

Workshop on Infrastructuring eResearch: Challenges in the Sustainability of Research Tools and Platforms

December 7, 2016 at the University of Siegen

Date: Wednesday, December 7, 2016 (full day)

Venue: [Ludwig-Wittgenstein-Haus](#) (Campus Unteres Schloß), Kohlbettstr. 15, 57072 Siegen

Hosts: Prof. Volkmar Pipek, Prof. Sabine Roller, Dr. Matthias Korn

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(<http://sfb1187.uni-siegen.de/>)

Research in the social sciences and humanities increasingly relies on computational tools and infrastructures — from collecting and analysing data to collaborating with other researchers. Progress in scientific research is increasingly dependent on the quality and accessibility of research infrastructures. Therefore, it is critical to address many new challenges related to their development, deployment, and maintenance.

Sustainability is a central challenge. Research infrastructures for the social sciences and humanities may be designed and developed for a specific research project or a particular method. Rather than being a viable research endeavour in their own right, research infrastructures often play a support role, enabling or supporting a primary research purpose. As such, their development, deployment, and maintenance may be characterized by prototypes, hacks or apprenticeship work (e.g., carried out by students). They are not always given the care and attention fitting for a central, enabling piece of the research activities. This contradiction severely challenges their sustainability.

On the other side, even for rigorously planned and executed infrastructure projects, it is difficult to establish and foster sustained use. Bootstrapping, creating critical mass, user training and support, and maintenance are all difficult tasks in achieving sustainable infrastructures. Another sustainability strategy may be to grow research infrastructures by establishing new uses and transferring them to new contexts. Such a transfer may entail substantial additional effort as it may require adapting and generalizing the research infrastructure to new user groups, new research projects, new institutional contexts or even new fields of research where the tools might hold similar potential.

This workshop seeks to collect experiences and best practices from successful tools and platforms, and to foster a community around sustainable research infrastructure development. By sharing experiences around making infrastructures sustainable, we strive to create vivid communities of academic users.

Program / Agenda

We will start at 9:30am and finish around 3:00pm. Coffee and registration starts at 9:15am.

The workshop will consist of a mix of short position or experience statements and interactive formats to exchange experiences, collect best practices, and orient around future collaborations. There will be room for networking and smaller discussions.

1. *Welcome and round of introductions (15 min)*
2. *Goal of the workshop, discussing the agenda (15 min)*
3. *Morning presentations (1.5 hrs)*
10-15 min presentation of position statements, experience reports, open challenges.

4. *Open challenges, open questions (1 hr)*
Synthesizing and discussing emergent themes and open challenges/questions.
 - Lunch —
 5. *Consequences for national, EU, and international funding structures (1 hr)*
Themes, framings, core competencies, available funding schemes, ...
 6. *Future publication strategies (15 min)*
 7. *Next steps (15 min)*
Preparing joint future activities.
- 7:30pm: Dinner + informal get-together w/ conf. participants at “Früh bis spät” —

Talks

Digital Footprints and Cross-national Social Media Studies (VIA SKYPE)

Anja Bechmann, Digital Footprints Research Group, Aarhus University

De- and Re-Assembling Data Infrastructures

Carolin Gerlitz, SFB 1187 Media of Cooperation, University of Siegen and Digital Methods Initiative

CREATE: Challenges in User Driven Design of an eResearch Platform

Peter Matussek, Department of Media Studies, University of Siegen & DARIAH-DE

Research Data Management Activities at Universities in North Rhine-Westphalia

Ania Lopez, University of Duisburg-Essen and Digitale Hochschule NRW

Building infrastructures for sustainable research data management at the Centre of Information, Media and Technology (ZIMT), University of Siegen

Annette Strauch & Volker Hess, ZIMT and SFB 1187 Media of Cooperation, University of Siegen

Appropriation Infrastructures for Research Communities of Practice

Matthias Korn & Volkmar Pipek, SFB 1187 Media of Cooperation, University of Siegen and iSchool Siegen

Participants

- Robert Kalman, Zentrum für Lehrerbildung und Bildungsforschung, Uni Siegen
- Christoph Kotthaus, Chair CSCW and Social Media, Uni Siegen
- Gaia Mosconi, SFB 1187 Media of Cooperation, Uni Siegen
- Marén Schorch, SFB 1187 Media of Cooperation, Uni Siegen
- Fernando van der Vlist, SFB 1187 Media of Cooperation, Uni Siegen