



AURORA

BIP: Digital Citizenship as a Contested Space

Dates:

On-site: 13 – 17 April

Online: 30 March, 27 April

This course invites students to critically explore digital citizenship beyond technical skills.

This Blended Intensive Programme explores digital citizenship as a dynamic and contested concept shaped by discourse, power relations, and unequal access within digital environments. Using critical discourse analysis, students examine how digital platforms, algorithms, and online interactions influence visibility, participation, and voice in contemporary public spheres. Through experiential and collaborative learning, international student teams apply theory to practice by creating creative media projects that address digital issues they care about. The blended format supports inclusive, innovative learning while fostering critical thinking, digital literacy, intercultural collaboration, and reflective engagement with digital citizenship.



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Palacký University
Olomouc

Course Description

In an increasingly digitized world, the concept of „digital citizenship“ extends beyond mere technical proficiency to encompass the rights, responsibilities, and practices of individuals within online spaces. This Blended Intensive Programme (BIP) proposes to critically explore digital citizenship not as a neutral or universally defined concept, but as a dynamic and contested space shaped by intricate interactions of discourse, power, and access.

Drawing on the theoretical framework of critical discourse analysis, students will be challenged to deconstruct how digital platforms, algorithms, and online interactions influence what citizens see, engage with, and even who gets to speak or is silenced. The BIP will foster a deep understanding of the mechanisms through which meaning and power are constructed and enacted in everyday online interactions, moving beyond a superficial understanding of digital engagement.

A core pedagogical approach of this BIP is experiential learning. Students will work collaboratively in small, international groups to produce creative projects – such as videos or podcasts – that tell a compelling story about a digital issue they care about. This hands-on component will enable students to apply theoretical knowledge to real-world scenarios, fostering critical thinking, media literacy, and creative problem-solving.

This BIP is designed to align with the Erasmus+ Mobility Programme's objectives of fostering international collaboration, innovative teaching methodologies, and the development of transversal skills. The blended format, combining virtual and physical mobility, allows for a flexible and inclusive learning environment, maximizing engagement and accessibility for students from various partner institutions.

This BIP aims to equip students with advanced critical analytical skills and practical knowledge in the realm of digital citizenship, drawing upon the content outlined in the Aurora LOUIS Framework.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the programme, students will be able to:

1. **Deconstruct the Concept of Digital Citizenship:** Critically analyze and articulate the multifaceted and contested nature of digital citizenship, recognizing it as a social, political, and cultural construct rather than a purely technical one.
2. **Apply Critical Discourse Analysis:** Employ critical discourse analysis (CDA) as a methodological tool to examine how power, ideology, and meaning are constructed, circulated, and challenged within digital platforms and online interactions.
3. **Analyze Platform Power and Algorithmic Influence:** Investigate and explain how digital platforms, their design, and underlying algorithms shape communication, information dissemination, and the inclusion/exclusion of voices in online public spheres.
4. **Identify and Analyze Digital Inequalities:** Recognize and critically assess the various forms of digital inequality (e.g., related to access, skills, participation, and voice) and their impact on different social groups and their ability to exercise digital citizenship.
5. **Communicate Complex Digital Issues Creatively:** Translate complex theoretical concepts and empirical observations related to digital citizenship into engaging and accessible creative media projects (e.g., video, podcast) that effectively communicate a compelling story.
6. **Collaborate in Intercultural Teams:** Effectively collaborate with students from diverse cultural and academic backgrounds on a shared creative project, demonstrating strong teamwork, communication, and conflict resolution skills.
7. **Reflect on Personal Digital Practices:** Critically reflect on their own digital practices and engagement, recognizing their role as digital citizens and potential agents of change within online ecosystems.
8. **Formulate Solutions for Digital Challenges:** Propose and conceptualize innovative approaches or solutions to address identified challenges and inequalities within digital citizenship, fostering more equitable and inclusive online environments.