

Digital Geographies

National PhD Course

Fall 2025, 7.5 ECTS

Important: All students must register for the course via Natasha AND via Örebro University. (Link to be provided in September)

Study guide (Aug 2025) With reservations for minor changes.

Course Organizers:

Natasha A. Webster (course convener), Department of Human Geography, Örebro University, natasha.webster@oru.se.

Cornelia Brantner (course co-organizer), Department of Geography, Media and Communication and Centre for Geomedia Studies, Karlstad University, cornelia.brantner@kau.se

Danielle Drozdowski (course co-organizer), Department of Human Geography, Stockholm University, danielle.drozdowski@humangeo.su.se

Qian Zhang (course co-organizer), School of Natural Sciences, Technology and Environmental Studies, Södertörn University, qian.zhang@sh.se; Department of Human Geography, Stockholm University, qian.zhang@humangeo.su.se

Sponsoring Universities: Örebro University, Karlstad University, Södertörn University and Stockholm University

Course Aim and Description:

Digital technologies have rapidly changed how we work and socialize. So too, have our geographies changed as more and more of our everyday lives are mediated and practiced in, through and by the digital. This course is an introduction to the rapidly emerging and changing field of *Digital Geographies* and draws on a range of geographic perspectives from individual experience of affect and emotion, societal relationships to non-human world, to the role of the state in planning and national sovereignty.

The primary focus of the course will be to explore and discuss debates, conceptualizations and methodologies in contemporary digital geography. We will focus on the geographic social-technical-spatial changes made possible through technological innovations. We will begin the course with an overview of key concepts and the development of the field with a special focus on questions of individual experience, gender approaches, power and inequalities. We will then turn to exploring the digital in intersected changes of lived experience, socioeconomic development and society-nature relationships. The spatiality of these thematic interventions will be discussed through attention to global urban and rural settings, for example on the production of a rural digital geography and the datafication of day-to-day life. In the final theme, we will explore the risks and politics of digital geography, including environment, infrastructure and accompanying vulnerabilities.

Interwoven will be the overarching question of spatiality, framed here as a process of digital lives. The digital will be explored as continuum that is fluid, in process, shifting and as material and symbolic. The

goal of this course is to approach digital geographies by linking together geographic and spatial theories, case studies and empirical work and student's own reflections and experiences as emerging researchers.

Course Structure:

The course will consist of 3 modules and 1 final day for presentations for a total of 4 learning moments. The structure of each module will focus thematically on key issues in digital geography. Each module will build on the course organizers' research and methodological expertise but will center on discussions and applied learning of participants rather than lecturing.

Meeting topics and schedule:

The course will convene over four themed meetings in the fall term of 2025 and in the three departments of the course organizers. Details are listed in the following Table 1.

Table 1. Meeting topics and schedule

Event	Time	Topic	Location
Meeting 1	September 9 -10 2025	Introduction to digital geographies, changing perspectives	Örebro University, Department of Human Geography
Meeting 2	October 7 - 8 2025	Oct. 7: QualNotes workshop Oct. 8: Digitalizing the rural, agriculture and environment: everyday life, local agrifood systems, and more-than-human design	Oct. 7: Stockholm University, Department of Human Geography Oct. 8: Södertörn University, School of Natural Sciences, Technology and Environmental Studies
Meeting 3	November 18 -19 2025	Sovereign Streams and Green Dreams: Navigating Digital Infrastructures—Platforms, Imaginaries, Logistics, and Ruins	Karlstad University, Center for Geomedia Studies
Meeting 4	January 16 2026	Panel and presentation of participant's course project	Online Forum

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the course, *Digital Geographies*, students should have demonstrated the ability to:

1. Describe, discuss and critically reflect on digital spaces and places from geographic perspectives and reflect on how these digital processes are spatialized.
2. Connect literature and case studies to field, methodological and ethical considerations.
3. Critically evaluate how digital geographies can be used and/or considered in relation to participants' own research projects.

