

# ITDS NEWSLETTER

Internet, Technology, & Digital Sociology  
Research Cluster of the Canadian  
Sociological Association



## WELCOME!

Hello ITDS Members! We are excited to share with you the Fall 2023 issue of the ITDS Newsletter. In this issue you will find news and updates from the cluster, upcoming events and ongoing opportunities, recent works by our members, and so much more! We hope you enjoy the newsletter and if you have any news you would like to share in future issues of the newsletter, please reach out!

## IN THIS ISSUE

Cluster News	2
CSA 2024 Updates	3
CSA 2024 - ITDS Session Descriptions	4
Current Opportunities	7
Recent Works in Digital Sociology	14
Stay Connected	17
We Want to Hear From You	18

# CLUSTER NEWS

Hello Internet, Technology, and Digital Sociology cluster members,

Welcome to the second issue of our bi-annual newsletter! We are excited to share some updates on cluster initiatives, news from our members, and details about the annual CSA conference in June 2024, which will be held both virtually and in-person in Montréal. We thank our Newsletter Committee, Molly-Gloria Patel and Salwa Khan, for their hard work putting together this issue.

While ITDS is one of the newer research clusters of the CSA, our membership continues to grow quickly, and we had a fantastic turnout for our business meeting during last year's conference – thank you to all who attended! We currently have 116 members on our email list, up from 92 in the previous year. We also have an increasing number of member profiles on our website and would be happy to include more entries as new members send us their details. Our initial hunch, that there is a need for a dedicated research cluster focused on applying a sociological imagination to digital technologies and online social processes, continues to be supported by the high level of engagement from our membership. To build on these early successes, we encourage our members to keep raising awareness about the ITDS cluster and inviting other CSA-affiliated sociologists to join us in these important conversations!

In terms of cluster updates, we have a new [ITDS website](#). Please visit our website for details about the forthcoming CSA conference, as well as links related to ITDS events, awards, and other opportunities to get involved. In particular, we want to emphasize our [2024 ITDS Student Paper Award competition](#), which has a deadline to receive nominations of April 15, 2024. We will soon post submission instructions on our website, and we look forward to reading many excellent papers from ITDS student members! Furthermore, last year we launched a mentoring program to pair together faculty and students who work at the intersection of technology and society. We are planning to continue this initiative for the 2024 CSA conference, and this applies even for those who are attending only the virtual component of the conference. Please be on the lookout for our email in the Spring semester that will contain sign-up sheets for both roles.

Finally, the ITDS cluster continues to collaborate with [MediaSmarts](#) who held their annual Media Literacy Week in October, 2023. We worked together on a panel called *Establishing Support and Well-Being for Researchers Working Online* which featured two of our ITDS members, Dr. Kaity Mendes (Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, and Canada Research Chair in Inequality and Gender, Western University), and Dr. Mohana Mukherjee (Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, George Washington University). This panel provided a space to learn about the risks and ethical issues associated with engaging in digital sociology, and further built on ongoing discussions from our previous ITDS conference sessions about the emotional labor involved for researchers spending time in online spaces that are difficult to research, for example, when encountering hate, misogyny, homophobia, and violence, among other challenges. We want to thank Dr. Kara Brisson-Boivin and her team for the invitation to collaborate, and we look forward to partnering again with MediaSmarts next year for another Media Literacy Week!

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter and we hope to connect in-person, virtually, or in both formats at the CSA conference in June!

Sincerely,

Michael Adorjan, University of Calgary  
Andrew D. Nevin, University of Massachusetts Boston  
Anabel Quan-Haase, Western University  
(ITDS Co-Chairs, 2023-24)

# CSA 2024 UPDATES

The 2024 Canadian Sociological Association conference is taking place at McGill University in Montréal from Monday, June 17 through Friday, June 21, 2024, although this year is the first time there will be a dedicated virtual CSA conference to be held from June 3-7. Importantly, those submitting abstracts for presentations should note their preference for online, in person, or both. This will help us organize the sessions according to need and preference of our members. Equally important, for those who are planning to attend the virtual conference only, the wider Congress fees do not apply; i.e., only CSA membership and conference fees apply. We hope that the option to present virtually provides greater opportunities for ITDS members to contribute and that other CSA members will be able to better attend our sessions and potentially join our cluster!

