

## Workshop

### **The Digital Transformation - Implications for the Social Sciences and the Humanities**



Venue:

**German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ)**

Jōchi Kioizaka Bldg. 2F, 7-1 Kioichō, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0094

Contact:

dijtokyo@dijtokyo.org  
+81-(0)3-3222-5077

Date:

September 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>

Language:

English

Participants:

18 speakers, session chairs

The digital transformation (DT) encompasses the digitalization, connectivity and virtualization of many aspects of our social, political, economic and cultural life. But it does not stop here. The resulting abundance of data and the fast development of ICT tools to aggregate, process and analyze these data including self- or deep-learning algorithms further widens and deepens the impact of DT. As a consequence, DT will have strong ramifications for the social sciences and humanities, i.e. those branches of science that study individuals and groups, social, economic and political systems, culture and history.

DT can be expected to affect all phases of the research process in the respective disciplines:

- 1) the choice of research questions,
- 2) the choice of samples and data,
- 3) the methods of collecting and analyzing data,
- 4) the ways of disseminating research results.

But the impact will not stop here. The new possibilities to collect and analyze data are bound to raise new ethical questions. Digital technologies allow for new ways to organize and conduct collaborative research. They will also affect the methods, materials and organization of teaching. Data driven approaches are likely to transcend traditional disciplinary boundaries and even call respective delineations into question. Last, but not least DT forces us to re-address the general question of the role of humanities and social sciences in society.

We aim to discuss the impact of DT on the social sciences and humanities during a two-day academic workshop. The workshop is jointly organized by the German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ), the German Centre for Research and Innovation Tokyo (DWIH Tokyo) and the Nippon Institute for Research Advancement (NIRA). It will consist of three parts. The first part will address the impact of DT for research questions and research design. What questions do we need to ask and how can we make best use of DT in the way we conduct research? The second part will discuss the possible implications of DT with regard to the dissemination of research outcomes. The third part will consider how DT might change the organization and institutional set-up of academia. Who will conduct research? Where will it be conducted? Will disciplinary boundaries remain relevant?

**Tuesday, September 24**

**9.00 – 9.30 Greetings and Introduction**

---

**Part I: Implications for the Research Process**

**9.30 – 11.00 a) Negotiating Research Choices**

---

DT encompasses the digitalization, connectivity, and virtualization of various aspects of our social, political, economic and cultural life. As the object matter of our research changes, so will the topics we choose to investigate. What new research questions are brought to the front by DT? Topical choices are also influenced by how we can approach respondents and collect and analyze data. Digitalization, connectivity and tools to analyze big data allow us to address new research questions.

Noriyuki YANAGAWA (University of Tokyo)  
Susanne BRUCKSCH (DIJ)  
Fabian SCHÄFER (University of Erlangen-Nürnberg)

Chair: Ulrike SCHAEDE (University of California, San Diego)

**11.30 – 12.00 Coffee break**

---

**12.00 – 13.30 b) Research Design in the Digital Age**

---

How can we make best use of digital tools in the way we conduct research, collect and analyze data?

Christian OBERLÄNDER (University of Halle-Wittenberg)  
Cornelius SCHUBERT (University of Siegen)  
Makoto GOTO (National Museum of Japanese History)

Chair: Franz WALDENBERGER (DIJ)

**13.30 – 15.00 Lunch break**

---

## Part II: New Research Infrastructures

---

### 15.00 – 16.30 c) Dissemination and Evaluation of Research Outcomes

---

DT affects both the outreach and dissemination of research results. How can we disseminate our research effectively using digital media? How can we engage with research partners and interlocutors by means of digital tools?

Ulrike SCHAEDE (University of California, San Diego)

Bettina GRAMLICH-OKA (Sophia University Tokyo)

Kazuhiro HAYASHI (National Institute of Science and Technology Policy)

Chair: Susanne BRUCKSCH (DIJ)

---

### 16.30 – 17.00 Coffee break

---

---

### 17.00 – 18.30 d) Collaborative Research

---

Connectivity supports collaborative research, including the sharing of documents and data. DT also allows the construction of new infrastructures like digital archives or digital libraries.

Atsuko SANO (National Women's Education Centre of Japan)

Miho FUNAMORI (National Institute of Informatics)

Yukio MAEDA (University of Tokyo)

Chair: Markus HECKEL (DIJ)

---

### 19.00 Dinner

---

**Wednesday, September 25**

**Part III: The Future of the Social Sciences and Humanities**

**9.30 – 11.00 e) Disciplinary Boundaries**

---

Data driven research is likely to transcend disciplinary fields questioning traditional disciplinary boundaries. Who will conduct research in the humanities and social science in the digital age? How are disciplinary boundaries being crossed or shifted?

Martina FRANZEN (Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, Essen)  
Franz WALDENBERGER (DIJ)  
Jörg MATTHES (University of Vienna)

Chair: Nora KOTTMANN (DIJ)

**11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break**

---

**11.30 – 13.00 f) Ethics and Social Responsibility**

---

The new accessibility of data raises many ethical questions. Privacy, neutrality, transparency, accountability and social responsibility need to be addressed. What needs to be regulated? How do we formulate and monitor the rules we need?

Asanobu KITAMOTO (National Institute of Informatics)  
Adam FISH (University of New South Wales, Sydney)  
Arisa EMA (University of Tokyo)

Chair: Harald KÜMMERLE (DIJ)

**13.00 – 14.30 Lunch break**

---

**14.30 – 16.00 Wrap Up**

---

Presentations by the session chairs and joint discussion.

*(Public conference on Thursday, September 26)*