Examination:

The course will be assessed as pass/fail. Active and in-person course participation is required to pass the course. Participants may be required to submit an individual preparation assignment, for example a small piece of reading reflection, before each meeting. The final assessment will be in a written/oral form such as a roundtable discussion paper.

Students meeting the examination criteria will receive a certificate of completion.

Examination Activities:

- 1) Active participation in course activities – pass/fail
- 2) Final assignment - pass/fail

Course Literature:

Ash, J., Kitchin, R., & Leszczynski, A. (2018). Digital turn, digital geographies? *Progress in Human Geography*, 42(1), 25-43. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0309132516664800>

Ash, J., Leszczynski, A., & Kitchin, R. (2024). *Researching digital life: Orientations, Methods and Practice*, Sage Publications.

Brantner, C. (2024, in progress). Approaching digital infrastructure sovereignty in different disciplines. A literature review.

Dodge, M. (2019). Rural, in: J. Ash, R. Kitchin, A. Leszczynski (Eds.), *Digital Geographies*, SAGE Publications, pp. 36–48, <https://doi.org/10.4135/9781529793536>

Drozdowski, D., (2021) The role of a politics of memory and the digital, in reframing the commemoration of Polish independence, in Sumartojo, S., (ed) *Experiencing 11 November 2018: Commemoration and the First World War Centenary*, Abingdon: Routledge, pp. 57-70.

Drozdowski, D., Sumartojo, S., and Waterton, E., (2021) *Geographies of Commemoration in a Digital World: Anzac@100*, Singapore: Palgrave MacMillan.

Drozdowski, D., (2024) [Mobile Mapping](https://doi.org/10.4135/9781529696295), Sage Research Methods: Diversifying and Decolonizing Research, Video Resource, Sage Publications, <https://doi.org/10.4135/9781529696295>.

Drozdowski, D., and Berengueres, J.O.L. (2024) Developing QualNotes: A Collaborative and Cross-Disciplinary Ethnography, *Digital Geography and Society*, accepted 8 March 2024.

Elwood, S., & Leszczynski, A. (2018). Feminist digital geographies. *Gender, Place & Culture*, 25(5), 629-644. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0966369X.2018.1465396>

Faxon, H. O. (2022). Welcome to the digital village: networking geographies of agrarian change. *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, 112(7), 2096-2110. <https://doi.org/10.1080/24694452.2022.2044752>

Haraway, D. (1985) A Cyborg Manifesto: Science, technology and socialist feminist in the 1980s. *Socialist Review*, 80: 65-108.

He, H. (2023). Planetary rural thinking in digital geographies. *Dialogues in Human Geography*, 20438206231212022. <https://doi.org/10.1177/20438206231212022>

Jiwasiddi, A., Schlagwein, D., Cahalane, M., Cecez-Kecmanovic, D., Leong, C., & Ractham, P. (2024). Digital nomadism as a new part of the visitor economy: The case of the “digital

