

Thematic Doctoral Programme  
**Humans in the Digital Age**  
Founding Declaration

### Decision

According to this founding declaration and in accordance with § 19 paragraph 4c, part B of the statutes of the University of Klagenfurt, the Thematic Doctoral Programme “Humans in the Digital Age” will be established as from the 2023/24 academic year.<sup>1</sup>

### Faculty members (potential supervisors)

- Univ.-Prof. Dr. Daniel Barben (Department of Science, Technology and Society Studies)
- Univ.-Prof. Dr. Anke Bosse (Robert Musil Institute of Literary Research / Archives of Carinthian Literature)
- Univ.-Prof. Dr. Wilfried Elmenreich (Networked and Embedded Systems)
- Univ.-Prof. Dr. Christian Jaser (Department of History)
- Univ.-Prof. Dr. Katharina Kinder-Kurlanda (Digital Age Research Center)
- Univ.-Prof. Dr. Ulrike Krieg-Holz (Department of German Studies)
- Univ.-Prof. Dr. Martina Merz (Department of Science Communication and Higher Education Research)
- Univ.-Prof. Dr. Alexander Onysko (Department of English)
- Univ.-Prof. Dr. Elisabeth Oswald (Digital Age Research Center/Institute for Artificial Intelligence and Cybersecurity)
- Univ.-Prof. Dr. Klaus Schönberger (Department of Cultural Analysis)
- Univ.-Prof. Dr. Michael Wiegand (Digital Age Research Center)
- Assoc.-Prof. Dr. Matthias Wieser (Department of Media and Communications)
- Univ.-Prof. Dr. Rainer Winter (Department of Media and Communications)

### Speaker

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Katharina Kinder-Kurlanda  
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### Academic degree

Dr. phil.  
Dr. rer. soc. oec.  
Dr. techn.

### Regular study duration

3 years

### Language of instruction

English

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.aau.at/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Satzung-der-AAU-Teil-B.pdf>.

## Profile

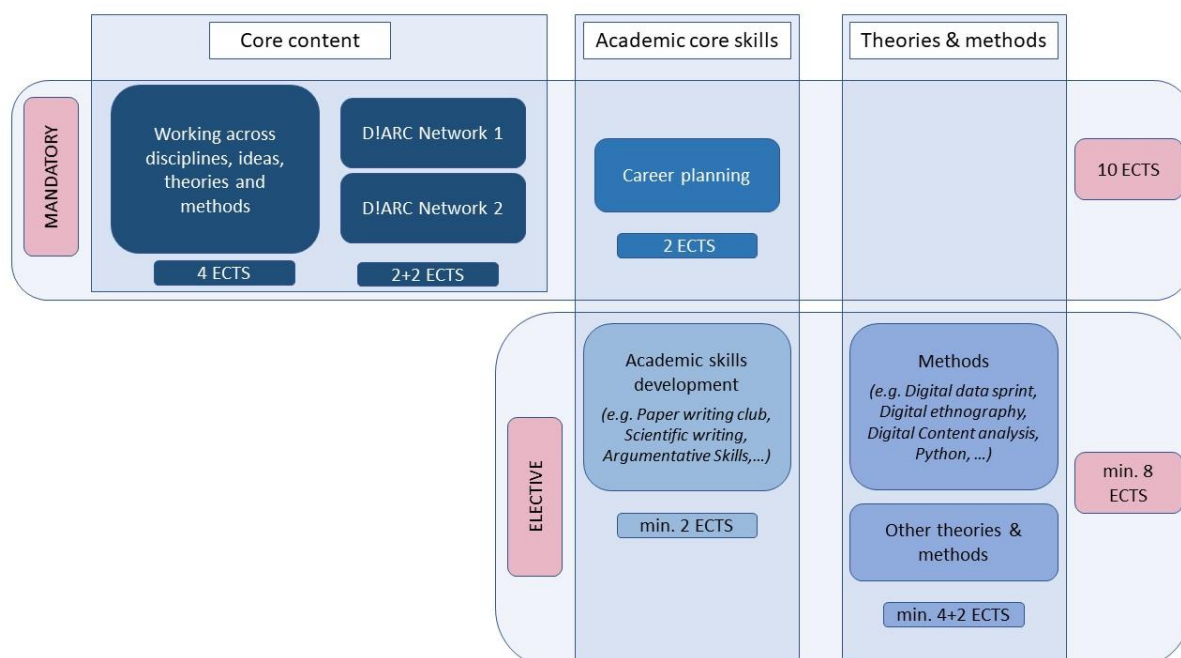
The aim of the thematic doctoral programme is to provide postgraduate researchers with access to the theories, methods, tools, and skills needed to investigate and understand the ongoing digital transformation from various perspectives, as well as to actively and responsibly contribute to shaping digital technologies and their usage contexts. The programme is based on the insight that understanding and shaping digital transformation requires inter- and transdisciplinary approaches. Accordingly, it fosters and encourages exchange and the interrelation of different disciplinary perspectives.

