DigiPatch Newsletter

February 2024

Welcome to the first newsletter of the DigiPatch project!

"DigiPatch: Moving From A Networked To A Patchworked Society: Motivational Underpinnings And Societal Consequences" is an interdisciplinary, multinational research project. Our team is constantly working on various studies relating to topics, such as: psychological needs, digitalization, social cohesion and the phenomenon of online microidentities.

We are very happy to introduce the project and its activities to you!

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The main idea behind the project and its goals

"DigiPatch: Moving From A Networked To A Patchworked Society: Motivational Underpinnings And Societal Consequences" is a research project funded by "CHANSE, Collaboration of Humanities and Social Sciences in Europe". DigiPatch focuses on societal transformation that comes about as the result of the ubiquitous digitalization of the social sphere. In particular, it pays attention to the role of psychological needs and the processes of identity formation and how they interact with each other in digital space.

Ever-present digitalization is here to stay and a deeper understanding of its role in social transformations can empower policy-makers and users themselves to get the most out of the potential that the online world offers. This line of research can shed light on the currently available cultural narratives and the possible need to readjust our thinking about their role in the era of the Internet. Additionally, a better understanding of psychological factors that lead to social alienation and mistrust can help to address those issues early on. The challenges outlined in the above paragraph are quite complex and multifaceted. To acquire the most comprehensive view on these topics, we employ various approaches, traditionally associated with many different disciplines. That includes, but is not limited to, experimental, cross-sectional, and longitudinal studies, as well as, political analysis and qualitative research.

The main idea behind the project and its goals

The project includes five work packages, each attempting to capture the earlier described phenomena from a different angle.

Work Package 1: Three-wave panel survey
- will investigate the relationship between various psychological needs and identities, media use, and some societal outcomes, such as social alienation.

Work Package 2: Experimental studies
- a series of experiments will explore how manipulation of psychological needs can influence social media behavior, including (mis)information sharing and group formation.

Work Package 3: Semi-intervention on young people
- will test if affirmation of unmet needs in young people will influence various outcome variables, such as trust in the government and in-group identification.

Work Package 4: Political and cultural analysis
- by looking at political messaging, as well as content from selected social media, this part of the project will investigate the development and evolution of microidentities as they manifest themselves in public discourse.

Work Package 5: Computer modeling of the formation of closed micro-identities and its attendant processes
- will complement the knowledge gained from previous WPs, by analyzing large, cross-cultural surveys that investigate relevant variables to create a valid, predictive model of media use-facilitated microidentity formation.

Meet the principal investigators

Małgorzata Kossowska
Jagiellonian University, Institute of Psychology (Poland):
Project Leader and Principal Investigator

Jesper Strömbäck
University of Gothenburg, Department of Journalism, Media and Communication, (Sweden) Principal Investigator

Manuel Moyano
University of Cordoba, Department of Psychology, (Spain) Principal Investigator

Ursula Kessels
Freie Universität Berlin, Education Studies and Psychology, (Germany) Principal Investigator

Ana Guinote
University College London, Experimental Psychology, (United Kingdom) Principal Investigator

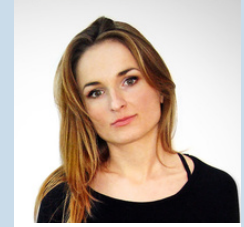# And other members of the team...

