DOCTORAL STUDIES COURSE UNIT DESCRIPTION

Name of subject	Field of science, code	Faculty / Center	Institute / Department
Social impact of contemporary technology	S 005	Faculty of Philosophy	Institute of Sociology and Social Work

Student's workload	Credits	Student's workload	Credits
Lectures	2	Consultations	1
Independent study	4	Seminars	

Course annotation
Technology adaptation curves and their relation to the creation of new social norms, means of social control and impact vectors on human and non-human actors. The spread of digital technology and networks. Datafication and algorithmic governance. The social impact, critique, and developmental directions of artificial intelligence / machine learning and generative algorithms. The impact of digital technologies on economics, politics, culture, and the natural environment in global and local contexts. Biopolitics and posthumanist philosophy in the context of biotechnological development. Ethical, moral and social dilemmas in biotechnological development. Application of technologies to the creation, maintenance and spread of novel means of social control. Requirements for the final evaluation are determined individually, based on the dissertation topic, individual research interests, and the data collection and analysis tools available at the time.
Reading list
Borg, E. and Policante, A. (2024) 'The gene editing business: rent extraction in the biotech industry', Review of Political Economy, pp. 1510–1545. https://doi.org/10.1080/09538259.2024.2401480 Bowker, G.C. and Star, S.L. (1999) *Sorting Things Out: Classification and Its Consequences*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. boyd, d. (2014) *It's Complicated: The Social Lives of Networked Teens*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press. Braidotti, R. (2013) *The Posthuman*. Cambridge: Polity Press. Clarke, A.E., Shim, J.K., Mamo, L., Fosket, J.R. and Fishman, J.R. (2003) 'Biomedicalization: technoscientific transformations of health, illness, and U.S. biomedicine', American Sociological Review, 68(2), pp. 161–194. https://doi.org/10.1177/000312240306800201 Cooper, M. (2008) Life as surplus: biotechnology and capitalism in the neoliberal era. Seattle: University of Washington Press. Couldry, N. and Mejias, U.A. (2019) *The Costs of Connection: How Data Is Colonizing Human Life and Appropriating It for Capitalism*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press. Crawford, K. (2021) *Atlas of AI: Power, Politics, and the Planetary Costs of Artificial Intelligence*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Dan-Cohen, T. (2021) *A simpler life: synthetic biology and the re-invention of nature*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. https://doi.org/10.1515/9781501753459 Doctorow, C. (2023) *The Internet Con: How to Seize the Means of Computation.* London: Verso. Franklin, S. and Lock, M. (eds.) (2003) Remaking life and death: toward an anthropology of the biosciences. Santa Fe, NM: School of American Research Press. Haraway, D. (1997) Modest_Witness@Second_Millennium.FemaleMan©_Meets_OncoMouse™: feminism and

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Ivana, G.-I. (2026) 'Sociology beyond computation? Alternative ways of researching digital life', *Acta Sociologica*. https://doi.org/10.1177/00016993261453267

Jasanoff, S. (ed.) (2004) *States of Knowledge: The Co-production of Science and the Social Order*. London: Routledge.

Joyce, K. *et al.* (2021) 'Toward a sociology of artificial intelligence: A call for research on inequalities and structural change', *Socius*, 7. https://doi.org/10.1177/2378023121999581

Kitchin, R. (2014) *The Data Revolution: Big Data, Open Data, Data Infrastructures and Their Consequences*. London: SAGE.

Latour, B. (1987) *Science in Action: How to Follow Scientists and Engineers Through Society*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Latour, B. and Woolgar, S. (1979) *Laboratory life: the social construction of scientific facts*. Beverly Hills, CA: Sage.

Lyon, D. (2018) *The Culture of Surveillance: Watching as a Way of Life*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Morozov, E. (2011) *The Net Delusion: The Dark Side of Internet Freedom*. New York: PublicAffairs.

