

# Summer school

## Research Innovation Lab

# on Ageing in a Digital Age



**24th to 28th July 2023**  
**Goethe-University Frankfurt**

### The Pitch

Artificial intelligence, smartphones, robotics and social media have created the digital age. What does that do with ageing today? How do we research later life and ageing in a digital age? Digital technologies usually aim to support older adults to live safely and independently in their familiar environment and maintain their physical and cognitive functioning, autonomy and quality of life. Indeed, growing demands of digitalisation have pushed a growing number of older adults to develop digital skills and to enjoy new ways of navigating their world. However,

a ‚digital divide‘ persists between, but also within cohorts of older adults. The uptake of digital technologies is unequally distributed across Europe, and AI technologies are driving new inequalities. What is also missing in most discourses is a biographical perspective that acknowledges that current cohorts of older adults were involved in the development of technologies, used them in their professional life, and continue to use them. Against this backdrop, all topics of ageing and later life need to be seen through the prism of the digital age.

### The Question

How can older adults participate equally in digitisation processes across Europe, and what inclusive research strategies are needed?

The Research Innovation Lab will address this question and focus on:

- Dealing with different levels of digital citizenship across European countries
- (In)equalities in participatory approaches across research methods
- Access to digital infrastructures for older adults with care needs living at home and in institutions
- Technology development for increasingly heterogeneous populations of older adults

### The Research Innovation Lab

The Research Innovation Lab aims to bring together docs and postdocs at all stages of their work, who are involved in cutting edge questions relating to ageing in a digital age.

The heart of the Research Innovation Lab is a five day creative and interactive hackathon specific to developing non-technical solutions to social issues:

- to address the challenges and potentials of digitalisation as outlined in the pitch, and to provide solutions and further developments in terms of conceptual frameworks, new and innovative research methods, and educational approaches;
- to promote inter- and transdisciplinary working and thinking on interrelated problems of the participants through the intensive collaboration in diverse teams.

## Join the Quest

Become one of 30 participants from a range of disciplines within and beyond social sciences across Europe. Engage with four invited international speakers from the field of social, cultural and computational studies across the week.

You will:

- gain skills in international **networking** and **cooperation** by developing **collaborative outputs** for conferences and publications;
- receive **mentoring** through international experts as well as the team of applicants;
- learn about **interdisciplinary research**; and
- contribute to **future research strategies**.

### What next?

Meet the team, bring your questions and learn more about the hackathon method in the Zoom webinar on **1st December 2022, 5 to 7 pm (Berlin Winter Time)**. To join sign up here: [sasha.guehr@kh-freiburg.de](mailto:sasha.guehr@kh-freiburg.de)

Send your application (CV, short summary of your doc/postdoc research project, and a motivation letter including the questions and challenges you would like to address during the Summer School) by **31st January 2023** to: [sasha.guehr@kh-freiburg.de](mailto:sasha.guehr@kh-freiburg.de)

## The Team

We are an interdisciplinary research team including psychology, sociology, and educational sciences working on questions of age(ing) and later life in regard to person-environment exchange, gender, social inequalities, and human-technology interaction. Find out more here: [tinygu.de/DigitalAge-RIL23](http://tinygu.de/DigitalAge-RIL23)



## FAQs

### Who can apply?

All docs and postdocs from European countries can apply. No prior experience is needed and programming skills are not needed either. The language of the Research Innovation Lab is English.

### What about costs, accommodation, and travel?

Once your application has been accepted your participation in the Research Innovation Lab is free of charge. Accommodation and meals will be provided for all participants but you will need to organise your travel. Travel expenses will be reimbursed.

### How do I know if my doc or postdoc project fits with the theme of the Research Innovation Lab?

Your current research project does not need to fit with all the themes of the summer school. What is more important, is that you bring an interest in one of them that you want to discuss with peers across a range of disciplines.

### Can I take five days out of my busy research schedule?

Yes, if you are looking for the bigger picture! The summer school is aimed at people who are willing to take a break from their (post)doctoral work and reflect on their research in light of larger developments in and beyond their field. You are bound to return to your work with new insights, networks, and vision!