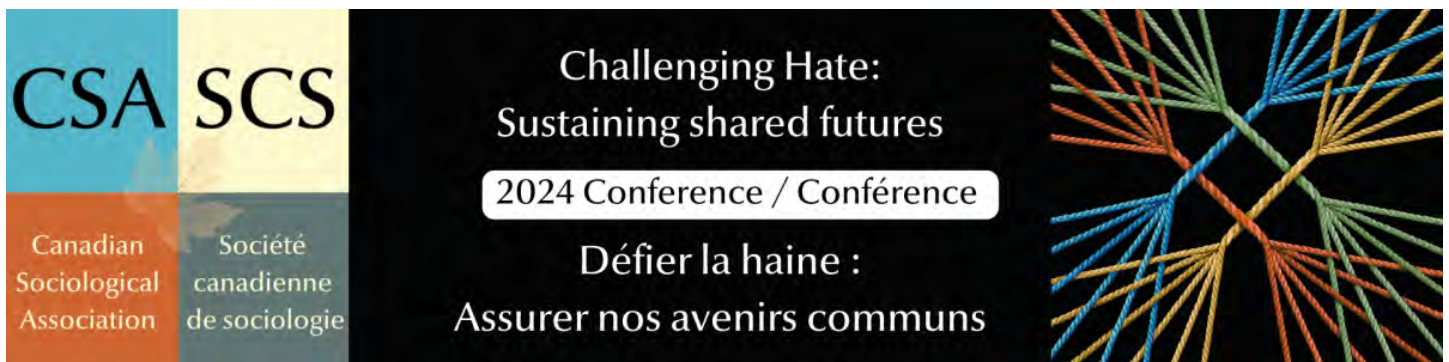
The call for abstracts is now open and will close on January 29, 2024. Please submit at the following link: <https://www.csa-scs.ca/call-for-abstracts>. When submitting an abstract for an ITDS session, you will need to select from a pull-down menu with research cluster acronyms displayed in alphabetical order. This year, the CSA conference committee approved a smaller subset of ITDS sessions – thank you to everyone who submitted a session proposal. Here are the approved ITDS sessions for CSA 2024:

- Technology and Society: General Topics
- Digital Sociology: Developing Sociological Insights for Cybercrime and Deviance Studies
- Internet, Technology, & Social Movements
- Research Ethics and Digital Sociology: Experiences in the Cyber-Field
- Work, Play, Display: Exploring the Shifting Landscape of Time, Media, and Technology in Post-Pandemic Society
- Sociological Perspectives on Artificial Intelligence

There is also one invited panel session organized by Kara Brisson-Boivin and Khadija Baig at MediaSmarts:

- Creating Communities of Care: Addressing Vulnerabilities in Conducting and Disseminating Research Online

You can read the detailed descriptions of these sessions over the next pages of this newsletter. Please check the [CSA website](#) in the coming months for information about the conference schedule.



# CSA 2024 - ITDS SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

## **(ITD1) Technology and Society: General Topics**

*Organizers: Andrew Nevin, Anabel Quan-Haase, Michael Adorjan*

As the sociological study of technology continues to progress, many questions remain unanswered regarding the social implications of digital technologies in our everyday lives and on society-at-large. With this in mind, our annual ITDS general session invites submissions that broadly explore the complex intersections of technology and society, the former widely defined to include computers, smartphones, social media, artificial intelligence, and other networked devices or web platforms. Papers can be theoretical or empirical, investigating either the social dynamics of online spaces or how technology impacts and structures our face-to-face environments. We aim to highlight scholarship that offers new directions and critical contributions to the emerging subfield of digital sociology by providing unique insights into the many challenges and promises associated with technological development and social life in technology-mediated contexts. Overall, our objective with this session is to provide a space for digital sociologists to share their diverse research interests and to further foster the growth of this scholarly area.

## **(ITD2) Digital Sociology: Developing Sociological Insights for Cybercrime and Deviance Studies**

*Organizers: Michael Adorjan, Andrew Nevin*

The internet and other digital technologies provide relatively new platforms for experiencing criminal and deviant activities. Conditions of anonymity that exist online have obscured normative expectations in this social context and have complicated responses from police and the legal system. The internet produces new varieties of deviance and crime, and new varieties of 'victims' and 'offenders'. It also entrenches structural inequalities related to social class, mobility, digital divides, etc., which reinforce haves and have-nots: those without privileges or resources may be more at risk of being labeled deviant and criminalized, while those with access to power and resources may draw from the affordances and other features of online technologies to neutralize ascriptions of deviance and criminality. How can (or should) existing frameworks be adapted to explain and respond to online deviance and crime? Should there be wholly new frameworks (theories, empirical areas) developed? The intent of this session is to highlight current sociological contributions, empirical and/or theoretical, and future directions for sociological research regarding cybercrime.