Doctoral students enrolled in the programme gain in-depth insights into the challenges and opportunities of digital transformation for contemporary societies and for scientific knowledge generation. They gain knowledge of relevant theories and concepts in digitalization research and of topics currently being discussed in relation to digital change across various disciplines and get an overview of a variety of digital methods. In a supportive and interdisciplinary space, they strengthen their skills in critical thinking, recognizing ethical aspects, and communicating effectively. At the same time as they develop high-level technical skills, they learn about alternative methodologies, thus strengthening their creative problem-solving skills. The collective formats offered and the continuous exchange with their peers and more senior researchers support doctoral researchers in advancing their individual PhD projects all the way to successful completion.

## Research areas

- Digital transformation, digital change
- Digital society, digital culture
- Digital Humanities
- Digitalization and sustainability
- Digital infrastructures
- Digital ethics, responsible engineering, trustworthy AI, cybersecurity
- Internet governance, digital state, digital regulation
- Computational linguistics, machine learning, automation
- Digital media, digital communication

## Course programme



<b>MANDATORY COURSE PROGRAMME</b> <i>Students must obtain 10 ECTS</i>			ECTS
Core content	Working across disciplines, ideas, theories and methods	Overview of ideas, theories, and methods from different disciplines as well as research methods that integrate two or more disciplines, drawing on carefully selected examples of existing/emerging digital infrastructures.	4
	D <sup>1</sup> ARC Network 1	Doctoral colloquium where participants explore ongoing research with fellow doctoral students and their supervisors. In one semester students present their own research, in the other they take on the moderation and discussant role for a colleague.	2
	D <sup>1</sup> ARC Network 2		2
Academic core skills	Career planning	Research funding, research grants, submission of research proposals, career planning, implementation of research projects.	2
<b>ELECTIVE COURSE PROGRAMME</b> <i>Students must obtain a minimum of 8 ECTS</i>			ECTS
Academic core skills	Academic skills development	Selection of an additional course to strengthen academic core skills (e.g. paper writing club), other skill-oriented courses or doctoral seminars focusing on skill development.	2
Theories & methods *)	Methods	Selection of a dedicated methods course (e.g. digital data sprint, digital ethnography, digital content analysis, Python).	4
	Other theories & methods	Selection of a theory or a theory/method course, (e.g. Technology Assessment, Media and Culture Theory, Responsible Engineering of Artificial Intelligence and Cybersecurity Systems, Theories and Topics in Science and Technology Studies)	2

\*) *The courses in this segment are selected according to the specific needs and interests of the student and in accordance with the supervisor and the speaker of the doctoral programme. In case the required contents that meet the student's needs and interests are not offered at AAU, the Theories & methods segment can also be covered via attending a summer school or completing an online method course (e.g. Udemy, Coursera). However, this is decided on a case-by-case basis and has to be specified within the dissertation agreement as well as agreed with the speaker of the doctoral programme.*

#### **Admission prerequisites**

- Admission to Doctoral Studies of Philosophy, admission to Doctoral Studies of Social Sciences and Economics, or admission to Doctoral Studies of Technical Sciences at the University of Klagenfurt
- Confirmation of supervision by one of the potential supervisors (see p. 1)

#### **Requirements for completion**

- Doctoral thesis (cumulative or monograph)
- Completion of courses amounting to 18 ECTS-credits as specified above, i.e.:

- 10 ECTS in the *mandatory course programme*
- A minimum of 8 ECTS in the *elective course programme*. The specific content and scope of the elective course programme is developed with the supervisor and specified in the dissertation agreement; at least one course (4 ECTS) needs to be a dedicated methods course.

### Admission procedure

For the admission to the doctoral programme, the curriculum for doctoral studies of the University of Klagenfurt has to be considered.

Candidates are invited to submit the following application documents:

- Research outline, indicating its connection to the doctoral programme (max. 2 pages)
- Confirmation of registration (Studienbestätigung) documenting the admission to a relevant doctoral degree programme
- Confirmation of supervision by one of the potential supervisors (see p. 1)
- Detailed curriculum vitae (max. 3 pages)

The application is to be sent as one combined PDF document to [doc.HDA@aau.at](mailto:doc.HDA@aau.at).

The decision about admission will be taken jointly by the faculty members of the doctoral programme. In general, applicants will be notified of the decision within 4 weeks.

### Deadlines

Entry into the HDA doctoral programme is possible at any time.

### Contact

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