



Call for papers

Quantitative methods in the digital turn: Promises and pitfalls

June 2-4, 2025; LUT University, Lappeenranta, Finland & Online

Mid-term conference of the Research Network on Quantitative Methods

Conference theme

Our societies are digitalizing, with the use of e.g. social media, artificial intelligence and online services having become everyday phenomena. This shift changes how our lives progress and how societies are structured. While social changes have already been observed for decades, their full extent is not yet known. At the same time, digitalization also brings new opportunities for quantitative research in the social sciences. It creates big data, which provides a large volume of information that can be analyzed. Moreover, it opens the doors for new ways of collecting survey data, for example on mobile devices. Furthermore, it gives rise to new ways of analyzing data, using machine learning and neural networks. We are still exploring how these new options can best be utilized. This conference takes an inquisitive and critical stance towards the changes caused by digitalization. It explores the situations of individuals and societies in this era, and it discusses how quantitative methods can best study them.

Contributions on the following topics are particularly welcome:

- Quantitative analyses of societal phenomena, e.g., environmental attitudes, racism and right-wing populism, population change, and social inequalities
- Quantitative analyses of social digitalization, e.g., social media use and AI introduction in the workplace
- Advances in quantitative data collection methods, e.g., in survey design or through collecting digital behavioral data
- Advances in quantitative analysis methods, e.g., through improved algorithms or through the utilization of Large Language Models

The **keynote speakers** at this conference are: Prof. Fabrizio Martire (University La Sapienza, Italy), Prof. Jolanta Perek-Bialas (Jagiellonian University, Poland), Assoc.Prof. Maria Ballestar (University Rey Juan Carlos, Spain), and Dr. Arie Riekhoff (Finnish Center for Pensions, Finland).

Please submit your **abstract of max. 250 words**, including your name, affiliation, title, and email address **by March 31, 2025**, to Kathrin Komp-Leukkunen at RN21-conference@lut.fi

The **participation fee** is: 100 EUR for members of the European Sociological Association, 80 EUR for all PhD students, and 120 EUR for everybody else.

This is a **hybrid event**. You can attend in person in Lappeenranta or online.

For more information, see the **conference homepage** at <https://www.lut.fi/en/RN21-conference>