Theme

Digital Space vs. Open Space: Different Kinds of "Gathering Together“

NexComm 2025 & DigitalWorld 2025

Behavioral changes in social interaction (Digital vs Real)

Topic 1: The Redefinition of Presence and Participation

Topic 2: Intimacy, Trust, and Empathy in Mediated Communication

Topic 3: Public Space, Privacy, and Social Boundaries

Topic 4: Fragmentation vs. Inclusion in Community Formation

Topic 5: Temporal Rhythms and Attention Span

Topic 6: Behavioral Adaptation and Social Learning

The Redefinition of Presence and Participation

- What does it mean to be "present" in a digital vs. physical space?

- Passive vs. active participation: does digital presence dilute engagement?

- The shift from physical proximity to synchronous connectivity

- Social rituals replaced by "likes", emojis, and silent attendance [avatars, personas]

- Do people feel "together" online the same way they do in person?
- What behaviors define meaningful participation in each space?
- How do we notice disengagement in physical vs. digital presence?

Intimacy, Trust, and Empathy in Mediated Communication

- The erosion or reshaping of emotional cues (tone, gesture, gaze)

- Empathy in text and video: how effective are digital surrogates?

- Trust-building in remote relationships (social, professional, educational)

- The paradox of online oversharing vs. real-life reticence

- Can deep trust and empathy be cultivated through screens?
- Which aspects of human connection suffer most in digital-only settings?
- How do people interpret silence or delay differently online vs. in person?

Public Space, Privacy, and Social Boundaries

- Blurring lines between public and private spheres in digital platforms

- Behavior norms in open vs. digital spaces (e.g., politeness, conflict)

- "Performative" vs. authentic behavior in public digital settings

- Surveillance culture and loss of spontaneous, anonymous interaction

- Where do we draw the line between public and private in digital contexts?
- How has surveillance (cameras, screenshots, data traces) changed social risk-taking?
- Are digital gatherings more "staged" or self-curated than open space ones?

Fragmentation vs. Inclusion in Community Formation

- Echo chambers and affinity bubbles vs. diverse, open spaces

- How digital tools enable or discourage inclusive public discourse

- Community building in online vs. neighborhood physical spaces

- Temporary digital collectives vs. long-standing communal ties

- Do digital platforms foster true inclusion, or do they isolate?
- How do algorithms shape who we gather with online?
- What's the role of chance encounters in open space that we lose online?

Temporal Rhythms and Attention Span

- Asynchronous interaction vs. real-time social co-presence

- Impact of notifications, multitasking, and screen fatigue on attention

- How physical environments shape patience and shared rhythm

- Digital gatherings and the erosion of ceremony or social pacing

- How does the structure of digital space impact our attention spans?
- Have we lost rituals (e.g., greetings, pauses, closure) in digital gatherings?
- Does asynchronous communication change how we value responsiveness?

Behavioral Adaptation and Social Learning

- Changing rules of etiquette, silence, turn-taking, and body language

- Youth and children's social development in screen-first cultures

- Learning to behave in hybrid gatherings (e.g., Zoom plus in-person)

- Cross-generational challenges in adapting to digital social norms

- Are we teaching different "social skills" to children growing up online?
- What social habits have you personally had to unlearn or relearn?
- Can hybrid formats create a new, shared behavioral grammar?

What are the ultimate goals of a scientific conference?

Junior researchers

- **To offer young researchers to present their work**

- **To offer them to discuss about their paper and to improve it**

Senior researchers

- **To offer them opportunities for discussion, cooperation, etc.**

- **To discover new research lines**

About allophones

Allophones = a person who does not fluently speak the community language

Usually, they are shy to intervene in discussions

In open space (coffee breaks)

Have the possibility to discuss face-to-face with the presenters, possibly in another language

In digital space

They limit themselves

Gathering Together iii

Lunches and coffee breaks

In Europe, lunches are an important factor of socializing (more important than coffee breaks). In the US, the contrary.

"When you have a lunch with another scientist, you will more easily understand his/her future papers" ==> a new friend

In digital gathering ….

Behavioral changes in social interaction (Digital vs Real)

Topic 1: Q: Presence and Participation

Topic 2: Q: Intimacy, Trust, and Empathy

Topic 3: Q: Public Space vs Privat Space (Social Boundaries)

Topic 4: Q; Small groups vs Large Inclusion

Topic 5: Q: Life pace and Attention

Topic 6: Q: Behavioral Adaptation and Social Learning

Topic 7:   Gathering Together

In both digital and open spaces

How to be human?

How to listen, connect, disagree, and belong?
What habits should we preserve across both spaces?
What habits must we consciously revisited?

**! Digital behavior is recorded and exposed!
! Do not share until the bottom of your pocket!
! Control your temper!
!But do not pretend!**

THE STAGE IS YOURS