- nomad capital” Chiang Mai, Thailand. *Information Systems Journal*, 1–43. <https://doi.org/10.1111/isj.12496>
- Kinsley, S. (2014). The matter of ‘virtual’ geographies. *Progress in Human Geography*, 38(3), 364–384. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0309132513506270>
- Kinsley, S., McLean, J., Maalsen, S. (2020). Editorial, *Digital Geography and Society*, 1, 100002, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.diggeo.2020.100002>
- Kitchin, R. (2023). *Arts-based methods for researching digital life*. Working Paper. Data Stories Project, Maynooth. (Unpublished) <https://mural.maynoothuniversity.ie/16870/>
- Kitchin, R. (2023). *Digital Timescapes: Technology, Temporality and Society*, Polity Press.
- Lai, S. S., & Flensburg, S. (2023). Gateways: Comparing digital communication systems in Nordic welfare states. Nordicom, University of Gothenburg. [selected chapters]
- Leszczynski, A. (2020). Glitchy vignettes of platform urbanism. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, 38(2), 189–208. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0263775819878721>
- Leszczynski, A. (2021). Being genealogical in digital geographies. *The Canadian Geographer/Le Géographe canadien*, 65(1), 110–115. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cag.12632>
- Luque-Ayala, A., Machen, R., & Nost, E. (2024). Digital natures: New ontologies, new politics?. *Digital Geography and Society*, 100081. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.diggeo.2024.100081>
- Lynch, C. R., & Farrokhi, B. (2022). Digital Geographies and everyday life: Space, materiality, agency. In *The Routledge Handbook of Methodologies in Human Geography*, Routledge, pp. 196–206. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003038849-1>
- Maalsen, S. (2024). Digital geographies 1: Reality bytes. *Progress in Human Geography*, 48(6), 912–921. <https://doi.org/10.1177/03091325241273906>
- Mackey, A., McCallum, D. N., Tomico, O., & De Waal, M. (2025). What Comes After Noticing?: Reflections on Noticing Solar Energy and What Came Next. *Proceedings of the 2025 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*, 1–14. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3706598.3713239>
- Meadows, D. (1999). Leverage Points: Places to Intervene in a System. *The Solutions Journal*. <https://www.thesolutionsjournal.com/article/leverage-points-places-to-intervene-in-a-system/>
- Mejias, U. (2023). Sovereignty and its outsiders: Data sovereignty, racism, and immigration control. *Weizenbaum Journal of the Digital Society*, 3(2), Article 2. <https://doi.org/10.34669/WI.WJDS/3.2.7>
- McMillan Cottom, T. (2020). Where Platform Capitalism and Racial Capitalism Meet: The Sociology of Race and Racism in the Digital Society. *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*, 6(4), 441–449. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2332649220949473>
- Nelson, I. L., Faxon, H. O., & Ehlers, M. H. (2024). Feminist political ecologies of agrarian technologies: knowing the digital differently. *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, 1–28. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03066150.2024.2308637>
- Nelson, I. L., Hawkins, R., & Govia, L. (2023). "Feminist digital natures." *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*, 6(3), 2096–2109. <https://doi.org/10.1177/25148486221123136>
- Odendaal, N. (2021). Platform urbanism and hybrid places in African cities. *Shaping Smart for Better Cities* (pp. 203–219). Academic Press.

Osborne, T. and Jones, P. (eds.) (2023). *A Research Agenda for Digital Geographies*. Edgar Elgar Publishing. UK: Cheltenham.

Pasek, A., Vaughan, H., & Starosielski, N. (2023). The world wide web of carbon: Toward a relational footprinting of information and communications technology's climate impacts. *Big Data & Society*, 10(1), 20539517231158994. <https://doi.org/10.1177/20539517231158994>

Rosén, A. P. (2022). Towards More-Than-Human-Centred Design: Learning from Gardening. *International Journal of Design*, Vol 16(No 3).
<http://www.ijdesign.org/index.php/IJDesign/article/view/4402/1004>

Rosén, A. P., Chen, Y., Törnroth, S., Gaziulusoy, İ., & Marttila, T. (2024). Four Questions for Systemic More-Than-Human Design in Practice. In *More-Than-Human Design in Practice*. Routledge.

Salemink, K., Townsend, L., & Chapman, P. (2025). The remapping of rural digitalisation: A just-rural narrative review. *Journal of Rural Studies*, 113, 103499. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrurstud.2024.103499>

Sjøvaag, H., & Ferrer-Conill, R. (2024). Digital communication infrastructures and the principle of universality: Challenges for Nordic media welfare state jurisdictions. In P. Jakobsson, J. Lindell, & F. Stiernstedt (Eds.), *The future of the Nordic media model: A digital media welfare state?* (pp. 201–222). Nordicom, University of Gothenburg. <https://doi.org/10.48335/9789188855893-9>

Viciunaite, V. (2023). Alternative food networks on digital platforms: Consumer preferences for platform versus local food attributes. *Journal of Rural Studies*, 100, 103017.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrurstud.2023.103017>

