

Call for Participation

International Doctoral Autumn School 2023

Crossroads in Education & Digital Technology

Where do we go from here in times of ChatGPT and AI?

25th September - 29th September 2023

(in Karlsruhe, Germany)

Are you a young researcher, a doctoral student or aspiring to be so? Would you like to meet an welcoming & engaging community of like-minded young researchers and experienced colleagues?

Share and discuss your research and become part of it?

We welcome applications for this year's Autumn School. This 16th PHD Autumn School is an intensive, international, and interdisciplinary training opportunity for doctoral researchers. It aims at developing engaging research projects and at fostering exchanges in the fields of interdisciplinary Educational Science, Information Technology, and Digital Competence among an international group of doctoral students.

The theme is "Crossroads in Education & Digital Technology - Where do we go from here in times of ChatGPT and AI?". Research proposals in the broad field of digital transformation in education will be considered.

During the week on-site in Karlsruhe participants will have rich opportunities to discuss their ongoing or future PhD research with other doctoral students and senior experts from the scientific fields of interest and benefit from collaboration within the "Education & Technology" network. You will attend a lot of very interesting courses and lectures, some relating to your usual topics and some that are completely exotic to you. You will learn a host of new things and remember some almost forgotten bits, while you will grow curious at quite a few new topics. The house will be brimming with discussions and interdisciplinary exchange that leaves most participants thinking differently, or from new angles, about their usual topics. There will be free and open discussions and interaction between students, lecturers and all other participants, drawing a benefit from the fact that everyone is comparatively unexperienced in at least some topics while bringing along expertise in others. Of course social activities in the city of Karlsruhe in the South-West of Germany are also on the programme.

International Faculty

Faculty members from France, Norway, Austria, Germany, Indonesia and Brazil will join this year's event, and engage in enriching interdisciplinary exchanges on current scientific developments in the fields of Educational Sciences and Technology. This year, we will reflect on the challenges of designing digital resources for new teaching and learning environments and on defining digital competences in times where AI, e.g. ChatGPT, is emerging in educational contexts.

Blended Setting

The 2023 Autumn School will be held in a blended format. There will be an initial **Online Phase (10th - 23th September 2023)** where participants will interact on the main theme of the Autumn School and get in contact with each other. This initial phase will be followed by an **On-site Phase** at the Baden-Wuerttemberg Cooperative State University (DHBW) in Karlsruhe, Germany from **25th to 29th September 2023**. The goal is to bring together young researchers and broaden the participants' understanding of the rapid growth of hybrid digital forms of engagement in a digitally supported international culture of scientific exchange. After the On-Site Phase there will be an additional **follow-up Online Phase (2nd until 6th October)** to summarise the outcomes of the Autumn School.

Eligibility Criteria

You need to be an aspiring or registered doctoral student or early-career researcher (post-doc) who is affiliated with institutions within the network. Also Master-level students in the final phase of their Master education who consider pursuing a PhD may be eligible. Interested students should connect with their faculty supervisors to evaluate the appropriateness of the abstract submission for the 3.

Expected Outcome

Participants will be asked to give a 90-second short oral overview (about their research in form of "**Elevator Pitches**"). The goal of the Elevators Pitch is to get an understanding of what are the main themes and questions involved). Furthermore, participants should arrive at the Autumn School with a prepared presentation of **their research projects** (20 minutes presentation and 10-15 minutes discussion) in small groups with students and senior researchers. These sessions will be an opportunity to receive valuable feedback from peers and experts in the field.

The aim of the PhD Autumn School is to help participants with specific projects, data sets, and project ideas that are part of their dissertation work or related to participants' research interests. Participants are encouraged to engage with other doctoral candidates and researchers in their field of interest and enrich their research network. Participants are also expected to gain insight into the newest developments in the field and will be awarded **3 ECTS Credits** for full participation.

Application

Upon acceptance to the Autumn School, participants will receive access to the Autumn School web platform where they will have access to **preparatory materials**. All participants are expected to engage with the materials and fulfil all tasks and assignments of the **ONLINE Phase before the Autumn School** starts in order to ensure a lively discussion and exchange. Please consult with your local teachers about any questions about time commitment, workload, and involvement in the online phase.

