Call for Papers (CfP)

Academic Writing Lab (AWL), Department of Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH), IIIT-Delhi

Crisis of Truth? The Digital Era and the Future of Knowledge

AWL-SSH, IIIT-Delhi invites short and long form submissions on the theme "Crisis of Truth? The Digital Era and the Future of Knowledge" which will be featured on our website. We are also accepting a well-conceived letter of intent on the theme for an upcoming edited volume, to be published later this year. The proposed volume shall bring together a diverse set of writings from different disciplinary, interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary perspectives that address these concerns arising from the ongoing 'digital revolution' that is transforming the very fabric of our lives. Contributions based on interdisciplinary research based on theoretical framework, mixed method qualitative research are highly encouraged.

Brief background: The rapid emergence of digital space over the past couple of decades, not merely as a new site of human interaction, but, among other things, as a new socio-cultural regime of knowledge generation and dissemination, calls for critical reflection on this fundamental, and ongoing, transformation of the 'public sphere.' The pandemic induced forced transition to online modes of interaction has brought into renewed focus a whole range of interconnected issues and concerns, from the ontological and epistemic, to the ethical and the 'social', broadly construed in its economic and political and cultural-psychological dimensions. Does the virtual sphere, for instance, entail an impoverished mode of mutual presence, compared to 'real' face-to-face presence/interaction? What therefore, is the nature of the relation between the 'virtual' and the 'real' —how is the 'virtual' embedded in the 'real' and vice-versa, and how is it discontinuous with the 'real'? Does the 'virtual' alter the very character of "knowledge," that is, its truth-conditions? What implications does online interaction and knowledge production have for the notion of the 'private' and the 'public'; for the 'public sphere'; for an emerging 'digital commons', and therefore, for what has been recognized as the 'democratic potential' of the internet? In other words, do virtual modes of interaction open up new possibilities of human sociality, inclusion, closeness and thus, collective and individual emancipation; or do they usher in new socio-political and economic forms of exclusion, exploitation and domination? How does the pervasive presence of the virtual in our lives impinge on our digital 'privacy' and security? How will this relationship evolve in the future?

We successfully hosted a symposium in 2021 where participants from across the globe discussed these issues and presented their research findings. The symposium focused on these questions involving the larger societal, political, and technological context in which the digital is embedded. This CfP is an attempt to takes the conversation forward to a larger audience and bring in more diverse perspective.

Contribution in the following areas are highly encouraged:

- Digital space and the culture of knowledge communication
- Digital nudges and/or click bait
- The 'real' and the 'virtual'
- Digital Media and Post-Truth Politics
- Digital Public Sphere
- Digital space and political innovation
- Digital and Dissent

<u>Submission guidelines:</u> All those interested in submitting their original, unpublished work are requested to fill in this form. No submission will be considered unless this form is filled.

Please **<u>note</u>** the following:

Submissions for the **<u>website</u>** can be in the form of:

a. Short commentaries and opinion pieces (800-1000 words)

b. Book reviews (1000-1200 words)

Submissions for the website will be accepted on a rolling basis. Those interested are encouraged to submit the form to indicate their interest by the 10th of every month to ensure smooth, timely publication.

Submissions for the **<u>edited volume</u>**:

Authors are requested to fill the aforementioned form which requires them to submit a short abstract (not exceeding 500 words) explaining the theme of the paper, what is the problem being addressed and how it contributes to the existing literature and how the paper matches with the proposed theme (in 250 words). Our editorial team will get back to you with their decision. Once accepted more specific guidelines will follow. Authors are requested not to send in their full submission, until they get a response from the editorial team.

For more information and if you have any queries, please write to awl@iiitd.ac.in.