Wang, W., Xu, H., & Liu, Y. (2022). Platform ruralism: Digital platforms and the techno-spatial fix. *Geoforum*, 131, 12–19. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2022.02.009>

Webster, N. A. (2024). Storytelling as connectivity: expanding the digital geographies of the gig economy. *Social & Cultural Geography*, 1–19. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14649365.2024.2367417>

Zhang, Q., Webster, N. A., Han, S., & Ayele, W. Y. (2023). Contextualizing the rural in digital studies: A computational literature review of rural-digital relations. *Technology in Society*, 75, 1–14.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.techsoc.2023.102373>

Zhang, Q., & Webster, N. A. (2024). Positioning rural geography into platform economies: Why we need to ask new questions when researching the rural platform economy, in Vale, M., Ferreira, D., and Rodrigues, N. (eds.) *Geographies of the Platform Economy: Critical Perspectives*. Springer Nature.

Attendance:

This is an in-person course and attendance is expected in-person at the 3 meetings. Meeting 4 will be online. Students must attend obligatory events which are group activities, i.e. methods workshops, and lectures by external guests. Only 30% of these activities may be missed and students will need to provide a complementary assignment in place of the activity. Please contact Natasha with regards to complementary assignments.

Admission and application:

All PhD students enrolled in participating PhD geographic and related studies are welcome to attend. Dissertation topics do not need to be related to digital geographies. PhD candidates interested in participating in the course should send a statement of interest and a brief CV to Natasha Webster at natasha.webster@oru.se by June 15, 2025.

Course Organizer Biographies:

Cornelia Brantner is Professor at the Department of Geography, Media and Communication and Coordinator of the Centre for Geomedia Studies at Karlstad University, Sweden. She has participated as a project leader, manager, and researcher in various research projects and networks. Currently, she is PI of the VR-funded project 'Digital infrastructure sovereignty: Towards a public value-based media policy for the datafied Swedish welfare state.' Her teaching portfolio and research profile cover communication infrastructures, visual communication, geomedia, (digital) public spheres and (in)equalities, science communication, as well as qualitative and quantitative methods.

Cornelia holds a PhD in Journalism and Communication Studies (University of Vienna, Austria) and a MA in Journalism and Communication in combination with Political Science and Psychology (University of Vienna, Austria). She worked at the Austrian Academy of Sciences, was (temp.) Professor of Media and Communication Studies at ZeMKI at the University of Bremen and at the TU Dresden. Prior to that she was a post-Doc assistant at the University of Vienna and has spent time as a visiting scholar at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, PA.

Danielle Drozdowski is an Associate Professor in Human Geography. She specialises in the interactions of people and place, with specific expertise in memory, identity and migration. Danielle's overarching research theme is the examination of the geographies of remembrance. She investigates how memories of culture and of place are integral to the formation and maintenance of identities, from the personal to the supranational. Allied to these investigations is the study of migration, through which she has focused on what motivates people to move, the outcomes of such mobilities, to better understand interactions between people and places. She investigates these themes using qualitative methods.

Natasha Webster is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Human Geography at Örebro University, Sweden. As a feminist geographer, Natasha is interested in the complexities of social-technical-spatial relations in work(ing)-life practices. Her recent research falls within economic and digital geography by exploring the role of women-led entrepreneurship and platform-work in migration and integration. She is interested in the role of emotions and affect in everyday common activities in work and play. Natasha is a researcher in a VR funded project (2022-05314) exploring the digital geographies of rural areas and practices with her particular work package focusing on the beekeeping hobby and industry sectors. She was PI of a Formas project (2019-00445) examining the digital geographies of the Swedish gig economy.

Natasha is an Associate Editor at the journal, *Emotion, Space and Society* ([Emotion, Space and Society](#)) and is on the editorial board for *Digital Geography and Society* ([Digital Geography and Society](#)). Natasha holds a PhD in Human Geography (Stockholm University), M.Sc.Pl Specialization in Urban Planning (University of Toronto), BA Honours in Human Geography (Queen's University, Canada).