Torun Lindholm Öjmyr (Department of Psychology, Stockholm University)
Anna Siewierska Chmaj (Department of Political Science, Rzeszów University)
Piotr Kłodkowski (Centre for Comparative Studies of Civilizations, Jagiellonian University)
Ewa Szumowska (Institute of Psychology, Jagiellonian University)
Antonia Ramírez García (Euro-American Inter-University Network of Research on Media Competencies for citizenship, University of Cordoba)
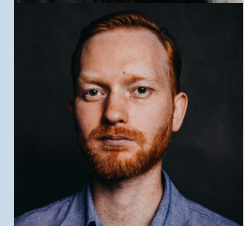**Reyes Rodríguez** (University of Cordoba)
Esther Cuadrado (University of Cordoba)
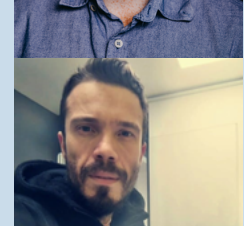**Jose Luna Ariza** (Department of Computer Science and Numerical Analysis, University of Cordoba)
Gülru Horozoglu (Freie Universität Berlin)
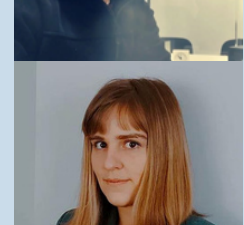**Piotr Dragon** (Institute of Psychology, Jagiellonian University)
Kalle Kallio Strand (Department of Psychology, Stockholm University)
Theofilos Gkinopoulos (Jagiellonian University)
Gabriela Czarnek (Institute of Psychology, Jagiellonian University)
Monika Gołąb (Jagiellonian University)
Davide Melita (Institute of Psychology, Jagiellonian University)
Nora Theorin (University of Gothenburg)
Josep Garcia Coll (University of Cordoba)
Sebastián Ventura (Department of Computer Science and Numerical Analysis at University of Cordoba)

Other collabolators...

We also collaborate with the members of the Advisory Board:

- **Arie W. Kruglanski**, psychology, Maryland University
- **Darian Meacham**, philosophy, Maastricht University
- **Ying Yi Hong**, culture, Chinese University of Hong Kong
- **Stephan Lewandowsky**, cognitive science, University of Bristol
- **Mario Scharfbillig**, Joint Research Center, European Commission

External experts:

- Gender Expert (**Manuela Barreto**, University of Exeter)
- Ethics Expert (**Tomasz Żuradzki**, Interdisciplinary Center of Ethics, Jagiellonian University)

And non-academic partners:

- German Institute on Radicalization and De-Radicalization Studies (**Daniel Koehler**, Ph.D., Founder and Director)
- Copernicus Science Center (**Szymon Filipowicz**, Research Team)

Publications

You can learn more about research coming from DigiPatch project from:

Academic papers:
- Kossowska, M., Kłodkowski, P., Siewierska-Chmaj, A., Guinote, A., Kessels, U., Moyano, M., & Strömbäck, J. (2023). Internet-based micro-identities as a driver of societal disintegration. *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications, 10*(1), 1-10.

- Siewierska-Chmaj, A., Kłodkowski, P., & Kossowska, M. (2022). Dlaczego digitalizacja może stać się przyczyną anarchizacji. *Studia Polityczne, 50*(2), 37-65.

Conference presentations:
- Melita, D. (2024, February 8–10). Economic Deprivation and Perceived Injustice as Predictors of Social Alienation [Conference presentation]. SPSP Annual Convention, San Diego, CA, United States.

Media articles and videos:

- Tego potrzebuje społeczeństwo. "Albo wspólna narracja, albo chaos i anarchia" (conversation with Piotr Kłodkowski for Onet)
- Trwa radykalna przemiana społeczna. Naukowcy uchwycili dwie konsekwencje tego procesu (conversation with Małgorzata Kossowska for Onet)
- an interview with Małgorzata Kossowska for EUROPE DIRECT Kraków [link]
- an interview with Anna Siewierska-Chmaj for the Institute of Public Policy in Kraków [link]

Updates

- **This February**, we had an opportunity to launch the first wave of the 3-wave panel study. Next waves are planned for June and October 2024.

- **Between 29-30 January 2024** the first consortium meeting of the DigiPatch project took place in Krakow at the Psychology Institute of Jagiellonian University. The program included many inspiring talks and presentations about previous research and ideas for the future. The team had an opportunity to finally meet in person and consult their ideas with members of the advisory board. Here are some highlights:

What is next for us

- **Later in 2024** DigiPatch team will have a chance to collect data with the cooperation of Copernicus Science Centre in Warsaw. It will take place at LivingLAB in CSC - a special, dedicated area where visitors can participate in various social science studies. In addition to that, participants can also watch short videos of researchers explaining the ideas behind their projects.

- On **18-19 September 2024**, a mid-term CHANSE's conference will take place in Bucharest, Romania. It is a follow-up meeting after the kick-off conference that was held in Talinn, Estonia in 2023. During these meetings, representatives of various CHANSE-funded projects will have an opportunity to share their work and discuss future directions.

Contact

- To learn more about the DigiPatch project, you can visit our website and social media accounts: Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube!