

BLENDING CONFERENCE: Seventeenth International Conference on Technology, Knowledge, and Society

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Type:

Conference

Date:

April 8, 2021

Location:

Australia

Subject Fields:

Communication, Educational Technology, Humanities, Social Sciences, Sociology

The **Seventeenth International Conference on Technology, Knowledge, and Society** is brought together by a shared interest in the complex and subtle relationships between technology, knowledge and society. We seek to build an epistemic community where we can make linkages across disciplinary, geographic, and cultural boundaries. As a Research Network we are defined by our scope and concerns and motivated to build strategies for action framed by our shared themes and tensions.

The **Seventeenth International Conference on Technology, Knowledge, and Society** features research addressing the following annual themes and special focus:

- THEME 1: HISTORIES OF TECHNOLOGY
- THEME 2: KNOWLEDGE MAKERS
- THEME 3: SOCIAL REALITIES

2021 Special Focus: Considering Viral Technologies: Pandemic-Driven Opportunities and Challenges

Since the beginning of the current crisis, lockdowns, quarantines, and stay-at-home orders have swept across our everyday lives - and at an incredible speed. To keep our societies functional during this time of global pandemic, we have turned increasingly to digital communication tools and networks. Digital technologies protect us from the *social* exposure to the virus, with tools that facilitate contactless delivery of essential goods, virtual meetings, and cloud services that enable work from home and e-learning delivery. In connecting with business, schools, or government, automated interactions have in many cases replaced even virtual human contact. Digital technologies now *know* more about us and the virus - from contact tracing that monitors vectors of viral transmission, to big data analytics that track viral spread.

Reimagining the Scholarly Conference

To support the range of options, and flexibility needed in our current climate, we will offer a [blended conference experience](#). You do not need to commit either to a place-based or virtual presentation at the time of submission. You can present both ways, or change your mode of the presentation if your

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<https://networks.h-net.org/node/73374/announcements/6431337/blended-conference-seventeenth-international-conference>

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preferences change. The choice to participate virtually could also be a moral decision - for the planet, for security, or when the financial burden of travel is too great. We seek to foster spaces that align with principles of social justice and community development -- particularly in difficult times.

We also want to be ready for the possibility of place-based postponement due to COVID-19. If we are forced to postpone, the online engagement will still go ahead, and your registration will allow you to join the conference in person in a later year.

This way we build for our Research Network Members flexible, and at the same time resilient, spaces for communication, engagement, and participation.

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<https://techandsoc.com/2021-conference>