Call for papers

Digitization of Migration Research Methods: Promises and Pitfalls

Workshop to be held at the Center of Migration Research, University of Warsaw
30th May, 2022

Keynote speaker:
Ingmar Weber
(Qatar Computing Research Institute)

The IMISCOE Standing Committee ["Methodological Approaches and Tools in Migration Research"](#) (Meth@Mig) is inviting paper proposals for a workshop on the advantages and limitations of digital research methods in the field of migration studies.

The emerging data-driven technologies are widening the methodological options available to social researchers in unprecedented ways. Increasing digitization of every aspect of life generates troves of data, some of which are easily accessible to researchers. Global communication networks dilute traditional notions of space and borders, enabling scholars to trace and contact people across long distances. Digital data is turning into the lifeblood of growing parts of society and, by extension, of social research. Various methodological schools, including computational, survey, and qualitative approaches, are striving to tap that potential.

Due to the limitations of traditional methods with regard to highly mobile and diverse populations, these developments are especially relevant for migration scholars. However, the migration research community has been slow to envision, let alone embrace, the added mileage potentially incurred by adopting digital research methods. Is this reluctance primarily due to inertia, or does it stem from principled opposition?

This workshop aims to identify and reflect on the promises and pitfalls of the digital revolution for migration studies across their different methodological currents, including data science, survey research, and qualitative approaches, as well as their various combinations. To stimulate debate, Dr Ingmar Weber (Qatar Computing Research Institute), will kick off the event with his keynote speech.

Questions to be discussed at this meeting include the following: What is the future of survey research in an increasingly digitized world? Is Big Data capable of generating scientifically sound knowledge? Is there a digital substitute for "old-school" ethnographic fieldwork? Can internet-mediated interviews and focus groups take the place of face-to-face research? What are the emerging ethical challenges in digital migration research?

Proposed papers are expected to contribute to the above debate on the digitalization of migration research methods by providing methodologically grounded reflection on pros and cons for opening migration studies towards digitalization of research methods and tools. Interested scholars of all disciplines, representing various methodological approaches, and at any career stage are invited to submit an extended abstract of approx. 500 words and a short personal bio (including name, affiliation, and contact information) to methatmig@gmail.com (putting "Paper submission ws Digitization of Migration Research Methods" in the submission email's subject line) by 15th February 2022. The organizers will notify authors about the results of the review process by 1st March 2022.

The workshop will consist of short oral presentations of accepted papers but the focus will be on open exchange and discussion of the presented work and positions. This format will, therefore, leave ample room for discussion amongst the workshop participants.

The workshop will either take place in person or as a hybrid event, depending on the COVID-19 situation at the time of the event. Participation in the workshop will be free of charge upon registration.

Organizing Committee:
Justyna Salamońska, *Department of Management in Networked and Digital Societies, Kozminski University, Poland*
Steffen Pötzschke, *GESIS – Leibniz-Institute for the Social Sciences, Germany*
Sebastian Rinken, *Institute for Advanced Social Studies, Spanish Research Council, Spain*
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