

IN5370/IN9370: ICT & Global Inequalities

Reading List

Lecture 1

Introduction: ICTs & Global Inequalities

Core Reading

Heeks, R. (2022). Digital inequality beyond the digital divide: conceptualizing adverse digital incorporation in the global South. *Information Technology for Development*, 1-17.

Madianou, M. (2019). Technocolonialism: Digital innovation and data practices in the humanitarian response to refugee crises. *Social Media + Society*, 5(3), 1-13.

Supplementary Reading

Masiero, S. (2022). Should we still be doing ICT4D research?. *The Electronic Journal of Information Systems in Developing Countries*, 88(5), 1-12.

Qureshi, S. (2023). Digital transformation for development: a human capital key or system of oppression?. *Information Technology for Development*, 29(4), 423-434.

If interested in reading more on the topic:

Akbari, A. (2021). The threat of automating control: Surveillance of women's clothing in Iran. *Automating Crime Prevention, Surveillance, and Military Operations*, 183-199.

Escobar, A. (2011). *Encountering development: The making and unmaking of the third world*. Princeton University Press.

Heeks, R. (2014). Future priorities for development informatics research from the post-2015 development agenda. *Development Informatics Working Paper*, 57. https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3438434.

Monahan, T. (2021). Reckoning with COVID, racial violence, and the perilous pursuit of transparency. *Surveillance & Society*, 19(1), 1-10.

Lecture 2

ICTs and Global Inequalities: Theoretical perspectives

Core Reading

Avgerou, C. (2008). Information systems in developing countries: a critical research review. *Journal of information Technology*, 23(3), 133-146.

Zheng, Y., & Walsham, G. (2008). Inequality of what? Social exclusion in the e-society as capability deprivation. *Information Technology & People*, 21(3), 222-243.

Supplementary Reading

Couldry, N., & Mejias, U. A. (2019). Data colonialism: Rethinking big data's relation to the contemporary subject. *Television & New Media*, 20(4), 336-349.

Wade, R. H. (2002). Bridging the digital divide: new route to development or new form of dependency?. *Global Governance*, 8, 443-466.

If interested in reading more on the topic:

Avgerou, C. (2017). Theoretical framing of ICT4D research. In *International conference on social implications of computers in developing countries* (pp. 10-23). Springer, Cham.

Heeks, R. (2002). Information systems and developing countries: Failure, success, and local improvisations. *The Information Society*, 18(2), 101- 112.

Sen, A. (2001). *Development as Freedom*. London: Oxford University Press.

Zheng, Y., & Walsham, G. (2008). Inequality of what? Social exclusion in the e-society as capability deprivation. *Information Technology & People*, 21(3), 222-243.

Zheng, Y., Hatakka, M., Sahay, S., & Andersson, A. (2018). Conceptualizing development in information and communication technology for development (ICT4D). *Information Technology for Development*, 24(1), 1-14.

Lecture 3

ICTs and Global Inequalities: Empirical Perspectives

Core Reading

Walsham, G. (2017). ICT4D research: Reflections on history and future agenda. *Information Technology for Development*, 23(1), 18-41.

Masiero, S. (2022). ICT4D and Critical Data Studies: A Joint Research Agenda. ICTD Conference, Seattle, 27-29 June 2022.

Supplementary Reading

Dalton, C. M., Taylor, L., & Thatcher, J. (2016). Critical data studies: A dialog on data and space. *Big Data & Society*, 3(1), 1-14.

Nielsen, P. (2017). Digital innovation: A research agenda for information systems research in developing countries. In *International Conference on social implications of Computers in developing countries* (pp. 269-279). Springer, Cham.

Taylor, L., & Broeders, D. (2015). In the name of Development: Power, profit and the datafication of the global South. *Geoforum*, 64, 229-237.

If interested in reading more on the topic:

boyd, D., & Crawford, K. (2012). Critical questions for big data: Provocations for a cultural, technological, and scholarly phenomenon. *Information, Communication & Society*, 15(5), 662-679.

Dalton, C., & Thatcher, J. (2014). Inflated granularity: The promise of Big Data and the need for a critical data studies. In: Paper presented at the Association of American Geographers Annual meeting, Tampa, FL.

