

CAPTED Winter School

FULL PROGRAM

Media ecologies and the politics of representation: methodological opportunities and challenges for socio-educational research with communities at risk of invisibility

Program duration	5 days
Dates	January 26-30, 2026
Tuition fee	No fee
Application deadline	November 20, 2025
Notification of acceptance	November 30, 2025
Registration	December 10, 2025
Contact	capted.winterschool@unimib.it

Day 1 - 26/1 || Theoretical and epistemological foundations

EARLY AFTERNOON

Presentation of the Winter School: introduction to themes and objectives

Brief introduction of participants

Practical organization and work modalities

Framework presentation

(In-)visibility and marginalization from a pedagogical and anthropological perspective

– Prof. Chiara Bove, Dr. Paolo Grassi, University of Milano-Bicocca

(De-)constructing knowledge, shaping identities: media ecologies and pedagogical practices of resistance – Dr. Davide Cino, University of Milano-Bicocca

Digital spheres of (in-)visibility: fragmentation, exclusion, polarization – Dr. Paolo Monti, University of Milano-Bicocca

Coffee break

LATE AFTERNOON

Workshop: *Identification of research objects and conceptual mapping; brainstorming on research themes and collective discussion* – Dr. Maddalena Sottocorno, Monica Facciocchi, University of Milano-Bicocca

Description of the first day

Morning session

Since activities begin in the early afternoon, the morning is free for arrivals.

Early afternoon session

The early afternoon opens the Winter School with a welcome and overview of its themes, objectives, and organizational structure. After a round of participant introductions, three short talks will offer a conceptual grounding, addressing the intersections between (in)visibility, marginalization, digital media, and knowledge production. The session sets the theoretical and epistemological foundations for the days to come.

Late afternoon workshop

Participants will engage in a collaborative workshop aimed at identifying potential research objects and constructing conceptual maps. Through brainstorming and group discussion, the session will help participants begin shaping their research focus in alignment with the school's core themes.

Day 2 | | 27/1 – Digital contexts and methodological issues: case histories

MORNING

Seminar: *Platforms and people: case histories in researching uncertainties, fluidities and imaginaries in datafied societies* – Prof. Ranjana Das, University of Surrey

Coffee break

Discussions on ethical and methodological implications

Lunch break

AFTERNOON

Workshop: Refining the research focus and defining research questions, and exploratory observation of digital environments – Dr. Alessandra Mussi, Leonardo Lapomarda, University of Milano-Bicocca

Description of the second day

Morning session

The day begins with a lecture by Prof. Ranjana Das (University of Surrey), who will share case studies from three projects, all of which have to do with people's shifting and fluid experiences of technologies and platforms. With a particular focus on – 1) the mutual shaping of parental anxieties and algorithmically recommended news 2) public dis/trust in the use of AI in producing personalized media and 3) the complex dynamics of online spaces for mental health issues – Professor Das will examine the imaginaries and uncertainties through which people live with platforms in their everyday lives. Professor Das will pay particular attention to the question of methods, drawing upon her use of vignettes, citizens' councils, think-aloud interviews and longitudinal research to highlight methodological strategies and ethical considerations for studying groups and topics at risk of marginalization and underrepresentation in datafied societies.

Afternoon workshop

Participants will work on refining the focus of their research proposals and formulating research questions. The workshop will also include an exploratory observation of selected digital environments, encouraging participants to reflect on how methodological choices interact with specific media ecologies.

Day 3 | | 28/1 – Data collection and ethics in media ecologies

MORNING

Seminar: *Doing “good” research “well” online: ethics and methods in digital research*
– Prof. Katrin Tiidenberg, Tallinn University

Coffee break

Discussion on situated methods and ethical tensions in constructing digital datasets

Lunch break

AFTERNOON

Workshop: Dataset generation, organization, and cleaning – Dr. Anna Chinazzi, Petar Lefterov, University of Milano-Bicocca

Description of the third day

Morning session

The day begins with a lecture by Prof. Katrin Tiidenberg (Tallinn University), focusing on the ethical and methodological challenges inherent in researching media ecologies. Drawing on her extensive expertise in digital ethnography, creative multimodal qualitative methods, and interpretative epistemologies, Prof. Tiidenberg will explore the ethical and methodological implications, issues, and affordances of conducting research in and through digital environments. The session will address key ethical tensions—including the complexities of informed consent, the shifting boundaries of visibility and privacy, and the dynamics of vulnerability and agency in online contexts—while also foregrounding the methodological creativity required to work meaningfully with digital media and communities. Emphasis will be placed on reflexive, situated, and context-sensitive approaches to both ethics and research design.