Morozov, E. (2013) *To Save Everything, Click Here: The Folly of Technological Solutionism*. New York: PublicAffairs.

Pinel, C. (2022) 'What counts as the environment in epigenetics? Knowledge and ignorance in the entrepreneurial university', *Science as Culture*, 31(3), pp. 311–333. https://doi.org/10.1080/09505431.2022.2043840

Pybus, J., Lomborg, S., Gandini, A. and Lai, S.S. (2025) 'Empirical approaches to infrastructures for datafication: Introduction to the special issue', *New Media & Society*, 27, pp. 1851–1867. https://doi.org/10.1177/14614448251314396

Rose, N. (2007) *The politics of life itself: biomedicine, power, and subjectivity in the twenty-first century*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

van Dijck, J. (2014) 'Datafication, dataism and dataveillance: Big Data between scientific paradigm and ideology', *Surveillance & Society*, 12(2), pp. 197–208. https://doi.org/10.24908/ss.v12i2.4776

van Wichelen, S. (2023) 'After biosovereignty: the material transfer agreement as technology of relations', *Social Studies of Science*, 53(4), pp. 599–621. https://doi.org/10.1177/03063127231177455

van Wichelen, S. and de Leeuw, M.D. (2022) 'Biolegality: how biology and law redefine sociality', *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 51. https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-anthro-041520-102305

Vandemeulebroucke, T., Pelger, J. and Bolte, L. (2025) 'Being blinded by the concrete: On the extractivist blindspot of the empirical turn in philosophy of technology', *Philosophy & Technology*. https://doi.org/10.1007/s13347-025-00949-7

Verbeek, P.-P. (2021) 'The empirical turn', in Vallor, S. (ed.) *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Technology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190851187.013.4

Zuboff, S. (2019) *The Age of Surveillance Capitalism: The Fight for a Human Future at the New Frontier of*

Power. New York: PublicAffairs.

The names of consulting teachers	Science degree	Main scientific works published in a scientific field in last 5 year period
Maryja Šupa	Dr.	Šupa, Maryja; Kaktinas, Vytautas; Stankevičiūtė, Eglė. 2025. Technology and Future Trajectories of Punitivity: Lessons Learned from Selective Persecution of Online Offenders in Lithuania, in Dobryninas, A., Nikartas, S. (eds.), *Understanding Crime Control and Punishment in Lithuania: A Punitive Society?* pp. 159–178. Basingstoke: Pal grave Macmillan. ISBN 9783032055385. *https://dx.doi.org/10.1007/978-3-032-05538-5* Šupa, Maryja. 2025. Researching online forums, in Kaufmann, M., Mork Lomell, H. (eds.), D*e Gruyter Handbook of Digital Criminology*, pp. 419–426. Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter. ISBN 9783111061931. https://doi.org/10.1515/9783111062037 Šupa, Maryja. 2024. The Cultural Milieus of Online Offending, in Graham, Roderick S., Humer, Stephan G., Seungeun Lee, C., Nagy, V. (eds.), *The Routledge International Handbook of Online Deviance*, pp. 223–235. Abingdon: Routledge. ISBN 9781032234472. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003277675 *Šupa, Maryja; Kaktinas, Vytautas; Rinkevičiūtė, Aistė. 2023. Computer-dependent or computer-assisted? The social context of online crime in Lithuanian court judgements, International Journal of Law, Crime and Justice*, 73. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijlcj.2023.100577 (Clarivate WoS) Šupa, Maryja; Kruopštaitė Ingrida. 2021. Deviance and Ethical Considerations in Online Biohacking Communities, *Deviant Behavior*, 43(10): 1245–1266. https://doi.org/10.1080/01639625.2021.1976606 (Clarivate WoS)

Certified during Doctoral Committee session on 2026-11-18. Protocol No. 5.2.2 E-15600-KT-4268

Committee Chairman Prof. Dr. Zenonas Norkus