Milan, S., & Treré, E. (2020). The Rise of the Data Poor: The COVID-19 Pandemic Seen From the Margins. *Social Media + Society*, 6(3), 1-18.

Ricaurte, P. (2019). Data epistemologies, the coloniality of power, and resistance. *Television & New Media*, 20(4), 350-365.

Lecture 4

Digital Platforms for Development

Core Reading

Bonina, C., Koskinen, K., Eaton, B., & Gawer, A. (2021). Digital platforms for development: Foundations and research agenda. *Information Systems Journal*, 31(6), 869-902.

Madon, S., & Schoemaker, E. (2021). Digital identity as a platform for improving refugee management. *Information Systems Journal*, 31(6), 929-953.

Supplementary Reading

Anwar, M. A., & Graham, M. (2021). Between a rock and a hard place: Freedom, flexibility, precarity and vulnerability in the gig economy in Africa. *Competition & Change*, 25(2), 237-258.

Weitzberg, K., Cheesman, M., Martin, A., & Schoemaker, E. (2021). Between surveillance and recognition: Rethinking digital identity in aid. *Big Data & Society*, 8(1), 1-6.

If interested in reading more on the topic:

Anwar, M. A., & Graham, M. (2020). Hidden transcripts of the gig economy: labour agency and the new art of resistance among African gig workers. *Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space*, 52(7), 1269-1291.

Graham, M., Lehdonvirta, V., Wood, A., Barnard, H., & Hjorth, I. (2018). Could online gig work drive development in lower-income countries?. *Future of Work in the Global South*.

Heeks, R., Gomez-Morantes, J. E., Graham, M., Howson, K., Mungai, P., Nicholson, B., & Van Belle, J. P. (2021). Digital platforms and institutional voids in developing countries: The case of ride-hailing markets. *World Development*, 145, 105528.

Nicholson, B., Nielsen, P., & Sæbø, J. (2021). Digital platforms for development. *Information Systems Journal*, 31(6), 863-868.

Lecture 5

Digital Identity: Between Development and Unfairness

Core Reading

Dahan, M., & Gelb, A. (2015). The role of identification in the post-2015 development agenda. Working Paper, World Bank Identification or Development Initiative, <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstreams/c3187e7e-63be-5255-96de-087d563a3b8d/download>.

Masiero, S., & Das, S. (2019). Datafying anti-poverty programmes: Implications for data justice. *Information, Communication & Society*, 22(7), 916-933.

Supplementary Reading

Masiero, S., & Arvidsson, V. (2021). Degenerative outcomes of digital identity platforms for development. *Information Systems Journal*, 31(6), 903-928.

Schoemaker, E., Martin, A., & Weitzberg, K. (2023). Digital Identity and Inclusion: Tracing Technological Transitions. *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*, 24(1), 36-45.

If interested in reading more on the topic:

Centre for Human Rights and Global Justice (2022). Paving a digital road to hell: A Primer on the Role of the World Bank and Global Networks in Promoting Digital ID. New York University, https://chrgj.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Report_Paving-a-Digital-Road-to-Hell.pdf.

Chaudhuri, B. (2022). Programmed welfare: An ethnographic account of algorithmic practices in the Public Distribution System in India. *New Media & Society*, 24(4), 887-902.

Chaudhuri, B. (2021). Distant, opaque and seamful: seeing the state through the workings of Aadhaar in India. *Information Technology for Development*, 27(1), 37-49.

Cheesman, M. (2022). Self-sovereignty for refugees? The contested horizons of digital identity. *Geopolitics*, 27(1), 134-159.

Madon, S., Ranjini, C. R., & Anantha Krishnan, R. K. (2022). Aadhaar and social assistance programming: local bureaucracies as critical intermediary. *Information Technology for Development*, 1-16.

Martin, A. (2021). Aadhaar in a Box? Legitimizing Digital Identity in Times of Crisis. *Surveillance & Society*, 19(1), 104-108.

Mathur, N. & Sriraman, T. (2025). When the State Always Doubts Your Identity.
<https://www.theindiaforum.in/politics/when-state-always-doubts-your-identity>.

Murakami Wood, D., & Firmino, R. (2009). Empowerment or repression? Opening up questions of identification and surveillance in Brazil through a case of 'identity fraud'. *Identity in the Information Society*, 2, 297-317.

