

Call for Papers: Informal Care in the Digital Space

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Special Issue Editor

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This Special Issue emphasizes the importance of incorporating digital practices into academic discourse on informal care. Informal care can be understood as (1) unpaid care arrangements and support systems that are (2) provided by non-professional individuals and (3) tailored to the specific needs and experiences of individuals, whose condition or wellbeing would deteriorate or fail to improve without the assistance of others.

With the growth of digitalization, spaces of informal care are fundamentally changing due to altered relations of proximity and distance. However, considering that dominant narratives on informal care largely neglect digitally mediated relationship constellations, a substantial amount of informal care carried out in the digital space remains invisible to society. Therefore, this Special Issue aims to explore the intersection of informal care and the digital realm, delving into the various ways technology impacts, facilitates, or transforms informal care practices. The purpose of this Special Issue is to present papers that explore theoretical and methodological aspects, along with empirical studies and practical applications in this field.

The editor seeks submissions including (but not limited to) the following topics:

- Theoretical and methodological approaches to study digitization and informal care;
- (The role of platforms or technologies in) how traditional gender roles manifest or transform within the context of digital informal care practices;
- Informal care networks in queer identity-affirming virtual environments;
- Digital kinship, emotional support and nurturing relationships online;
- New digital technologies designed to facilitate and support informal care practices;
- Sociocultural factors influencing the adoption of digital technologies in informal care;
- Ethical and legal aspects surrounding the digital informal care landscape;
- Digitally mediated informal care practices in the professional context.

The provided list of topics is not exhaustive, contributors are encouraged to explore various dimensions related to the overarching theme.

For consideration in this journal, **please submit your proposals** and any questions **to the Special Issue Guest Editor by 29 February 2024**. A notification of acceptance will be provided by 15 March 2024. Final papers are due for peer review on 15 June 2024.

Manuscript Submission Information

Manuscripts should be submitted online at www.mdpi.com by **registering** and **logging in to this website**. Once you are registered, **[click here to go to the submission form](#)**. Manuscripts can be submitted until the deadline. All submissions that pass pre-check are peer-reviewed. Accepted papers will be published continuously in the journal (as soon as accepted) and will be listed together on the special issue website. Research articles, review articles as well as short communications are invited.

Submitted manuscripts should not have been published previously, nor be under consideration for publication elsewhere (except conference proceedings papers). All manuscripts are thoroughly refereed through a double-blind peer-review process. A guide for authors and other relevant information for submission of manuscripts is available on the **[Instructions for Authors](#)** page. *Social Sciences* is an international peer-reviewed open access monthly journal published by MDPI.

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