# CSA 2024 - ITDS SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

## **(ITD3) Internet, Technology, & Social Movements**

*Organizer: Andrey Kasimov*

The internet and other information technologies have become important staples in contemporary politics and social movements. For over two decades, online spaces have been able to provide security and refuge for political actors and groups facing censorship from their governments. The internet was a pivotal technology in anti-state movements such as the Arab Spring and Anonymous. At the same time, nation-states have attempted to employ information technologies to influence democratic processes globally. More recently the internet has also acted as a space where contested ideas of the far-right and alt-right have gained traction and seem to be growing. This session invites papers that broadly engage with how the internet and information technologies are being used by social movements, individual political actors, and nation states to meet their goals. We are interested in empirical contributions that engage with the variety of ways technology has come to shape and reshape political and ideological debates and involvement at both the global and local levels. Theoretical contributions that aim to develop new theory or extend contemporary theories via engagement with the internet and information technologies are especially encouraged. We are interested in high quality research that engages critically with the impact information technologies are having on our understanding of social movements and political sociology. The main goal of this session is to foster a space where social movement research and digital sociology intersect to the mutual benefit of both fields.

## **(ITD4) Research Ethics and Digital Sociology: Experiences in the Cyber-Field**

*Organizers: Michael Adorjan, Andrew Nevin*

The Internet provides a rich platform to investigate sociologically. The unique affordances of digital data are abundant, including low cost and easy accessibility, which have prompted the development of methods such as online surveys and virtual ethnographies, as well as computational data collection and analytic tools like web scraping and machine learning. Alongside these relatively novel methods are considerations of research ethics. While many forums online are technically public, and researchers studying them may not require institutional Research Ethics Board approvals, there remain ambiguities and questions regarding ethical processes and procedures for those engaging in online research. This research welcomes researcher reflections in the cyber-field, regarding their experiences, challenges and dilemmas with ethics. This may include experiences applying for ethics, pivots during the data collection that required modifications, or issues subsequent to the completion of a project, e.g., during the dissemination of findings.

# CSA 2024 - ITDS SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

## (ITD5) Work, Play, Display: Exploring the Shifting Landscape of Time, Media, and Technology in Post-Pandemic Society

*Organizers: Spencer Huesken, Christian De Vrij*

This session welcomes inquiries into the intertwined narratives of work, leisure, media, time, and technology, notably against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic. It aims to explore the shifting digital landscape where the boundaries between work, leisure, and social connections have been redrawn. We invite submissions that examine:

- **Changing Temporalities:** How have media consumption and leisure activities evolved with the rise of remote work? What are the new challenges and opportunities in managing time between professional and personal spheres?
- **Connectivity and Social Dynamics:** How have digital platforms bridged or widened gaps in social relations? What roles have they played in forging new modes of work and leisure engagement, especially among diverse groups?
- **Identity in Digital Spaces:** How are individuals navigating identity, self-disclosure, and civic participation amidst the blur of work and leisure in online realms?
- **Media Narratives:** How have media discourses shaped public perceptions and behaviours towards work and leisure during and post-pandemic? What has been the impact on solitary and communal activities, both online and offline?
- **Power Structures:** How do media and technological narratives influence access and experiences in both work and leisure contexts, especially amidst a global crisis?

We welcome contributions from scholars, researchers, and practitioners engaging with these themes from various sociological, interdisciplinary, and equity-focused lenses. Submissions reflecting on publishing, collaboration, mentorship, and evolving academic structures are also encouraged. This session aims to spark discussions on the contemporary challenges and transformations in the post-pandemic world, setting a platform for future explorations. We anticipate engaging contributions that dissect the complex interplay of media, technology, work, and leisure, shedding light on the evolving social dynamics in these uncertain times.



# CSA 2024 - ITDS SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

## **(ITD6) Sociological Perspectives on Artificial Intelligence**

***Organizer: Henry Chow***

Artificial intelligence (AI) can be understood as “systems designed by humans that, given a complex goal, act in the physical or digital world by perceiving their environment, interpreting the collected structured or unstructured data, reasoning on the knowledge derived from this data and deciding the best action(s) to take to achieve the given goal” (European Commission’s High-level Expert Group on Artificial Intelligence, 2018). Doubtlessly, the rapid development of increasingly sophisticated AI systems has great potential to transform many aspects of human life. While AI has many benefits (e.g., operational efficiency through task automation, informed decision making based on data analysis, assistance in medical diagnostics and management of treatment), there are also drawbacks (e.g., job displacement, ethical concerns about bias and invasion of privacy, security risks of being hacked, a lack of human-like empathy and creativity) (Duggal, 2023). In light of the growing public concern about the role of artificial Intelligence In daily life (Tyson & Kikuchi, 2023), this session Invites papers that explore attitudes toward artificial intelligence based on empirical research.