Rao, U. (2013). Biometric marginality: UID and the shaping of homeless identities in the city. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 71-77.

Weitzberg, K. (2020a). Biometrics, race making, and white exceptionalism: The controversy over universal fingerprinting in Kenya. *The Journal of African History*, 61(1), 23-43.

Weitzberg, K. (2020b). In Kenya, thousands left in limbo without ID cards. Coda Story,
<https://www.codastory.com/authoritarian-tech/kenya-biometrics-double-registration/>.

Lecture 6

Biometric Borders: Digital Technologies and Surveillance

Core Reading

Martins, B. O., & Jumbert, M. G. (2022). EU Border technologies and the co-production of security 'problems' and 'solutions'. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 48(6), 1430-1447.

Pelizza, A. (2020). Processing alterity, enacting Europe: Migrant registration and identification as co-construction of individuals and polities. *Science, Technology & Human Values*, 45(2), 262– 288.

Supplementary Reading

Martins, B. O., Lidén, K., & Jumbert, M. G. (2022). Border security and the digitalisation of sovereignty: insights from EU borderwork. *European Security*, 31(3), 475-494.

EuroMed Rights (2023). Artificial Intelligence: The New Frontier of the EU Border's Externalisation Strategy. EuroMed Rights,
https://euromedrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Euromed_AI-Migration-Report_EN-1.pdf.

If interested in reading more on the topic:

Martin, A. (2025). Why sovereignty matters for humanitarian data. *Big Data & Society*, 12(3), 1-13.

Martins, B. O. (2023). Security knowledges: circulation, control, and responsible research and innovation in EU border management. *Science as Culture*, 32(3), 435-459.

Masiero, S. (2023). Digital identity as platform-mediated surveillance. *Big Data & Society*, 10(1), 1-6.

Pelizza, A., & Loschi, C. (2023). Telling 'more complex stories' of European integration: how a sociotechnical perspective can help explain administrative continuity in the Common European Asylum System. *Journal of European Public Policy*, 1-22.

Polito, C. & Alaimo, C (2023). The politics of biometric technologies: Borders control and the making of data citizens in Africa. European Conference of Information Systems (ECIS), Kristiansand, 13-16 June 2023.

Weitzberg, K. (2025). Keeping people out of camps: biometric technologies, contested sovereignty, and border practices within humanitarian spaces. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 51(14), 3590-3609.

Lecture 7

Leaving No One Behind? Gender, Gender Queerness and Inequalities

Core Reading

Wyers, K. (2024). Health ICTs and transgender health equity: a research agenda. *Information Technology for Development*, 1-27.

Kirkland, A. (2021). Dropdown rights: Categorizing transgender discrimination in healthcare technologies, *Social Science & Medicine*, 289, 2021.

Supplementary Reading

Kronk, C., et al. (2022). Transgender data collection in the electronic health record: Current concepts and issues, *Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association*, 29(2): 271-284.

Wyers, K. (2022). Leaving No-one Behind? A Research Agenda for Queer Issues in ICT4D. IFIP 9.4 Conference, 25-27 May 2022.

If interested in reading more on the topic:

Bailur, S., Masiero, S., & Tacchi, J. (2018). Gender, mobile, and development: the theory and practice of empowerment—Introduction. *Information Technologies & International Development*, 14, 9-18.

Bailur, S., & Masiero, S. (2017). Women's income generation through mobile Internet: A study of focus group data from Ghana, Kenya, and Uganda. *Gender, Technology and Development*, 21(1-2), 77-98.

Diez, I., & Bossio, J. (2023). Women's solidarity as feminism in action: the concept of sisterhood (sororidad) in #LasRespondonas, a Facebook group in Peru. *Information Technology for Development*, 1-17.

Faith, B. (2018). Gender, mobile, and mobile internet | maintenance affordances, capabilities and structural inequalities: mobile phone use by low-income women. *Information Technologies & International Development*, 14, 15-28.

Mills, E. (2015). 'Leave No One Behind': Gender, Sexuality and the Sustainable Development Goals. Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Evidence Report no. 54.

Reed, R. (2020). Dignity in transgender lives: a capabilities approach. *Journal of Human Development and Capabilities*, 21(1), 36-48.

