
- Do digital technologies help or harm processes of social integration, especially when it comes to ethnic minorities?
- How do information and communication technologies shape intra-urban mobility patterns, residential segregation and neighborhood stability?
- How do neighborhood contexts affect the use of digital technologies for local communication?
- How do digital technologies and new datasets improve our understanding of neighborhood change? How do they relate to existing theory on urban processes?

The organizers' longer-term goal is to assemble papers stemming from the workshop into a special issue of a leading international, multi-disciplinary urban journal. In this regard, it will be expected that all those who have their abstracts accepted for presentation at the workshop shall: (1) deliver to the organizers a complete paper suitable for publication by November 1, 2022; (2) not submit this paper to another journal prior to it being considered by the organizers for inclusion in the special issue; and (3) serve as a reviewer for several papers comprising the special issue. All submissions for the special issue will be reviewed by the organizers and undergo the standard, double-blind review process of the journal.

Please submit your c.v. and abstract via email to BOTH workshop organizers by Feb. 28, 2022:

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