## **(RAS2) Creating Communities of Care: Addressing Vulnerabilities in Conducting and Disseminating Research Online**

***Organizers: Kara Brisson-Boivin, Khadija Baig***

This panel, facilitated by MediaSmarts, will build on previous conversations about the opportunities and challenges of doing research online. As we continue in this digital age, researchers may feel pressure to maintain an online presence and disseminate their research online. However, not all researchers have the necessary digital literacy skills to protect themselves online, which may leave them vulnerable to threats like online harassment and hate. Not only may they be unprepared for these challenges, but the burden of resolving them typically defaults to individual researchers. It is not always clear how to seek resources, where to find support, and how to proceed in the face of these challenges. This session will address how Departments and Universities can build communities of care for researchers working online. Panelists will provide practical suggestions for how to support collective online resilience while also recognizing the primarily gendered, invisible, and emotional labour that goes into developing these communities. Panelists will discuss the creation of communities of care, their purpose, and how they can be used to share knowledge, foster trust and support, and engage in meaningful dialogue about research. This includes knowledge that specifically serves researchers from equity-deserving communities, considering the influence of factors such as gender, race, and sexuality. A focus on existing promising practices, such as mentorship programs that pair early career scholars with more senior researchers, will illustrate effective strategies for creating safer environments for researchers. Building collective online resilience can help researchers navigate the risks they face online, including challenging online hate, in sustainable, supportive, and shared communities.



## CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

### CONFERENCE CALLS

#### American Sociological Association Annual Conference

Location: McGill University, QC, August 9th-13th, 2024

Submission deadline (abstracts): February 26th, 2024

Link: <https://www.asanet.org/2024-annual-meeting/>

A poster for the 119th ASA Annual Meeting. On the left is a colorful illustration of diverse people of various ethnicities and ages, some holding hands, surrounded by stylized plants and flowers. On the right, the text reads: "119TH ASA ANNUAL MEETING", "Intersectional Solidarities: Building Communities of Hope, Justice, and Joy", "AUGUST 9-13, 2024", and "MONTRÉAL, QUÉBEC". The background is a solid yellow color.





## CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

### CONFERENCE CALLS

#### Social Media + Society International Conference

Location: London, UK, July 16th-18th 2024

Submission deadline (extended abstracts): January 21st, 2024

Submission deadline (panels): February 11th, 2024

Submission deadline (workshops and tutorials): February 11, 2024

Submission deadline (posters): March 1st, 2024

Link: <https://socialmediaandsociety.org/2023/call-for-submissions-sm-society-july-16-18-2024/>



# CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

## Time in a Bottle: Containers and Criticisms of Nostalgia Symposium 2024

**What:** Symposium critically looking at our relationships with nostalgia in everyday life, profitable commercial uses, political promises, journey to fast futures (X to Mars), or a past (Titan sub).

**When:** February 2nd, 2024.

**Where:** 4TH SPACE at Concordia University, Montréal, Canada. Hybrid also available.

**Who:** Emerging and established scholars, artists, students (Undergraduate to Graduate) enthusiastic or interested about an active and socially generative kind of nostalgia.

### Key Dates:

- Research-creation AND symposium presentation abstract - Friday 5th January, 2024.
- Final notice of acceptances sent out by - Friday 12th January, 2024.
- Time in a Bottle symposium happens - Friday 2nd February, 2024.

### Symposium Theme:

As we emerge from a global period of great loss, sacrifice, and patience into a “new normal” fraught with conflict, ecological crisis, and rapid sociotechnical change...digital nostalgia has taken a turn towards encapsulation. Specifically, how does the cultural significance of 1) NOSTALGIC OBJECTS and thus the 2) OBJECTS WE USE TO BE NOSTALGIC of other things influence the digital nostalgia we engage in? These containers of time are comparable to bottles full of ideological messages which recall a rose-tinted past, a somber future, a present tinged with grief. On social media, custom-made pop-culture dioramas are sold out to buyers eager to preserve the set of their favorite childhood video game or TV show. Meanwhile, costs of supporting digital cloud storage to hoard our pasts mount while we risk forgetting it anyway. Large language models “speak” from the frozen moments of their training data, stuck between the past and the next update. Those who itch for clairvoyance seek their own remembrance as cold comfort: in 2019, over 25,000 Koreans engaged in therapeutic “living funerals,” donning burial shrouds, posing for their own memorial portraits, and lying inside real coffins as the living chant prayers for the “dead”.