Qian Zhang is a Senior Lecturer at the School of Natural Sciences, Technology and Environmental Studies at Södertörn University, and a researcher at the Department of Human Geography, Stockholm University, Sweden. Qian holds a PhD in Human Geography (Stockholm University). Her research seeks critical geographic understanding of inequalities and sustainability. This exploration has been done under and at the intersection of a range of themes including labour migration, environmental migration, environmental governance, rural/agrarian transformation, and recently digital geography and the gig economy. Her studies have mainly focused on Sweden and China. She is on the editorial board of the peer-reviewed journal *Rural Landscape: Society, Environment and History*.

In a FORMAS funded research project (2019-00445), Qian worked as a key investigator with the Primary investigator Natasha Webster and pioneered digital geographic approaches of understanding the gig

economy and migrants' experiences in Sweden. Currently, Qian is leading a VR-funded research project (2022-05314) which aims to explore changing social-technical-spatial relations embedded in the digital everyday rural work and life in Sweden, and further the implications for sustainability and equality.

Meetings Schedule

Meeting 1: Örebro

September 9, 2025: F133 Örebro University, Forum Huset <https://link.mazemap.com/sOsRtA7G>

13:00- 13:30 Course introduction

- Logistics and pragmatics of the course

13:30 – 14:00: Ice breaker Activity

14:10 -15:00 – Lecture 1: “What is/are digital geographies?” (Natasha Webster)

- Readings. Osborne and Jones (2023), Introduction and 2-3 chapters of your choice.

15:15 – 16:15 Guest lecture Tess Osborne (online) [Tees Osborne | University of Leicester](#)

16:15 - 17:00 Small group discussions

17:00 – 17:30 Individual and group reflections

19:00 Group Dinner in town (voluntary and at participants own cost - register to Natasha)

September 10, 2025: F133 Örebro University, Forum Huset <https://link.mazemap.com/sOsRtA7G>

08:45 – 9:00 Coffee and day outline

09:00 –10:00 Guest lecture – Heikki Immonen

10:00 – 11:00 Guest Lecture - Oscar Hartman Davies [KTH | Oscar Hartman Davies](#)

11:00 – 12:00 seminar/small group discussions regarding guest lectures

Lunch

13:00 – 15:30 Future thinking exercise – our digital futures?

15:45 – 16:00 Meeting 1 wrap up

See you next time!

Meeting 2: Stockholm region (room bookings to come)

October 7: Stockholm University

13:00 – 13:00 Hellos, Final assignment instructions and discussion

13:30 – 17:00 qualnotes – lecture, activity, and reflection – details to come

18:30 Group dinner (voluntary and at participants own cost)

October 8: Södertörn University (Location: room MA786)

Theme: Digitalizing the rural, agriculture and environment: everyday life, local agrifood systems, and more-than-human design

9.00 – 9.15 Introduction of the session – Qian Zhang, Madeleine Bonow, and Digital Transformation Platform chair Karin Hansson

9.15 – 10.00 Lecture 1: Qian Zhang – What does digital mean to rural spaces and places and vice versa?

Break

10.10 – 11.00 Lecture 2: Madeleine Bonow - Local agrifood systems, digital geographies, and REKO Rings

11.00 – 12.00 Seminar/discussion on the lectures

Lunch (included)

13.00 – 13.30 Workshop introduction: Anton Poikolainen Rosén - Noticing more-than-human systems

13.30 – 15.00 Workshop outdoor exercise with Anton

15.00 – 16.00 Fika with wrap up of the day

Lecture 1: Qian Zhang

Short description: This lecture engages a multifaceted discussion of the relationship between rapidly shifting digital technologies and rural spaces and places. It highlights the marginalized, subordinated and contradictory position of understanding rural spaces and places in the studies of digital geographies – risking urban bias. In contrast, rural spaces and places are actively positioned and imagined as being central to sustainable transitions and planetary solutions. Drawing on examples of different rural socioeconomic activities, the lecture shows the importance of centring the experiences of everyday rural life for understanding digital meanings as much as for opening alternative ways of imagining digital relations for sustainable and just futures.

