

CALL FOR PAPERS

Digital Transformation and Gender Bias

The process of digital transformation has a fundamental impact on social interactions and influences important areas of people's lives. Especially under recent pandemic conditions, the desire and need to access digital information and communication technologies has intensified. The benefits of digital transformation are linked to new opportunities for information gathering, participation and involvement of a wide range of groups (including marginalized groups) at the political, cultural and social level.

However, the risks of digitalization such as manipulation, bias or distorted information and knowledge in online and social media can and must also be addressed. These risks often involve discriminatory (linguistic) patterns in which existing power structures are clearly expressed or traditional patterns of interpretation continue to be conveyed. While algorithms are widely perceived to enable neutral decision-making and efficient judgment, there is also the danger that algorithms perpetuate and reinforce gender bias due to unbalanced data sets and homogenous design teams. Online communities dedicated to providing low-threshold access to information and digital participation, for example, are often characterized by a lack of sociographic diversity (gender gap), which can lead to a lack of epistemic diversity (gender bias).

This special issue focuses on the extent to which sexist, racist, and other discriminatory patterns as well as power structures are transformed and/or reproduced in digital platforms, social networks and through algorithms. We appreciate contributions that analyze the opportunities and risks of digital transformation for a non-discriminatory and diverse society from a linguistic, media/cultural studies or ethical perspective. We welcome both critical, intersectional analyses as well as concrete proposals for solutions that promote an inclusive digital society.

Possible questions/research topics in detail

- The role of intersectional gender relations in current agricultural disputes (e.g. the German farmers protest movement "Land schafft Verbindung", right-wing ideas in organic agriculture).

- How are relations of gender, sexuality and kinship reproduced and/or transformed in alternative food networks?
- (Changes in) gender role attributions in nutrition education and counseling as well as in the conveying nutritional knowledge.
- Shifts and continuities in the identity and distinction functions of food (e.g. discussions of veganism and masculinity).
- Gendering of media, artistic and literary negotiations of food and nutrition.
- How does the increase of institutional food services and eating out affect gendered divisions of labor in the household?

Procedure and timetable

Please submit a one- to two-page abstract by **14 November 2021**. Non-German speakers are welcome to submit their articles in English. Please send your proposal as a Word file to redaktion@gender-zeitschrift.de (subject: Special issue „Digital Transformation“).

Once your abstract has been assessed and judged suitable for this issue, you will receive an invitation to submit. Notifications of acceptance will be sent by **1 December 2021**. The deadline for submission of the final manuscript is **8 May 2022**. Manuscripts must not exceed **50,000 characters** (including space characters). A style sheet for authors is available at www.gender-zeitschrift.de/en/manuscripts.

All submissions will be reviewed in our double-blind peer review process based on which the final selection of contributions to be published will be made. The editors may give instructions to revise the contribution, which is the rule rather than the exception. In case of a high number of positively peer-reviewed contributions, the Editorial Department reserves the right to make a final selection of articles and to publish some contributions in a later issue.

About GENDER. Journal for Gender, Culture and Society

GENDER. Journal for Gender, Culture and Society was founded in 2009 as a journal on women and gender studies. The journal aims to cover a wide range of topics and academic disciplines in which gender issues are reflected. Given the journal's multi-disciplinary setting, we welcome analyses from, for instance, sociology, educational science, political science, cultural science and history which correspond to the interdisciplinary nature of gender studies. GENDER is published in three issues a year. Contributions to the free section are always welcome, irrespective of the focus of the special issue.

Do you have any questions?

For further information please contact the editorial team of the special issue: **Leonie Bröcher**, Universität Mannheim (lbroeche@mail.uni-mannheim.de), **Prof. Dr. Eva Gredel**, Universität Duisburg-Essen (eva.gredel@uni-due.de), **Laura Schelenz**, Universität Tübingen (laura.schelenz@izew.uni-tuebingen.de), **Dr. Beate Kortendiek**, Universität Duisburg-Essen (beate.kortendiek@uni-due.de), or the editorial team of GENDER (redaktion@gender-zeitschrift.de).