- If these items could talk, what “message in a bottle” do they have for us?
- What are the social, ecological, and cultural impacts left in the present by our pursuit of the nostalgic past or future?
- How far will we go to preview, pay, and pursue a time outside the present?

### Topics for Submission:

Please consult our website for a list of possible topics that relate to the prompt

(<https://nostagain.ca/2023/10/26/cfp2024/>)

- Socially, culturally, or politically, how do they (nostalgic objects) remain so pervasive?
- Why do we hoard so many things? Or, why do we “collect”, “curate”, or “store” them?
- What is strategically made to be remembered and forgotten?
- Does the ideological memory belong to any particular group? Who benefits/loses?
- How effective are these nostalgic objects at impacting or overriding the present?
- Socially, culturally or politically, how do they remain so pervasive today?
- What are its effects on the existential, environmental or ethical domains of social life?
- How big is the empire of nostalgia that “was and is a business” (Niemeyer 2016:29)?

### Submission Guidelines:

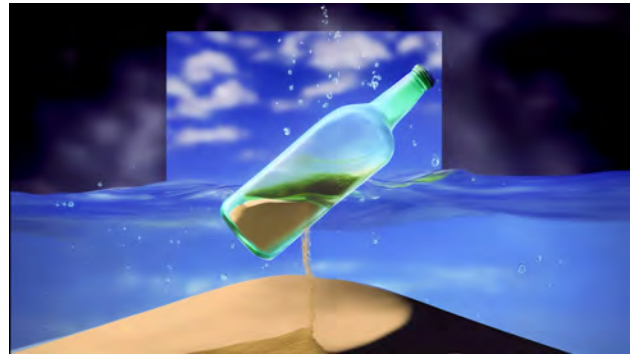
Symposium Presentations (Due: 5th January, 2024)

- Abstract of no more than 300 words
- Submission Link for Presentations: <https://forms.gle/moNjKkFYRR6Krxkk7>

Research-Creation Projects (Due: 5th January, 2024)

- Abstract of no more than 500 words
- Option to attach media that demonstrates the research-creation
- Submission Link for Research-Creation: <https://forms.gle/moNjKkFYRR6Krxkk7>

*Note: \*\*Submissions are reviewed on an ongoing basis.\*\* The availability of spaces for presentations and research-creation showcases are therefore based on a first-submitted-first-accepted basis.*



Contact: [projectlostagain@gmail.com](mailto:projectlostagain@gmail.com) to Derek Pasborg or Richy Srirachanikorn

Website: <https://nostagain.ca/cfp2024>



## CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

### CALLS FOR PAPERS

Social Media + Society

<https://journals.sagepub.com/page/sms/collections/cfp>





## CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

#### **Communications - Assistant Professor (Social Media Communication)**

University of the Fraser Valley

Application due: January 18th, 2024

Link: [https://www.universityaffairs.ca/search-job/?job\\_id=63602](https://www.universityaffairs.ca/search-job/?job_id=63602)

#### **Communication and Intersectionality - Tenure-Track Position**

Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM)

Application due: January 5th, 2024

Link: [https://www.universityaffairs.ca/search-job/?job\\_id=63606](https://www.universityaffairs.ca/search-job/?job_id=63606)

#### **Professional Communication - Assistant Professor (Indigenous Communication)**

University of the Fraser Valley

Application due: January 18th, 2024

Link: [https://www.universityaffairs.ca/search-job/?job\\_id=63614](https://www.universityaffairs.ca/search-job/?job_id=63614)



## CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

#### **Professional Communication - Assistant Professor**

MacEwan University

Application due: January 2nd, 2024

Link: [https://www.universityaffairs.ca/search-job/?job\\_id=63586](https://www.universityaffairs.ca/search-job/?job_id=63586)

#### **Social Science and Humanities - Assistant Professor**

Ontario Tech University

Application due: January 19th, 2024

Link: [https://www.universityaffairs.ca/search-job/?job\\_id=63811](https://www.universityaffairs.ca/search-job/?job_id=63811)