Wagner, T. L., & Kitzie, V. L. (2023). Centering queer knowledge paradigms in designing and implementing health information and communication technologies. *Information Technology for Development*, 1-20.

Lecture 8

Digital Technologies, Refugees and Internal Displacement

Core Reading

Diaz Andrade, A., & Doolin, B. (2016). Information and communication technology and the social inclusion of refugees. *MIS Quarterly*, 40(2), 405-416.

Iazzolino, G. (2021). Infrastructure of compassionate repression: making sense of biometrics in Kakuma refugee camp. *Information Technology for Development*, 27(1), 111-128.

Supplementary Reading

Newell, B. C., Gomez, R., & Guajardo, V. E. (2016). Information seeking, technology use, and vulnerability among migrants at the United States–Mexico border. *The Information Society*, 32(3), 176– 191.

Janmyr, M., & Mourad, L. (2018). Modes of ordering: labelling, classification and categorization in Lebanon's refugee response. *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 31(4), 544-565.

If interested in reading more on the topic:

Martin, A., & Taylor, L. (2021). Exclusion and inclusion in identification: Regulation, displacement and data justice. *Information Technology for Development*, 27(1), 50-66.

Schoemaker, E., Baslan, D., Pon, B., & Dell, N. (2021). Identity at the margins: data justice and refugee experiences with digital identity systems in Lebanon, Jordan, and Uganda. *Information Technology for Development*, 27(1), 13-36.

Schreieck, M., Wiesche, M., & Krcmar, H. (2017). Governing nonprofit platform ecosystems—an information platform for refugees. *Information Technology for Development*, 23(3), 618-643.

Lecture 9:

Inequalities and Data Justice

Core Reading

Taylor, L. (2017). What is data justice? The case for connecting digital rights and freedoms globally. *Big Data & Society*, 4(2), 1-14.

Heeks, R., & Renken, J. (2018). Data justice for development: What would it mean?. *Information Development*, 34(1), 90-102.

Supplementary Reading

Akbari, A. (2025). The politics of data justice: exit, voice, or rehumanisation?. *Information, Communication & Society*, 28(6), 989-1005.

Dencik, L., Hintz, A., Redden, J., & Treré, E. (2019). Exploring data justice: Conceptions, applications and directions. *Information, Communication & Society*, 22(7), 873– 881.

Krishna, S. (2021). Digital identity, datafication and social justice: understanding Aadhaar use among informal workers in south India. *Information Technology for Development*, 27(1), 67-90.

If interested in reading more on the topic:

Akbari, A. (2021). Authoritarian surveillance: A corona test. *Surveillance & Society*, 19(1), 98-103.

Akbari, A., & Gabdulhakov, R. (2019). Platform surveillance and resistance in Iran and Russia: The case of Telegram. *Surveillance & Society*, 17(1/2), 223-231.

Dencik, L., Hintz, A., Redden, J., & Treré, E. (2022). *Data justice*. London: Sage.

Heeks, R., & Shekhar, S. (2019). Datafication, development and marginalised urban communities: An applied data justice framework. *Information, Communication & Society*, 22(7), 992– 1011.

Mann, L. (2018). Left to other peoples' devices? A political economy perspective on the big data revolution in development. *Development and Change*, 49(1), 3– 36.

Masiero, S., & Das, S. (2019). Datafying anti-poverty programmes: Implications for data justice. *Information, Communication & Society*, 22(7), 916– 933.

Taylor, L., Sharma, G., Martin, A., & Jameson, S. (2020). *Data Justice and COVID-19: Global Perspectives*. London, Meatspace Press.

van Zyl, I., & McLean, N. (2021). The Ethical Implications of Digital Contact Tracing for LGBTQIA+ Communities. *Proceedings of the 1st IFIP 9.4 Virtual Conference on the Implications of Information and Digital Technologies for Development*, May 26–28, 2021.

Lecture 11

Digital Humanitarianism: Innovation and Inequalities

Core Reading

Madon, S., & Schoemaker, E. (2021). Digital identity as a platform for improving refugee management. *Information Systems Journal*, 31(6), 929-953.

Abdelrahman, M. (2023). Trauma apps and the making of the 'smart' refugee. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, 41(3), 513-528.

Supplementary Reading

Martin, A. (2023). Aidwashing surveillance: Critiquing the corporate exploitation of humanitarian crises. *Surveillance & Society*, 21(1), 96-102.

