

Call for Student Applications for the first

Joint Doctoral Consortium of DigiKomm & HMC

Monday, September 15, 2025, 1-5 p.m. in Dresden, Germany

Organizers: Marco Dehnert, Katharina Frehmann, Lisa Weidmüller

The Doctoral Consortium (DC) sponsored by the Digital Communication (DigiKomm) Division of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Publizistik und Kommunikationswissenschaft (DGPuK) and the Human-Machine Communication (HMC) Interest Group of the International Communication Association (ICA) will bring together PhD students who are researching various types of communication technologies to give them the opportunity to discuss their research in a constructive, collaborative, and international atmosphere.

PhD students whose work relates to the theories, methods, and topics of DigiKomm or HMC are encouraged to apply to the Doctoral Consortium. Ideally, students will be at an early stage of their dissertation, where feedback would be helpful in refining and advancing their work (e.g., pre-data collection or in the early stages of data analysis). The topic does not necessarily have to be related to the theme of the [main conference](#). Membership in the DGPuK or ICA is also not a requirement. Participation in the plenary is open to all participants of the main conference.

Participating PhD students will present their ongoing research project (dissertation, thesis, etc.) and receive feedback and advice from at least one expert mentor as well as their fellow PhD students and other participants. The mentors' feedback will be based on a proposal (described in more detail below) that each participant submits for review. Presentations should be a maximum of 12 minutes long and introduce the current status of the project as well as specific questions or problems for discussion. This can involve theoretical, methodological, or empirical aspects of the project. In addition, the DC offers networking opportunities with experts as well as fellow PhD students from different backgrounds working on related topics.

The 2025 DigiKomm/HMC DC will be held as an in-person event. If accepted students are unable to attend in-person, we will try to enable a hybrid solution.

To apply, students must submit a research proposal describing their research. Proposals should include:

- working title or dissertation research topic
- estimated timeline of the dissertation project incl. major milestones (e.g., data collection, data analysis, dissertation completion)

- affiliation (university; department; supervisor; type of funding if available, e.g., university staff, scholarship, ...)
- Description of the project: An abstract of 800-1000 words (excluding references) of their dissertation proposal. Proposals must identify a significant problem (or problems) in a relevant field of research, briefly outline the current state of knowledge in the problem domain, and clearly formulate a research question, or specify hypotheses to be tested. Proposals should briefly outline the theoretical background, research approach, methods, and any results obtained so far (if applicable). In case of a cumulative dissertation, an overview of the sub-projects should be included.
- stage of the dissertation project
- questions that the student would like to discuss or get input on
- statement concerning the willingness/ability to attend the DC in person

Applications are due April 15, 2025.

Submissions can be in English or German and should be emailed as one PDF to Lisa Weidmüller (lisa.weidmueller@tu-dresden.de).

Upon acceptance, proposals will be shared with 1-2 thematically selected mentors for review. We will try to match proposals written in German with German-speaking mentors as best as possible. Students should be ready to engage with mentors in English due to the international scope of the event.

Students will be notified of acceptance decisions by May 15, 2025.

Additional information

Date: Monday, September 15, 2025, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Location: TUD Dresden University of Technology, Germany. Specific address and room information will follow.

Organizers:

DigiKomm early-career representatives: Katharina Frehmann & Lisa Weidmüller

HMC early-career representative: Marco Dehnert

Contact: lisa.weidmueller@tu-dresden.de

Conference website: <https://tu-dresden.de/gsw/phil/ifk/forschung/digikomm-hmc>