



Doctoral Program
#OrganizingtheDigital
Relations, Publics, Societies

Course Syllabus

“Digital Methods”

Semester: WS 2019/2020
Course No.: 800984
Lecturer: Richard Rogers

Lecturer

Prof. Dr. Richard Rogers
New Media and Digital Culture (University of Amsterdam)

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Course Objectives

This course is designed to enable students to situate Digital Methods historically and epistemologically. Furthermore, students will acquire the ability to practically use digital methods and to critically evaluate its ethical implications.

Course Content and Evaluation

The course opens with a discussion of how to repurpose digital "methods of the medium" for social and cultural scholarly research, including its limitations, critiques and ethics. Subsequently participants are trained in using digital methods in hands-on sessions. How to use crawlers for dynamic URL sampling and issue network mapping? How to employ scrapers to create a bias or partisanship diagnostic instrument? We also consider how to deploy online platforms for social research. How to transform Wikipedia from an online encyclopedia to a device for cross-cultural memory studies? How to make use of social media so as to profile the preferences and tastes of politicians' friends, and also locate most engaged with content? How to make use of Twitter analytics to debanalize tweets, and provide compelling accounts of events on the ground? Finally, the course turns to the question of employing web data and metrics as societal indices more generally.

After the three day course participants have to hand in an academic article in the form of a research report of 7,000-8,000 words.

Schedule

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Room</i>
Tuesday 01.10.2019	09:00–17:00	SR 11 (SoWi)
Wednesday 02.10.2019	09:00–17:00	SR 11 (SoWi)
Thursday 03.10.2019	09:00–17:00	SR 11 (SoWi)

Reading List

Rogers, R. (2013). Digital methods. MIT press.

Rogers, R. (2019). Doing Digital Methods. London: Sage.