

What can STS do for us? Digital media, education and sustainability

UNIPD principal investigator

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Instrument

Collaborative research project

Description

The purpose of this proposal is to seed the conditions for a common scholarly framework – theoretical and methodological – for the study of young people and digital technology, looking to develop opportunities for complementarity across the two partner research groups. Drawing precisely on the diverse body of knowledge of Science and Technology Studies (STS), the investigators will use the funds to begin a process of “interfacing” STS ideas and methods across disciplines.

The aim is to develop a common framework which will engage with theoretical and methodological innovations, inspired by a body of scholarship that has produced some of the most influential analyses of technological and scientific processes of the past 30 years. Drawing on this diverse literature, the investigators will take stock of theoretical reflections about the role of ICT in shaping social interactions and the features of learning environments in education. Targeting high school students as main receivers of contents and active experiences through ICT, sustainability issues may be addressed properly to equip the future generations for the upcoming and urgent challenges of our futures.

The funds will trigger two symposia, one in Melbourne and one in Padova, and a final meeting online with the aim of promoting further theoretical encounters and research projects. Each symposium will be held locally face to face and online, gathering as attendees local stakeholders (including young people from local schools) from partner research groups and experts in the areas of: digital media education, STS and sustainability. Participants will work together to highlight opportunities and barriers and will conduct co-creation activities aimed at obtaining a univocal outcome from each symposium.

Expected results

The project will establish an international network prepared to tackle global and complex challenges at the intersection of multiple areas: technology/innovation, education, youth studies, sustainability, and so on. An ambitious research framework which can be mobilised for future activities: research proposals, collaborative outputs and open data/data sharing initiatives, etc. Capacity and competency building among ECR at Monash and UNIPD.