#### **Sociology of Social Movements - Assistant Professor**

Université de Montréal

Application due: January 5th, 2024

Link: [https://www.universityaffairs.ca/search-job/?job\\_id=63720](https://www.universityaffairs.ca/search-job/?job_id=63720)



## CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

#### **Canada Research Chair Tier 1 in Technology, Society and Disability (Associate or Full Professor)**

York University

Application due: January 22nd, 2024

Link: [https://www.universityaffairs.ca/search-job/?job\\_id=63664](https://www.universityaffairs.ca/search-job/?job_id=63664)

#### **Assistant Professor - Science, Technology, & Society**

Farmingdale State College

Application due: December 31st, 2023

Link: <https://farmingdale.interviewexchange.com/jobofferdetails.jsp;jsessionid=EC7FB768CDB61EAAEB2832E84756C45F?JOBID=170105>

#### **Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Digital Studies**

University of Michigan - Ann Arbor

Application due: January 7th, 2024

Link: <https://jobs.chronicle.com/job/37545633/postdoctoral-research-fellow-in-digital-studies/>



## RECENT WORKS IN DIGITAL SOCIOLOGY

### JOURNAL ARTICLES

De Benedictis, S., & Mendes, K. (2023) 'Representing #ButNotMaternity: Analysing Instagram posts of reproductive politics under pandemic crisis', *European Journal of Cultural Studies*, <https://doi.org/10.1177/1367549423117>

Mendes, K., Quan-Haase, A., Nau, C., Zhang, J., & Hollingshead, B. (2023) 'The Evolution of #MeToo: A Comparative Analysis of Vernacular Practices Across Time and Languages', *Social Media + Society*, <https://doi.org/10.1177/20563051231196692>

Patel, M.-G., & Quan-Haase, A., (2023). The perspective of university students on the availability and effectiveness of cyberbullying prevention and response initiatives on campus: Virtual semistructured interviews on resources, barriers, and solutions. *Journal of Educational Research and Practice*, 13, 416–432. <https://doi.org/10.5590/JERAP.2023.13.1.27>

Zajko, M. (2023). Automated Government Benefits and Welfare Surveillance. *Surveillance & Society*, 21(3), 246–258. <https://doi.org/10.24908/ss.v21i3.16107>



## RECENT WORKS IN DIGITAL SOCIOLOGY

### REPORTS

Kaity Mendes' SSHRC DIY: Digital Safety project produced three new infographics:

- Nudes and the law: Know your rights (for teens)
- Is it illegal for young people to share nudes? (for a general audience)
- Technology Facilitated Gender Based Violence: What you need to know

### IN THE NEWS

Zajko, M. (2023, June 13). Canada is failing to regulate AI amid fear and hype. Policy Options. <https://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/june-2023/canada-failing-ai-regulation-fear-hype/>





## STAY CONNECTED

Want to become an ITDS member and/or have your profile featured on the cluster website?  
 Email Andrew Nevin ([andrew.nevin@umb.edu](mailto:andrew.nevin@umb.edu)) your information to be added to our webpage!

### Member Profiles

Name	Affiliation	Research Interest	Connect
Michael ADORJAN	Associate Professor - University of Calgary, Department of Sociology	My research centers on internet-mediated conflict and harm among youth, and parental and educator understandings and responses to cyberbullying and other forms of conflict.	<a href="#">Academic Profile</a>
Andrew D. NEVIN	Assistant Professor - University of Massachusetts Boston, Department of Sociology	I am a digital sociologist who studies topics at the intersection of technology and society, including cyber-criminology, digital inequalities, technology use at work and home, online communities and relationships, among many others.	<a href="#">Academic Profile</a>
Anabel QUAN-HAASE	Professor - Western University, Department of Sociology	My work focuses on social change, social media, and social networks.	<a href="#">Academic Profile</a>



## STAY CONNECTED

FOLLOW US ON X (TWITTER) TO STAY UPDATED ON CLUSTER NEWS & EVENTS!





## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

To be featured in our next newsletter (Spring 2024), send us the following information:

- **Announcements:** Upcoming conferences, employment openings, and opportunities for funding/publishing.
- **Accomplishments:** Promotions, honours, and awards.
- **Publications:** Recently published books and articles.
- **Current Events:** Issues affecting digital sociology.
- **Features:** Are you doing innovative research on digital sociology?
- **Graduate Students on the Market:** Are you on the market? If so, send us your name, degree, institution.

You can email your information to Andrew Nevin ([andrew.nevin@umb.edu](mailto:andrew.nevin@umb.edu)).