University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Digital data as a source of knowledge in sociology, PG_00179425		
Field of study	Sociology		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2025	Academic year of realisation of subject	2026/2027
Education level	Master's studies	Subject group	Obligatory subject group in the field of study Optional subject group Subject group related to scientific research in the field of study
Mode of study	full-time studies	Mode of delivery	at the university
Year of study	2	Language of instruction	Polish
Semester of study	3	ECTS credits	2.0
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form	credit
Conducting unit	Institute of Sociology -> Faculty of Social Sciences -> Rector		
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	dr Jacek Mianowski	
	Teachers	dr Jacek Mianowski	

Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	0.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30
	E-learning hours included: 0.0						

Learning activity and number of study hours	Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan	Participation in consultation hours	Self-study	SUM
	Number of study hours	30	4.0	16.0	50

Subject objectives	The aim of the course is to identify and characterize selected types of digital data and use them to analyze online activity according to the key: (1) data acquisition (2) qualitative analysis (3) quantitative/network analysis (4) critical interpretation (5) ethics.

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[SOCMU2_U02] The graduate is able to use theoretical knowledge from different streams of sociology and acquire data to analyse concrete social phenomena and processes and formulate own opinions about their character and course	The person participating in the classes uses theoretical knowledge in the field of sociology and analyzes social phenomena and processes and formulates their own opinions on their nature and course.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion
[SOCMU2_K06] The graduate is ready to independently and critically complement and improve the acquired knowledge and skills using various disciplines in the field of social sciences	The person participating in the classes independently and critically supplements and improves knowledge and skills	[SK8] observation of student's independent or team work
[SOCMU2_K05] The graduate is ready to participate in the preparation of social projects and is able to predict the intended and unintended social consequences of his/her actions	The person participating in the classes is able to prepare a social project and predict the intended and unintended social consequences of his or her activities.	[SK2] presentation/project/paper/ report
[SOCMU2_U01] The graduate is able to interpret social phenomena and relations between them using sociological concepts and sociological imagination	The person taking part in the classes is able to interpret social phenomena and the relationships between them and use sociological imagination	[SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report
[SOCMU2_W06] The graduate has in-depth knowledge and understanding of quantitative and qualitative methods of sociological research, including observation, interview, document analysis and desk research, and how to develop and report research findings	The person taking part in the classes reflectively uses quantitative and qualitative sociological methods in the analysis of documents and existing sources, and develops and reports research results.	[SW2] presentation/project/paper/ report

Subject contents

What is digital data in social research?
Types and Characteristics of Digital Data
Review and Analysis of Selected Theories of Datafication and Algorithmization
Digital Infrastructure as a Research Field for Sociologists
Assumptions and Methods of Digital Humanities
Social Networks and the Analysis of Relationships in Digital Data
Using Digital Data as a Tool for Action
Ethics and Critique of Digital Data

Prerequisites and co-requisites

completed first year of supplementary studies, formal choice of subject

Assessment methods and criteria

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
Mastering the content of the material taught during the workshops and in the indicated literaturę	51.0%	50.0%
Mastering the content of the material in the indicated literature	51.0%	50.0%

Recommended reading

Basic literature	Włoch R. (2025). Digital Sociology: On the Socialization of Technology and Technologies of Socialization. Wydawnictwo Naukowe Scholar Ślosarski B., Włoch R. (2025). Introduction to Digital Sociology. Studia Socjologiczne nr 3/2025 (258)
Supplementary literature	1. N. Baym, Personal Connections in the Digital Age, Cambridge-Malden: Wiley 2010 2. N. Marres, Digital Sociology: The Reinvention of Social Research, Malden: Polity 2017 3. DataReportal, Digital 2021 Poland, https://datareportal.com/reports/digital-2021-poland 4. N. G. Fielding, R. M. Lee, G. Blank (red.)., The SAGE Handbook of Online Research Methods. Second Edition, Londyn-Thousand Oaks-New Delhi-Singapore 2017
eResources addresses	

Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed

When Are Digital Data a Good Source of Sociological Knowledge, and When Not?
What Does Digital Data Not Show?

Work placement	Not applicable

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