Following the lecture, a collective discussion will expand on these themes, encouraging participants to reflect on how to identify and engage with digital environments and materials in the process of building a qualitative dataset, and on the ethical and epistemological considerations involved.

Afternoon workshop

The afternoon session will offer a hands-on workshop focused on building a qualitative dataset, its organization, and cleaning. Through practical exercises, participants will experiment with different techniques for constructing and managing datasets in ethically responsible ways. The session will combine technical guidance with space for critical reflection on the processes and implications of working with digital data.

Day 4 | | 29/1 – Qualitative analysis of digital data

MORNING

Seminar: *After fieldwork: analyzing ethnographic material in digital contexts* – Prof. Elisabetta Costa, Antwerp University

Coffee break

Discussion on choosing the right approaches to qualitative analysis

Lunch break

AFTERNOON

Workshop: *Group data analysis, coding, and interpretation. Discussion on analytical challenges and strategies* – Dr. Valentina Pagani, Marco Sassaro, Daniele Ciocca

Description of the fourth day

Morning session

The day will begin with a lecture by Prof. Elisabetta Costa (University of Antwerp), with a session focusing on what happens after fieldwork, showing that processing ethnographic data means organizing, classifying, and reworking different types of material that are often only partially systematized. The lesson will show some strategies, emphasizing the importance of contextualizing the research and applying a holistic and reflective approach. Only through this process is it possible to transform raw material into in-depth and original insights.

Following the lecture, a collective discussion will shed light on the rationale behind choosing a specific data analysis approach. Participants will reflect on how different analytical strategies shape the interpretation of digital materials and the construction of meaning.

Afternoon workshop

In the afternoon, participants will take part in a collaborative data analysis workshop. The session will focus on group coding exercises and interpretative strategies, offering participants the opportunity to apply different analytical approaches to selected excerpts of digital data, specifically content and thematic analysis. Particular attention will be given to showing how different data and research questions can lead to different analytical choices.

Day 5 | | 30/1 – Presentations and final reflections

MORNING

Looking back, thinking forward: collective reflections and research proposals – Winter School participants

5-minute presentations of research proposals and feedback

Closing reflections and shared takeaways

Light buffet

Description of the fifth day

The final day of the Winter School will be dedicated to a public session where participants present the research proposals they have developed throughout the week. Each participant will deliver a 5-minute talk, outlining the core focus, methodological approach, and key questions of their project.

The session will create a space for constructive feedback, peer-to-peer exchange, and dialogue with researchers and faculty members from the Department. The aim is to foster collective reflection on the themes of the Winter School and support the refinement of participants' future research trajectories.

The morning will conclude with a lunch, offering an informal moment to continue discussions, share impressions, and celebrate the end of the Winter School together.

Scientific and Organizing Committee

Chiara Bove, Davide Cino, Paolo Grassi, Cristina Palmieri, Mario Vergani, Paolo Monti, Alessandra Mussi, Valentina Pagani, Maddalena Sottocorno, Anna Chinazzi, Monica Facciocchi, Petar Vasilev Lefterov, Marco Sassaro, Daniele Ciocca, Leonardo Lapomarda, Erica Neri, Tazio Morandini. The Winter School is also organized in collaboration with the PhD Programs in Education in the Contemporary Society (Prof. Chiara Bove), Cultural and Social Anthropology (Prof. Alice Bellagamba), and Intangible Heritage in Socio-Cultural Innovation (Prof. Franca Zuccoli).