

u^b

UNIVERSITÄT
BERN

SSA Congress 2013

Workshop 33

Social technologies and communication inequalities

Workshop-Organization

Patrick-Yves Badillo, Professor and Chair, Medi@LAB-Genève
Sami Coll, Post-doctoral fellow, Medi@LAB-Genève

Contact address of the workshop organizer(s)

Sami Coll
University of Geneva
Medi@LAB-Genève
Département de Sociologie
Université de Genève
Bd. du Pont d'Arve 40
1211 Genève
sami.coll@unige.ch

www.sgs-kongress2013.unibe.ch

Congress of the
Swiss Sociological Association
June 26 – 28, 2013
University of Bern
www.sgs-kongress2013.unibe.ch

Workshop

Social technologies and communication inequalities

Social technologies are defined in a broad sense. It includes information technologies providing right to communicate, to create, produce, consume and modify content. Twitter, Blog, Web 2.0, social network, social media are examples of social technologies. Social technologies are undoubtedly related to the question of social inequalities. First, although having access to the communication networks has become a norm, no one is equal when dealing with them. For example, a reliable access to Internet is still not a human right. Should it become such a right? Should a reliable access guaranteed for everyone? Still, that would not be sufficient. Defending a reduction of digital divide should also ensure people to make the best use of information and communication technologies. Indeed, digital divide is not only about access, but also to the ability to take the best advantage of it. Higher classes benefit from a better education which allows them to take a better advantage of these technologies than lower classes.

Second, it should not be taken for granted that communication and information technologies help to reduce social inequalities through, for example, the ability to provide knowledge for everybody. Many scholars pointed out the fact that information technologies can also strengthen social inequalities. For example, the purpose of online marketing is to suggest products related to personal profiles. The effect is that the predisposition of consumer to access to products with higher social value can be reduced, so their social mobility.

A diversity of topic is related to the ability of communication and information technologies to reduce or increase social inequalities: information and media access (information gap), uses of new media and affordability, knowledge gap, etc. The purpose of this workshop is to explore the diversity of these topics and their modalities, through the contribution of the panellists.

Call for Workshop Papers

A parallel session lasts 2 hours and includes 4 to 6 presentations. If you would like to propose a contribution to the workshop-topic "Social technologies and communication inequalities", please submit a title, an abstract (maximum 2000 signs) and your personal details (name, institution/organization, address and e-mail). Contribution abstracts should include the research question, the theory and research context, the applied methods, and results. In addition key words and a bibliography (maximum of 10 references), should be included.

The contribution has to be submitted to the workshop-organizers until February 28, 2013: sami.coll@unige.ch.

The organizers of the workshop are responsible for collecting the submissions and selecting the contributions to be included in the workshop.