Readings:

In the main list: Zhang et al. (2023), Zhang and Webster (2024), He (2023), Dodge (2019), Lynch & Farrokhi (2022), Nelson et al. (2024), Salemin et al. (2025), Wang et al. (2022).

Additional:

Zhang, Q., & Caretta, M. A. (Accepted). Climate change adaptation and digitalization. A critical review towards equal and just agricultural transformations. *Climate and Development*.

Zhang, Q., & Webster, N. A. (Accepted). Making a digital tourist gaze of the Swedish countryside: Digital affect and atmosphere of WWOOF tourism. In Hall, C. M. & Lundmark, L. (Eds.), *Handbook on Tourism and Migration*. Edward Elgar.

Lecture 2: Madeleine Bonow

Short description: Local agrifood systems focus on producing, distributing, and consuming food within a specific region, often supporting small-scale farmers and sustainable practices. Digital geographies help us understand how digital tools—like social media, apps, and online maps—shape these local

food networks. A great example is **REKO rings**, a model that started in Finland and has spread to other countries, including Sweden. REKO (short for “Fair Consumption”) uses Facebook groups to connect local farmers directly with consumers. Farmers post what they have for sale, and customers place orders in the comments. Then, everyone meets at a set time and place to pick up the food. In the lecture I will discuss how this system of digital platforms can support local food economies, reduce food miles, and build stronger connections between producers and consumers. It also highlights the importance of digital access and skills in making local food systems more inclusive and efficient.

Readings:

In the main list: Viciunaite (2023).

Additional:

Franzidis, A., Seaman, A. N., & Abee, M. (2023). Online food marketplaces & the fetishization of local: The case for narratology. *Digital Geography and Society*, 4, 100048.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.diggeo.2022.100048>

Fuentes, Christian ; Fuentes, Maria (2022). Infrastructuring alternative markets: Enabling local food exchange through patchworking, *Journal of Rural Studies*, 94, 13-22.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrurstud.2022.05.022>

Workshop: Anton Poikolainen Rosén

Short description: This workshop focuses on how to notice more-than-human systems. It involves individual ‘noticing exercises’ outdoors focusing on sensory, emotional and reflexive experiences of ‘nature’ or the more-than-human world. It also involves group exercises of mapping, sketching and discussions (indoors). A particular focus is placed on how digital technologies mediate what can be noticed, and shape landscapes.

Readings:

In the main list: Rosén (2022), Rosén et al. (2024)

Additional:

Mackey, A., McCallum, D. N., Tomico, O., & De Waal, M. (2025). What Comes After Noticing?: Reflections on Noticing Solar Energy and What Came Next. *Proceedings of the 2025 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*, 1–14. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3706598.3713239>

Meadows, D. (1999). Leverage Points: Places to Intervene in a System. *The Solutions Journal*. <https://www.thesolutionsjournal.com/article/leverage-points-places-to-intervene-in-a-system/>

Meeting 3: Karlstad (Karlstad University, Minerva (house 12))

November 18

13:00-15:00 Platforms and infrastructures – lecture and workshop (Cornelia Brantner)

15:15-17:00 Imagining Infrastructures (Annette Hill, online)

Dinner: details to come (at participants own cost)

November 19

10:15-12 Geomedia studies and digital logistics (André Jansson)

13:30-15 Infrastructural Temporalities and the Ruins of Digitalization (Julia Velkova, online)

15-16 summing up and joint discussion

Session 1

Cornelia Brantner: **Platforms and infrastructures**

Workshop questions:

What role do platforms and infrastructures play in your own study

1) from a theoretical point of view?

2) from a methodological point of view (as objects or instruments of study)?

Mandatory readings:

Hesmondhalgh, D. (2022). The infrastructural turn in media and internet research. In P. McDonald (Ed.), *The Routledge companion to media industries* (1st ed., pp. 132–142). Routledge.

