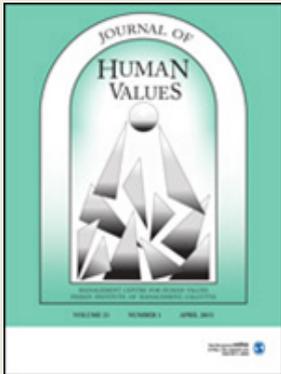


Journal of Human Values



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Special Issue on “Human Values in the Digital Media Age” (January 2018)

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To not cognize the impact of the digital media age on our very livelihoods would at best be naïve negligence of an inevitable reality, at worst a lost opportunity to understand a critical dimension in shaping who we are.

The scholarly quest to interrogate how technological development has influenced our political, social, cultural and economic values seems particularly pressing now more than ever. From foresight as early as McLuhan’s “the medium is the message,” the imprint of the modern mass media on our identities, functions, and vision of the future has been all but hard to miss. Indeed, we have found ourselves defining our times in terms that pay homage to this very communication leap – the digital media age, among other interchangeable vernacular.

The January 2018 issue of *Journal of Human Values* invites submissions that speak, broadly or specifically, to the interface between digital media and human values.

General topic areas could encompass but are not limited to: political expression and social media; impact of digital media’s ubiquity on human interaction; structural and/or component changes in relationships against a continually evolving digital media backdrop; dynamics of generational transmission of cultural heritage in consonance/contradiction with contemporary technology; the position of globalization within media evolution discourse; and implications of access to and use of technology for race, gender, national origin, socioeconomic background and other primordial as well as instrumental identity markers.

Below are examples of more specific areas that researchers could explore, although by no means is this an exhaustive list.

Participatory culture: Critical examination of affordances enabled by digital technologies such as “participatory culture” (Jenkins, Ito, & Boyd, 2016), crowdsourcing, peer production and Web 2.0 and the inequities, digital divides and gaps in digital participation that highlight the messy realities on the ground

New forms of privacy and its implications: In an age of constant connectivity and an always-on lifestyle, the meaning and nature of privacy has changed. Privacy takes on new forms even as it gets embedded in the “publicness of social media” (Boyd, 2012)

Presentation of self at online-offline intersections: Co-creation of our half-present, sharing selves (Turkle, 2015) and learning to cope with “context collapse” (Marwick & Boyd, 2011) and new ways of boundary-making on online social networking platforms, accruing “social capital” (Ellison, Steinfield, & Lampe, 2007) and making room for the “ubiquity of text” (Carr, 2008) in our daily lives.

The dominance of the visual in the everyday: Capturing selves and interpersonal relationships in selfie formats and sharing of images on online networked platforms.

Digital pop culture: A study of digital cultural practices such as production and reproduction of Internet memes and viral content and memes as a vehicle for political participation (Shifman, 2014).

Cultural anxieties at the interface: An examination of cultural anxieties and moral panics caused by introduction of new technologies in specific contexts. Here, we welcome varied perspectives on the interface between human behavior and technology including frameworks that privilege technology as the agent for change, those that locate agency in people and society and those that take a middle ground and view technology and society as continually influencing one another (Baym, 2015).

Cyber-subcultures and online communities: Ethnographies/Textual analysis of cybersubcultures such as fan communities, campaigners and groups operating outside mainstream digital culture including marginalized groups, hackers, trolls, etc.

References

Baym, N.K. (2015). *Personal connections in the digital age*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Boyd, D. (2012). *Participating in the always-on lifestyle*. In M. Mandiberg (Ed.), *The social media reader*. New York University Press. pp.71–76.

Carr, N. (2008). Is Google Making Us Stupid? What the Internet is doing to our brains. *The Atlantic*. Retrieved from <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2008/07/is-google-making-us-stupid/306868/> Ellison, N.B., Steinfield, C., & Lampe, C. (2007). The benefits of Facebook “Friends:” Social capital and college students’ use of online social network sites. *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication*, 12, 1143–1168.

Jenkins, H., Ito, M. & Boyd, D. (2016). *Participatory culture in a networked era: A conversation on youth, learning, commerce and politics*. Cambridge, UK: Polity Press.

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Shifman, L. (2014). *Memes in digital culture*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.

Turkle, S. (2015). *Reclaiming conversation: The power of talk in a digital age*. New York: Penguin Press.

Important Dates:

Deadline for submission of manuscripts: **June 30, 2017**

Decision of manuscripts: **July 29, 2017**

Submission of revised manuscripts: **August 19, 2017**

All submissions in double space should be submitted to jhv_special_issue@iimcal.ac.in by email. The word file attachment should have the title of the paper as the file name. The text of manuscripts should not ordinarily exceed 5,000 words. All articles must be accompanied by an abstract of 150–200 words and up to six keywords. For detailed manuscript submission style, etc, please refer to the JHV website <http://journals.sagepub.com/home/jhv>