

Digital Technologies and Social Services (DiTeS)

Interdisciplinary Research Center at TH Köln – University of Applied Sciences

- Research on the use and impact of digital technologies
- Development of socio-technical innovations in support of sustainable growth of professionalism and economic efficiency
- Consideration of ethical, legal and social implications

Research Center
DiTeS – Digital Technologies and Social Services

**Technology
 Arts Sciences
 TH Köln**

Research Center DiTeS – Digital Technologies and Social Services

The ubiquitous influence of digital technologies on organisational processes and the interaction between professionals and clients has, by now, also become an ever increasing occurrence in the social sector. Distinct impact and benefits of digital technologies are, however, not yet fully understood. The Research Center Digital Technologies and Social Services (DiTeS) at TH Köln – University of Applied Sciences is looking into such phenomena of digitisation, informatisation and mediatisation in the diverse field of social services. The newly gained insights, questions and challenges are furthermore brought into the academic, policy and public discourse.

Our research topics include

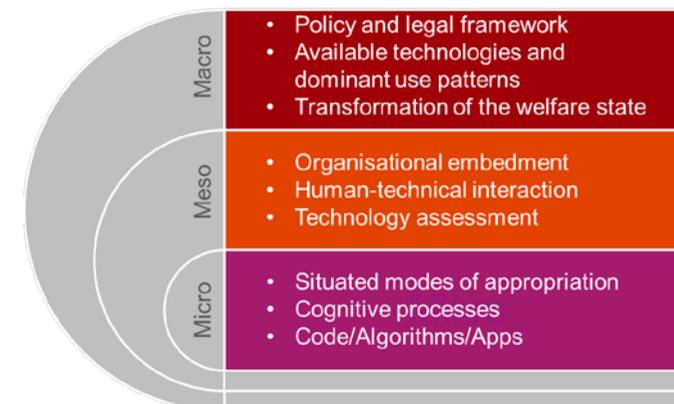
- investigating the effect of digital technology towards work and organisational processes as well as client and actor behaviour in social service contexts,
- user-centered elicitation of requirements and needs within the social sector,
- the design of application scenarios, implementation and management strategies for new technologies in various fields of social services.

In covering such complex topics, DiTeS benefits from its broad and excellent interdisciplinary expertise, including legal and technical aspects of data protection and information security, taking into account ethical implications of digital technologies and educational practices, and the design of advice and care settings tailored to users' needs and economic efficiency.

Research Agenda

The emphasis of our work, on the one hand, lies on analyses of already adopted technologies in the fields of social work, health and care. On the other hand, we are interested in the research of technical innovation and new application areas for existing technologies in the context of further social service needs. The investigation of ethical, legal and social implications is another central facet of our approach.

Research and development endeavours touch on situative and interactive aspects towards the impact of digital technologies as well as on questions of a more holistic societal nature:



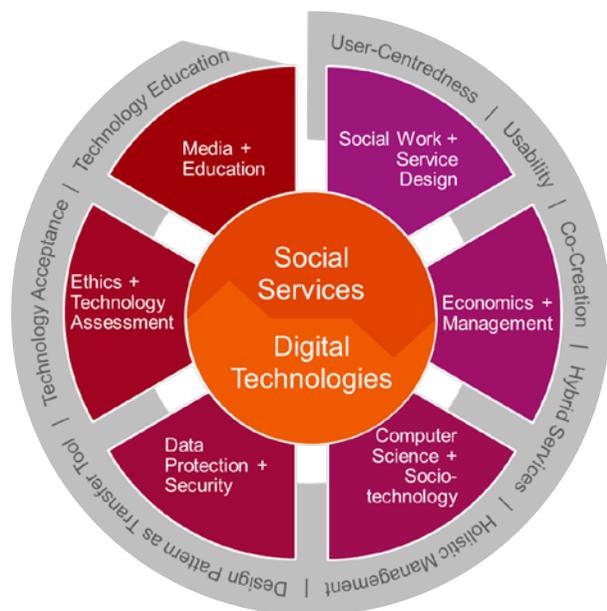
The DiTeS research agenda

Source: DiTeS 2016

One main remit of DiTeS is the development and application of multi-faceted approaches and methods to analyse the way digital technologies can and will optimise and strongly innovate social services – thereby taking into account strategic, economic, technical, process-related, organisational, interactive and educational categories.

Interdisciplinarity

Research at DiTeS is grounded in a broad, interdisciplinary integration of knowledge, competencies and research perspectives.



Interdisciplinarity in DiTeS
Source: DiTeS 2016

Cooperation

DiTeS is actively seeking further cooperation and technology partners to conceptualise, test and research innovative services in the fields of social work, health and care – supported by our interdisciplinary research and development team. These could be research cooperations, the scientific support of exemplary or pilot implementation projects, evaluation, or the joint work on funding proposals.

Team

Prof. Dr. phil. habil. Carmen Kaminsky (Director DiTeS)

Institute for Research in Social Work, Research Area: Ethics and Law

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Stefan Bente

Institute of Computer Science, Research Area: Software Engineering

Prof. Dr. Babette Brinkmann

Institute of Gender Studies, Research Area: Holistic Management and New Working Environments

Prof. Dr. Luigi Lo Iacono

Institute of Media and Imaging Technology,
Research Area: Cyber Security

Prof. Dr. Christian Kohls

Institute of Computer Science,
Research Area: Socio-technical Systems

Prof. Dr. Hans-Günter Lindner

Schmalenbach Institute for Economic Sciences,
Research Area: Business Informatics

Prof. Birgit Mager

Köln International School of Design, Research Area: Service Design

Prof. Dr. Claus Richter

Institute of Social Law, Research Area: Social Data Protection Law

Prof. Dr. Petra Werner

Institute of Information Science, Research Area: Editorial Concepts and Strategies for Digital Media, Reception of Digital Media

Prof. Dr. Isabel Zorn

Institute of Media Research and Media Education,
Research Area: Digital Media Education in Social Work

Associated Members

Prof. Dr. Rolf Schwartmann

Schmalenbach Institute for Economic Sciences,
Research Area: Media Law

Prof. Dr. Udo Seelmeyer

FH Bielefeld, Department of Social Work,
Founding Member & former Director DiTeS,
Research Area: Social Informatics

Contact

TH Köln – University of Applied Sciences
Campus Südstadt
Ubierring 48 (R121)
50678 Köln
Germany
E: dites@th-koeln.de

Director Research Center:

Dr. phil. habil. Carmen Kaminsky

Research Coordination:

Anna Schelling

For further information and subscription to our Newsletter please see www.th-koeln.de/dites

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