

# Graduate seminar distributed by the opportunities and charlenges of a digitalized society

Digital Citizenship: Exploring the Opportunities and Challenges of a Digitalized Society

<u>Virtual Sessions:</u> August 29 – November 21, 2022 On Campus: November 28 – December 3, 2022

Venice International University Isola di San Servolo, Venice

# VIU Graduate Seminar Digital Citizenship: Exploring the Opportunities and Challenges of a Digitalized Society

Venice International University

**Virtual Sessions:** 

August 29 – November 21

On Campus:

November 28 – December 3, 2022

Scientific Coordinators:

Ronald Cools, Bart Nuttin, Marleen Willekens, KU Leuven

Hitoshi Mitomo, Waseda University

Kanshukan Rajaratnam, Stellenbosch University

This program is a VIU Global Challenges Initiative

The focus of this program will be on the subject of Digital Citizenship. It will challenge you to explore in an interdisciplinary way with your peers the questions of how we become digital citizens and how we manage, protect, and nurture our new digital society. More specifically, the program will aim to identify the worldwide challenges that digital citizenship might entail and how to tackle these challenges, be it social, economic, environmental, or otherwise.

This Graduate Seminar will be led by:

- KU Leuven, Belgium
- Waseda University, Japan
- Stellenbosch University, South Africa

# **Program Structure**

The program will be structured in two parts:

Part I – Virtual: over the course of three months, from August 29 to November 21, 2022, participants will come together on a regular basis in virtual sessions. The sessions will be organized on a bi-weekly basis, with a total of 8 theory sessions (1 introduction, 6 thematic focus sessions, 1 wrap-up session) and 2 skills workshops. The virtual component (focus sessions and assignments) will prepare students for the final closing workshop week at the VIU campus.

Part II – On campus: after the virtual program, participants will travel to Venice International University from their home institutions for a Seminar Week on campus. The week will take place from November 28 to December 3, 2022 and will be mostly dedicated to the development of the abstracts and posters (group work), that will be presented at the end of the week. Some time will also be allocated to skills training, case studies and cultural activities. While the virtual focus sessions offer more theoretical input and background, the workshop week will give the opportunity to put the acquired knowledge to use and work on digital citizenship in an autonomous and collaborative way.

# **Faculty**

Ronald Cools, KU Leuven (scientific coordinator) Hitoshi Mitomo, Waseda University (scientific coordinator) Bart Nuttin, KU Leuven (scientific coordinator)
Kanshukan Rajaratnam, Stellenbosch University
(scientific coordinator)
Marleen Willekens, KU Leuven (scientific
coordinator)
Joep Crompvoets, KU Leuven
Kate Elwood, Waseda University
Atsushi Kato, Waseda University
Lode Lauwaert, KU Leuven
Frederik Truyen, KU Leuven

### Virtual focus sessions

The online sessions may require either some preparatory work or a brief assignment to reflect on each focus topic. The assignments will depend on the topic at hand and can take several forms, e.g. some preparatory reading, preparing questions for the expert, reflection. By the end of each session, students will be expected to determine a research question together as a group concerning the topic of that session. These six research questions will form the topics for the group poster presentations during the workshop week.

- \_ Introductory session
- \_ Focus session 1: Fake News
- \_ Focus session 2: Ethical and legal issues
- \_ Skills workshop 1: Intercultural Communication
- \_ Focus session 3: Good governance for smart cities and a smart world
- \_ Focus session 4: Digital citizen engagement in cultural heritage: challenges and opportunities
- Skills workshop 2: Systems thinking
- \_ Focus session 5: The power of images
- \_ Focus session 6: Closing the digital gap for an equitable world
- \_ Final session: Wrap Up

# **Learning outcomes**

- \_ To understand the different disciplinary approaches and perspectives to digitalization;
- \_ To be able to apply your knowledge and understanding through devising and sustaining arguments related to digitalization;
- \_ To have learned to gather relevant information about various aspects of digitalization;

- \_ To be able to produce clear, well-organized written communication as well as verbal presentations to express their ideas and conclusions, and the knowledge underpinning these, to both specialist and non-specialist audiences;
- \_ To have developed intercultural, international, presentation and meeting skills transversal skills, in order to allow you to continue their studies (or careers) with a higher degree of autonomy;
- \_ To demonstrate leadership skills and be able to contribute substantively to group assignments, projects or discussions;
- \_ To have developed the ability to critically reflect on your cultural background and that of others so that you understand how this influences your knowledge and that of others;
- \_ To have developed an international network of fellow students and staff.

# Who can apply?

This Graduate Seminar is primarily offered to advanced Master and early PhD students in all disciplines from all VIU member institutions, with an interest in the subject of Digital Citizenship. Applicants are not required to have pre-existing knowledge on the subject but should have acquired a solid knowledge base in their own academic fields and should have the necessary analytical skills to treat and discuss the subject in an interdisciplinary way. Applications from excellent candidates from non-member institutions will be also considered and evaluated

### **Fees & Grant Support**

Students from the VIU member institutions will pay <u>no</u> participation fees. Grant support is also available to support, partially or fully, the costs of international travel and accommodation. The participation fee for students of non-member institutions is Euro 1,200 VAT incl. The fee is inclusive of tuition, course materials, accommodation, lunches, social events and taxes. Students from non-member institutions are not eligible for VIU grant support. VIU Alumni are eligible for a reduced fee.

### **Credits**

Participation in the Graduate Seminar is considered equivalent to **6 ECTS**.

The final program will be available on the VIU website

Applications
December 1, 2021 – June 15, 2022
via the VIU website

Applicants must submit the application form, a letter of motivation – which should include a brief description of the candidate's research interests, a curriculum vitae and a photo.

As the COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing, VIU will continue to monitor the situation, and in the event that it is not possible to confirm the program on the VIU campus as scheduled, other practicable solutions will be evaluated. Applicants and confirmed participants will be informed of any changes.

## **VIU Graduate Seminars**

These are thematic intensive seminars given in a concentrated period on subjects of universal interest, open to a broad spectrum of disciplines. They are suited to both Master's and PhD students and are open to candidates from all the VIU member institutions. The young researchers will receive support in defining their research proposal. Significant cooperation among departments in the member institutions is expected.

**Venice International University** is a consortium of 20 universities, representing 14 countries throughout the world.

The mission of VIU is to foster cooperation among VIU member institutions while facilitating the exchange of knowledge and ideas, by developing, promoting and organizing joint academic, research and training/capacity-building program. Students from non-member institutions may participate in selected academic programs. The academic programs at VIU are distinguished by a markedly interdisciplinary approach to the topics, and by the international perspectives that the participants contribute to the discussions. The VIU campus is on the island of San Servolo in Venice, Italy.

# Location





# **Venice International University**

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