Dates and deadlines:

Registration participants:	1 st July 2023
Submission of abstracts/paper:	1 st September 2023
Start of the online course – phase I:	11 th September 2023

Start of the on-site phase: 25th September 2023
End of the on-site phase: 29th September 2023

Start of online course – phase II: 2nd October 2023

Fees, funding and other conditions:

- Students will receive a certificate stating a total workload of 3 ECTS for participating in Autumn School.
- The Autumn School will be funded through the ERASMUS+ program and other programs (e.g., UFA (Université Franco-Allemande funding for Autumn Schools))
- Students and teachers will be funded for travel and subsistence

Registration:

Please supply your information for registration to https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeKvDA2cVt5YzS1TdMq2Wib1rhciFzCKMGSPyDQs_bipJUOSg/viewform?usp=sf_link

Application Materials to be submitted by 1st September 2023:

1. Participants should submit a 500-word (max.) abstract that gives insight into the overall scientific aim of their research project, briefly describes the research context, notes the current stage of their research project as well as next planned steps, outlines the research methodology, first results (if available) and situates the scientific gain to be made from the project.
2. Please submit a 150-word bio, indicating your current affiliation, position, and stage of doctoral research (aspiring or accepted doctoral student).
3. Please provide 5-8 keywords that best describe your research interests so we can match people with similar interests and engage in meaningful exchange.

Tasks concerning the Online-Phase before the F2F Phase of the Autumn School:

- Detailed programme of the Online Phase will be announced by mid-June 2023

For questions, please contact:

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or your Supervisor at your University.

Background: Thematic Scoping of the Autumn School 2023

The recent pandemic has led to greater acceptance, introduction, and use of digital media in higher education, in schools and in all contexts of professional life and lifelong learning. However, apart from using digital technology as a replacement or substitute for e.g., lectures, the promises of digital technologies in education still remain to be fulfilled. E.g., changing cultures in higher education have not yet become reality. Increased flexibilisation, more personalised learning pathways, inter-institutional recognition of prior learning and learning innovation in design and implementation of higher education settings in Europe, etc., are unevenly adopted.

The 2023 PhD Autumn School addresses the field of empirical research in the area of digital transformation of educational processes and their institutional conditions as well as its effects in higher education, vocational training and continuing education. The focus is on changes, conditions and effects of digital transformation processes at the levels of teaching, learning and institutions. Digitalisation is changing academic education in all higher education institutions (bitkom e. V., 2017; Ehlers, 2020; Hochschulforum Digitalisierung, 2015). Important life, learning and work activities are now routinely carried out with digital support. This leads to information overload and monitoring, but also creates opportunities for learners in terms of diversification, location-independent access to (freely available) teaching content, and allows the analysis (with positive intent) of learning behaviour. Data mining and machine learning create a differentiated instrumentarium for designing teaching and learning scenarios (Hoyer & Mundt, 2017). The demand for learning processes and competence development is increasingly changing through early involvement of learners and through a feedback culture based on participation (Reinmann, 2011). Instructive and constructivist didactics are stimulated by digitally intensified self-learning and open learning communities (Ehlers, 2013; Henning, 2018).

As AI tools the most recent example being ChatGPT, the most recent example being ChatGPT, it has become necessary to proceed to the next level of discussion, e.g., asking which educational concepts, which educational technologies and which Future Skills are needed to enable future generations of graduates professional life and support sustainable societal development and well-being. This 2023 PhD Autumn School takes place in a context in which educators all around the world ask in which aspects teaching needs to adapt and curriculum design needs to be amended in order to address the challenges posed by AI tools and increased awareness of the importance of Future Skills. Also, educational institutions need evidence and demonstrable scenarios to undergo transformation from slowly reacting organisations to revolutionary leading institutions fully exploiting AI-enriched digital cultures.

Academic educational institutions are not sufficiently prepared for this (Ifenthaler, 2017); the educational sector as well as cross-institutional approaches are only in their infancy. Research on the evolution of digitisation in education is under unavoidable time pressure as framing conditions change faster than serious scientific investigation can proceed. The thematic research field being quite broad, a wide array of qualitative and quantitative and multi-method approaches are used.

In the 2023 Autumn School therefore, PhD candidates to present their ideas, their works and paper presentations on the following topics:

- AI and big data in education - open educational resources
- Research on learning and teaching using digital technologies
- AI-supported assessment
- Future Skills Including emerging digital competencies in higher education and school in all education sectors
- Digital technologies, automatisations, adaptive tools for educational purposes

All other topics are welcome to be submitted.

The 2030 PhD Autumn School intends to be a place of exchange and sharing around the interdisciplinary field of education technology, integrating works and discussions from all related disciplinary fields such as education, sociology, digital cultures, humanities, informatics, business sciences, economy and psychology. The Autumn School will be conducted in a highly interactive way. Students will have the opportunity to present their work to supervisors and experts and will also have the opportunity to work with peers on their own topics. In addition, a series of workshops of research methodologies will take place.



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