



Academic mobility and cooperation in the digital age: manifold potentials and challenges

Wednesday, April 29th | 11 am (GMT-3)
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11:00 am Welcoming and introduction by Grazielle Lautenschlaeger (DAAD Marketing)

During the last few weeks, we have spent a significant part of our time adapting our work lives to social distancing measures, which has led to an intensification of the use of online platforms and other tools facilitating remote cooperation.

This experience has energized the discussions involving the implications of the use of digital tools in education, academic and scientific cooperation, their influences on the internationalization of the institutions concerned with the production and sharing of knowledge.

On the one hand, ever since industrialization, there has been a strong tradition of fearing technological development and the establishment of a given "humans against machines" scenario. On the other hand, there are some technologists who blindly believe that technology can solve all problems, ignoring the new problems that emerge simultaneously.

The complexity of the theme, however, cannot be reduced to such polarization and requires a more in-depth analysis, with which specialists from different areas of knowledge are concerned. Digital media, as an evolving process of manipulation of matter using electric energy, has sparked a revolution in our ways of life and the modes of production. Its specificities - with special attention to programmability and media convergence - have inaugurated hitherto unprecedented communication possibilities in the history of culture. Telematic communication, which occurs in real time and over long distances, being extensively used in the current crisis, comprises only one of the manifold features of digital media.

In this online session of DAAD Treffpunkt!, we would like to address the questions that arise alongside this continuous and accelerated technological development for agents involved in education, academic production, and the internationalization of knowledge and institutions. We need to be continually aware of the essential values surrounding each of these areas and their convergences. Said values cannot be guided solely by economic interests without balanced critical thinking on technological development's complex implications. To define these values and foster the discussion, we have invited the following specialists:

11:05 am **Open Education: Ethics, privacy, and autonomy in times of crisis.**
by Prof. Dr. Tel Amiel (UnB / Coordinator of UNESCO Chair in
Distance Education)

The market for educational technology is becoming a growing target for investment and consolidation in Brazil and around the world. In crisis scenarios, companies present 'solutions' to overcome social isolation by promoting free services and platforms, which has raised questions among educators. Why, in education, should we be concerned with the platforms and services we use? Should we be concerned about autonomy, surveillance, and privacy issues? How can Open Education show us alternative paths?

11:20 am **Brazil-Germany Cooperation in the field of Social Media
Research**
by Prof. Dr. Adriana da Rosa Amaral (Unisinos)
and Prof. Dr. Stefan Stieglitz (Uni Duisburg-Essen)

Over the last few years, Adriana Amaral and Stefan Stieglitz have built up a fruitful cooperation in the field of social media analytics. Both researchers are experts in different methods of qualitative and quantitative data analysis. Social Media data was collected from Twitter, YouTube, and other sources to better understand communication processes during crisis situations. Funding was granted by organizations such as the German Academic Exchange Service, CAPES, as well as the European Union.

11:35am **Long-distance communication and the importance of stays
abroad**
by Dr. Jochen Hellmann (DAAD Director in Brazil)

For many years, the DAAD has been running bilateral exchange programs with partner institutions all around the world within the framework of the Project-Related Personal Exchange (PPP). The idea is that (principally junior) researchers from two partnering teams can visit each other's country for short or medium-length stays as part of a jointly conducted research project.

Cooperative research can only benefit from this and, incidentally, is dependent on the use of technologies and concepts in long-distance communication between the two teams, even in times of absence of crisis.

Nevertheless, we have learned from many years of experience about the unequivocal added value of "physical" stays in the partner country to the training of young scientists: the stay abroad is often described later in their career as a milestone, an eye-opener, and a formative educational experience; it is doubtful that this added value could be completely replaced by digital formats.

11:45am **Questions and answers**