

## **Special Issue: What is going on? Digitalization in social work**

Digitalization are becoming an integral part of everyday life for many people in the developed world across the lifespan but it continues to be difficult for social researchers to find ways to examine how and in what ways digitalization are shaping everyday life and professional practice. Given the increasing prevalence of digital technologies, they have also come to play a key role in the field of social work. The Internet is becoming a natural part of everyday life providing both learning and social opportunities. However, social media and digital networks can also put safety, privacy, and the physical and mental health of individuals at risk.

Social work practitioners must navigate these complexities and are increasingly challenged to use digital technologies to meet the diverse wishes and needs of their clients but also from management and from the continuous implementation of new it-systems and platforms. Furthermore, these diverse processes of digitalization are often either highly regulated or lacking clear guide-lines.

To address these significant changes we need to more carefully examine the means by which this rapid development digitalization impact social work practice and professional thinking. Not only do we need to understand the use of digital technologies and their incorporation into the field of social work better, we also need to find means to do so in adequate ways. Known methods can offer a means by which the impact, development and use of these technologies but we may also need to think about new methods that can incorporate digitalization in new ways, if we are to better grasp the diverse consequences that digitalization have for social work practice.

In this special issue we invite contributions that are related to research addressing the impact of digitalization in the relationships of social work. This special issue is open to all relevant theoretical perspectives and different methodological traditions. Specifically, this special issue aims to advance an understanding of digitalization in social work through rigorous and empirical research, and seeks to promote social work practice, knowledge exchange, and capacity building. It aims to capture the broad lessons emerging from the research so that cross-country scholars can expand upon knowledge exchange and capacity building.

Relevant topics on research on the role of digitalization in social work may include but are not limited to:

- Implications and potentials using digital technology in social work
- Social worker's experience with digital technology in their work
- Citizen's/user's experiences of social workers using digital technology for communication
- Children and young people's use of digital platforms in their interaction with social workers
- Ethical challenges in terms of privacy, safety and individual abilities to adapt to and use digital technologies
- The role of digital technologies in defining and controlling social work practices
- The power relations embedded in the implementation and use of digital technologies in social work
- Comparative studies of digitalization in various organizational, geographical, cultural and national settings

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Deadline: 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023 for full-length articles.

Details for submissions: <https://journals.uis.no/index.php/JCSW/about/submissions>