

Call for Abstracts – Submission deadline November 30, 2025

Digitalized and Hybrid Work: Concept, Measurement and Impact

Interdisciplinary Workshop at the Center for Interdisciplinary Research at Bielefeld University

March 18 & 19, 2026

The accelerated adoption and integration of digital technologies has profoundly transformed contemporary workplaces. Associated changes such as technology-enabled flexible and hybrid work environments, digital tools, and algorithmic management have been accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which pushed a substantial proportion of the workforce into digital workspaces. Moreover, current developments in the application of artificial intelligence (AI) hint at even more far-reaching changes in the daily working life of large parts of the workforce. While technical and computer sciences are engaged in the innovation of new technologies and the development of potential applications, social sciences have initiated a critical discourse on the potential consequences on various levels of society (e.g., employees, workplaces, families). In addition to general theoretical perspectives such as scenarios of polarization and substitution or skill-biased, task-biased and class-biased technological changes, and the discourse about how digitalized and hybrid work can be defined, there is an increasing number of empirical investigations on different dimensions of job quality, well-being and labor market outcomes. In addition, researchers from various disciplines have started to discuss the adequate measurement of digitalized and hybrid work. However, conceptualizing and measuring digitalized and hybrid work is challenging. Despite rapid advancements in new technologies, it is questionable what is actually implemented in current workplaces, particularly on a larger scale. Furthermore, different applications of the same technologies for multiple purposes may exist simultaneously. This is particularly relevant for population-based studies, where there are high demands on generalizable and economical measurement methods.

To address these challenges, it is necessary to integrate the technological state-of-the-art, concepts, measurements, and the investigation of the impact of digitalized and hybrid work. Thus, this workshop brings together interdisciplinary perspectives from sociology, psychology, economics and technical sciences, among others, to discuss two pivotal topics:

1. The key topic **“Concepts and Measurements of Digitalized and Hybrid Work”** aims to deepen our understanding of how digitalized and hybrid work can be accurately measured in survey data. Possible research questions that could be addressed in presentations are:
 - What are (new approaches to) theoretical concepts and measurements in existing surveys? What gaps and challenges can be identified based on existing data?
 - How do theoretical concepts and measurements differ across Europe?
 - What opportunities can be drawn from different perspectives (e.g., technical experts, survey researchers), also regarding different measurements for different applications?

2. Under the key topic “**Impact of Digitalized and Hybrid Work on Job Quality, Well-being and Labor Market Outcomes**” we invite you to submit contributions such as:

- Which theoretical perspectives from different disciplines contribute to a comprehensive debate of the impact of hybrid and digitalized work on job-quality, well-being and labor market outcomes? How can different theoretical perspectives enrich each other?
- How does digitalized and hybrid work impact different dimensions of job-quality (e.g., job autonomy, social integration, job satisfaction), overall well-being (e.g., health, work-life integration) and labor market outcomes (e.g., earnings, career opportunities)?
- How do empirical results on these dimensions depend on using different measurements of digitalized and hybrid work?
- How can the impact of digitalized and hybrid work be conceptualized and contextualized on different levels of society, i.e., the embedding in society as a whole, in workplaces and in occupations?

Moreover, one central goal of the workshop is to integrate discussions on the two key topics and foster a substantive dialogue on the broader implications of digitalization in the workplace.

The workshop will take place over two days at the Center for Interdisciplinary Research at Bielefeld University (Germany). Participants from various disciplines will share their insights and explore diverse perspectives on the measurement of digital and hybrid work and their impact in an interactive, exchange-focused workshop format that combines different presentation types, discussions, and collaborative sessions. There will be no participation fee. Participants are responsible for their own travel and accommodation expenses.

Two renowned keynote speakers will provide insights into their research: Ariane Ollier-Malaterre (Management Professor at the University of Quebec in Montreal) and Milena Tsvetkova (Associate Professor of Computational Social Science at London School of Economics and Political Science). Moreover, the workshop will include presentations from already invited participants as well as presentations from this open Call for Presentations.

Submission of presentation proposal

We invite researchers of all career stages. Please submit an **Extended Abstract** (1000 words max., about 3 pages) describing the research interest, the theoretical background and methodological approach, (preliminary) results, and how the research relates to one or both of the key topics of the workshop. Please send your proposal directly to DigiHyWork2026@uni-bielefeld.de

Important dates

- 30 November 2025: Submission deadline for Call for Presentations
- 19 December 2025: Notification of acceptance

We are looking forward to receiving your paper proposals! Any questions related to the workshop or the Call for Abstracts can be sent to DigiHyWork2026@uni-bielefeld.de

The organizing team

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