Sandvik, K.B. (2017) Now is the Time to Deliver: Looking for humanitarian innovation's theory of change. *International Journal of Humanitarian Action* 2, 8.

Lecture 12

Addressing Inequality: ICTs, Solidarity and Resistance

Core Reading

Jimenez, A., Delgado, D., Merino, R., & Argumedo, A. (2022). A Decolonial Approach to Innovation? Building Paths Towards Buen Vivir. *Journal of Development Studies*, 1-18.

Davison, R. M., & Díaz Andrade, A. (2018). Promoting indigenous theory. *Information Systems Journal*, 28(5), 759– 764.

Supplementary Reading

Jimenez, A., & Roberts, T. (2019). Decolonising neo-liberal innovation: Using the Andean philosophy of 'Buen Vivir' to reimagine innovation hubs. In *International conference on social implications of computers in developing countries* (pp. 180– 191). Springer.

Mawere, M., & van Stam, G. (2019). Research in Africa for Africa? Probing the effect and credibility of research done by foreigners for Africa. In *International conference on social implications of computers in developing countries* (pp. 168– 179). Springer.

If interested in reading more on the topic:

Costanza-Chock, S. (2020). *Design justice: Community-led practices to build the worlds we need*. The MIT Press.

Pérez-García, L. (2021). The ICT-Buen Vivir Paradox: Using Digital Tools to Defend Indigenous Cultures. *Proceedings of the 1st IFIP 9.4 Virtual Conference on the Implications of Information and Digital Technologies for Development*, May 26–28, 2021.

Tsibolane, P. (2016). Towards a conceptual framework for social wellbeing through inclusive frugal ICT innovation in postcolonial collectivist contexts. In *International conference on information resources management (CONF-IRM)*. Association for Information Systems AIS Electronic Library

van Stam, G. (2019). Method of research in a We-paradigm, lessons on living research in Africa. In *International conference on social implications of computers in developing countries* (pp. 72–82). Springer.

History: Landscape Papers

The papers below are “landscape papers” on ICTs and global inequalities, meaning that at different points in history, they sought to offer a landscape perspective on themes or theories putting ICTs in relation with inequalities of different types. They may be useful sources in case you decide to write, or are writing, your MSc thesis on a topic related to ICTs and global inequalities.

Avgerou, C. (2017). Theoretical framing of ICT4D research. In *International conference on social implications of computers in developing countries* (pp. 10–23). Springer.

Avgerou, C. (2010). Discourses on ICT and development. *Information Technologies and International Development*, **6**(3), 1–18.

Avgerou, C. (2008). Information systems in developing countries: A critical research review. *Journal of Information Technology*, **23**(3), 133–146.

Avgerou, C. (2003). The link between ICT and economic growth in the discourse of development. In *Organizational information systems in the context of globalization* (pp. 373–386). Springer.

Avgerou, C., & G. Walsham (Eds.). (2000). *Information technology in context: Studies from the perspective of developing countries*. Routledge.

Brown, A. E., & Grant, G. G. (2010). Highlighting the duality of the ICT and development research agenda. *Information Technology for Development*, **16**(2), 96–111.

Gomez, R., Baron, L. F., & Fiore-Silfvast, B. (2012). The changing field of ICTD: Content analysis of research published in selected journals and conferences, 2000–2010. In *Proceedings of the fifth international conference on information and communication technologies and development* (pp. 65–74). ACM.

Sahay, S., & Walsham, G. (1995). Information technology in developing countries: A need for theory building. *Information Technology for Development*, **6**(3–4), 111–124.

Walsham, G. (2017). ICT4D research: Reflections on history and future agenda. *Information Technology for Development*, **23**(1), 18–41.

Walsham, G. (2012). Are we making a better world with ICTs? Reflections on a future agenda for the IS field. *Journal of Information Technology*, **27**(2), 87– 93.

Walsham, G., Robey, D., & Sahay, S. (2007). Foreword: Special issue on information systems in developing countries. *MIS Quarterly*, **31**(2), 317– 326.

Walsham, G., & Sahay, S. (2006). Research on information systems in developing countries: Current landscape and future prospects. *Information Technology for Development*, **12**(1), 7– 24.