Call for papers
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Digital Migration Studies
Editors
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While the topic of media and migration is a classic theme in sociology (for a brief overview, see Bruno and Peruzzi 2020), the last decade has seen the emergence of a new strand known as *Digital Migration Studies*, which specifically examines the contemporary global conjunction between migration and digital mediatisation (Leurs and Smets 2018, Leurs and Ponzanesi 2024).

New research shares with traditional studies the assumption that the media play a fundamental role in the processes concerning identity, cultural boundaries and transnational imaginaries, and that mobility, both of people and cultural objects, is a defining feature of modernity (Appaduraj 1996). However, they take the increasing (often forced) migration flows, the pervasive spread of digital technologies and the profound mediatisation of societies as a new backdrop for investigation (Couldry and Hepp 2017). Furthermore, compared to the past, they shift the emphasis from the media representation of migrants to their communicative agency, and introduce new themes, such as the risks of traceability and surveillance that new technologies may pose for refugees and asylum seekers, or the new relevance of images. Furthermore, for obvious geopolitical reasons, the focus of research is shifting from the United States to Europe.

Ideally, Digital Migration Studies focus on how digital communication technologies shape the migration experience in all its phases: from preparing for departure to travelling, from settling in new territories to subsequent transnational ties. In fact, however, most research in the literature focuses on the role of the telephone and social networks in preparing for departure and during the journey, where it is essentially a tool for survival, and few studies have investigated the role of digital technologies in the stages of settlement and integration (fra i migliori esempi: Alencar 2017, *Borkert et alii* 2018).

Instead, the migration process also affects urban areas, particularly the most marginalised or 'liminal' ones. The vulnerability of migrants thus intersects with the vulnerability of those living in these spaces, which are undergoing profound transformations, including reconfiguration, polycontextualisation, translocalisation and gentrification. These new spaces, inhabited by individuals with different levels of vulnerability, are then traversed by profound processes of mediatisation. This constitutes a cross-cutting element that connects communities and individuals.

Elias (1990) introduced the term 'figuration' as a conceptual tool for understanding the complex problems of interdependence generated by the coexistence of large numbers of people and how these problems are resolved. Elias argues that social change is always part of a change at the level of figuration.

The boundaries of each figuration are defined by the shared meaning produced by the individuals through interconnected social practices, which also forms the basis of their mutual orientation. Immigrant and liminal communities are therefore figurations of figurations, since different figurations coexist within them, and are in phase of transition (Antonucci, Sorice and Volterrani 2024). The process of polycontextualisation refers to the multiplication of contexts and frames to

which people react simultaneously, sometimes creating overlaps and conflicts, and sometimes mutual indifference. One of the most important causes of co-contextualisation is the presence of very different cultures and subcultures within the same social space, which has been fuelled by significant migration processes in Western European countries over the last 30 years.

Our call is interested in research and studies that investigate the role of digital media in processes of transition and settlement, social and cultural reconfiguration, territorialisation and deterritorialisation, vulnerability and urban regeneration, involving migrant individuals and communities, with a special focus on the Italian context within a broader European and transnational perspective.

This call for papers invites theoretical articles and empirical studies, primarily (but not exclusively) focusing on the role of digital technologies on:

- migrant journeys and diasporas
- procedures for accessing institutions and services in the country of residence
- community relations in areas with a high migrant presence
- contexts and practices of urban vulnerability and regeneration
- practices and policies (including cultural and artistic ones) of inclusion

References

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Borkert M., Fisher K. E., and Yafi, E. (2018). The best, the worst, and the hardest to find: How people, mobiles, and social media connect migrants in(to) Europe. *Social Media + Society*, 4(1), 1–11.

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Leurs K. and Ponzanesi S. (2024). *Doing Digital Migration StudiesTheories and Practices of the Everyday*. London: Routledge.

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Deadline

Essays must be submitted by **june 15, 2026**

How to submit contributions

- Texts must be summitted via Mondi Migranti's page on Franco Angeli editor website: http://www.francoangeli.it/riviste/sommario.asp?idRivista=149 ;
- you will have to follow the procedure shown after clicking on button **'propose an article'**.
- Each essay must not exceed **35,000 characters (including spaces)**, including notes and bibliographical references, and may be written in Italian or in English.
- **Only texts that comply with the editorial standards** available at this address will be accepted: https://francoangeli.azureedge.net/fa-contenuti/riviste/nr/mm-norme_en.pdf

For additional information

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