

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented changes in social dynamics that have continued to impact the post-pandemic world. In response to the demands of the pandemic, digital technologies have become a major pillar in communication, work, and service delivery, making the digital environment ubiquitous. However, this shift has also exposed and amplified pre-existing digital inequalities despite substantial efforts towards digital inclusion. Research shows that modern societies still face challenges as many vulnerable groups lack access to and skills to use digital technologies. Renowned

scholars will come together for this event to examine the effects of the pandemic on digital inequalities and evaluate the significance of disparities and their impact on social well-being. This event offers an opportunity for scholars, policymakers, and practitioners to engage in a dialogue about strategies to address these challenges and promote equitable access to digital technologies and the internet. By fostering an interdisciplinary exchange of ideas and perspectives, this event aims to generate innovative solutions and contribute to a nuanced understanding of digital inequalities in the post-pandemic era.



15<sup>th</sup> June 2023



University of Ljubljana  
Faculty of Social Sciences

Room 21

Kardeljeva ploščad 5  
1000 Ljubljana

## Organizers

Dr. Andraž Petrovčič, Dr. Darja Grošelj, Dr. Simona Hvalič Touzery

The symposium is supported by the research projects “The implications of proxy internet use for the internet skills of older adults” (ARRS, J5-2558), “Digital inequalities and older adults in Slovenia” (V5-2275), and “Digital inclusion and longevity society in the post-pandemic time” (BI-US/22-24-055), in collaboration with the programme group “Internet research” (P5-0399).



# DIGITAL INEQUALITIES IN THE POST - PANDEMIC WORLD

## Symposium Program



- 09.00** ● **Opening**  
 Introduction to the symposium objectives and participants  
 Dr. Simona Hvalič Touzery  
 Welcome address  
 Dr. Katja Lozar Manfreda
- 09.15** ● **Presentations – Part 1** (Chair: Simona Hvalič Touzery)  
 Digital Privilege During COVID-19 Lockdowns  
 Dr. Eszter Hargittai (University of Zurich)  
 A Pandemic Silver-Lining: Remote Learning and Increased Intergenerational Technology Guidance Within Lower-Income Families  
 Dr. Bianca C. Reisdorf (University of North Carolina at Charlotte)  
 The Consequences of the Digital Divide for COVID-19  
 Dr. Grant Blank (University of Oxford)
- 10.45** ● **Coffee break**
- 11.15** ● **Presentations – Part 2** (Chair: Simona Hvalič Touzery)  
 How do Inequalities in Digital Skills Intersect with Digital Media Use in Creating Advantage and Disadvantage in the Exchange of Social Support in Later Life: Insights from East York Toronto  
 Dr. Anabel Quan-Haase (University of Western Ontario)  
 Age Differences in Online Privacy Literacy  
 Dr. Philipp K. Masur (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)  
 Digital Inequalities and Algorithm Literacy: Development and Validation of an Explanatory Model  
 Dr. Andraž Petrovčič (University of Ljubljana)
- 12.45** ● **Lunch break**
- 14.15** ● **Roundtable**  
 Challenges and Opportunities for Digital Inclusion after COVID-19  
 Moderator: Dr. Darja Grošelj  
 Discussants: Dr. Philipp K. Masur, Dr. Grant Blank, Dr. Eszter Hargittai, Dr. Anabel Quan-Haase
- 15.45** ●



**Dr. Grant Blank**  
 University of Oxford

With a sociology PhD from the University of Chicago, Dr. Blank investigates the impact of the Internet and new media on society and culture, and serves as a departmental Lecturer at the Oxford Internet Institute.



**Dr. Eszter Hargittai**  
 University of Zurich

Dr. Hargittai is Professor and holds the chair of Internet Use & Society at the University of Zurich's Dept of Communication & Media Research. Her book Connected in Isolation (MIT Press '22) looks at digital inequalities during Covid.



**Dr. Bianca C. Reisdorf**  
 University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Dr. Reisdorf is an Associate Professor at the University of North Carolina Charlotte with a background in media sociology. Her research focuses on digital inequalities among vulnerable communities.



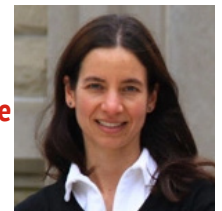
**Dr. Andraž Petrovčič**  
 University of Ljubljana

Dr. Petrovčič is an Associate Professor of Social Informatics at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana. His key areas of research include social science methodology, data analytics, and internet-related social phenomena.



**Dr. Philipp K. Masur**  
 Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Dr. Masur is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication Science at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, with a background in communication science, economics, and philosophy.



**Dr. Anabel Quan-Haase**  
 University of Western Ontario

Dr. Quan-Haase is the Rogers Chair and Professor of Information and Media Studies and Sociology at the University of Western Ontario. She is the founder and director of the SocioDigital Media Lab.