<https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429275340>

Plantin, J.-C., Lagoze, C., Edwards, P. N., & Sandvig, C. (2018). Infrastructure studies meet platform studies in the age of Google and Facebook. *New Media & Society*, 20(1), 293–310.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/1461444816661553>

Further readings:

Flensburg, S., & Lai, S. S. (2023). Follow the data! A strategy for tracing infrastructural power. *Media and Communication*, 11(2), 319–329. <https://doi.org/10.17645/mac.v11i2.6464>

Kristensen, L. M., & Hartley, J. M. (2023). The infrastructure of news: Negotiating infrastructural capture and autonomy in data-driven news distribution. *Media and Communication*, 11(2).

<https://doi.org/10.17645/mac.v11i2.6388>

van Dijck, J. (2024). Governing platforms and societies. *Platforms & Society*, 1, 1–2.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/29768624241255922>

Session 2

Annette Hill: **Imagining Infrastructures**

With a focus on layering as a concept, this work explores the multilayered experiences of audiences in Southeast Asia as they imagine themselves and their movements across digital streaming platform infrastructures

Reading:

Hill, A. 2024 'Streaming platform imaginaries: audiences and Southeast Asian streaming,' *Continuum*,

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10304312.2024.2411969>

Session 3

André Jansson: **Digital logistics**

This session explores the pervasive role of digital media in organizing time, space and social relations, and the logistical dynamics that characterize contemporary platform economies. Ultimately, this opens up for a critical discussion around human agency and power relations in times of datafication and automated guidance.

Readings:

Wajcman, J. (2019). How Silicon Valley sets time. *New Media & Society*, 21(6), 1272-1289.

Jansson, A. (2022). Guided by data: A logistical approach to tourism in the platform economy. *Digital Geography and Society*, 3, 100040.

Session 4:

Julia Velkova: Infrastructural Temporalities and the Ruins of Digitalization

Digitalization is often approached with an outlook towards the imagined futures that it enables. In this class we will instead explore how digital infrastructure – from online platforms to buildings such as server halls – is part of processes of devaluation, discard, and ruination. We will question our own assumptions and knowledge about digital developments, and discuss what can we gain if we start from constantly unfolding endings rather than emergent digital futures.

Preparation prior to the class: Please

a) read the compulsory texts and

b) Go to the link to the padlet here: <https://padlet.com/konfeta1/add-your-brainstorming-topic-here-yq7ycythko10slyy>

Write your name and institutional affiliation. Post a photo of a disused, abandoned artefact that you find interesting, and that is in some way connected to digitalization and infrastructure. Write also a few sentences about your relation to this artefact, and why did you choose it.

Deadline: 17 November 12:00.

Compulsory Readings, in this order:

Miller, Vincent, and Gonzalo C Garcia. "Digital Ruins." *Cultural Geographies* 26, no. 4 (October 2019): 435–54.

Brodie, Patrick, and Julia Velkova. "Cloud Ruins: Ericsson's Vaudreuil Data Center and Infrastructural Abandonment." *Information, Communication & Society* 24, no. 6 (2021): 869–85.

Recommended optional readings (to be read in this order):

Jackson, Steven J. "Rethinking Repair." In *Media Technologies : Essays on Communication, Materiality, and Society*, edited by Tarleton Gillespie, Pablo Boczkowski, and Kirsten Foot, 221–40. Cambridge: MIT Press, 2014.

Cohn, Marisa. "Convivial Decay: Entangled Lifetimes in a Geriatric Infrastructure." In *Proceedings of the 19th ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work & Social Computing - CSCW '16*, 1509–21. San Francisco, California, USA: ACM Press, 2016.

Velkova, Julia. "Retrofitting and Ruining: Bunkered Data Centers In and Out of Time." *New Media & Society* 25, no. 2 (2023).

Velkova, Julia, and Jean-Christophe Plantin. "Data Centers and the Infrastructural Temporalities of Digital Media: An Introduction." *New Media & Society* 18, no. 3.

Meeting 4: Online

Schedule released January 2026, Final Assignment. Details will be released at first meeting.