



Call for Papers: 1st Annual Digital Publics Conference University of Zurich, 21-23 October 2026

We invite paper submissions on research related to understanding and shaping the transformation of public life through digital technologies, from how people communicate and form opinions to how information circulates and collective decisions are shaped. Alongside their potential to foster participation, inclusion, and transparency, the same technologies also raise concerns about manipulation, exclusion, and unequal access to information.

Within the broader scope of research on digital publics, we are particularly interested in topics such as the role of social media and AI in (political) communication and deliberation, the quality of public discourse, AI and governance, civic tech and political participation, the regulation of tech platforms, and the political, social, and psychological consequences of digital environments, among others. We welcome submissions using different methodological approaches to study these topics.

This conference is organized by the [Digital Publics Community](#) of the *Digital Society Initiative* at the University of Zurich. The community brings together researchers from communication, political science, psychology, sociology, computer and data science, linguistics, law, and related fields and aims to facilitate cross-disciplinary exchange and collaboration.

Conference attendance is free and is open to both paper presenters and non-presenters, but registration is required and subject to seat availability. The conference will take place in Zurich from about 14:00h, 21 October until about 17:00h, 23 October. All presenters are expected to attend in person and make their own travel arrangements.

The **deadline** to submit paper abstracts (up to 500 words) for the conference is **31 May 2026**. You may find the submission page at this [LINK](#). Acceptance notifications will be sent latest in early July. Registration for non-presenters will open in August, co-authors have to register separately as non-presenters if they wish to attend the conference.

We provide a limited number of travel grants for junior scholars among those accepted to present; more information will be provided upon acceptance. We particularly encourage early-career researchers and those belonging to groups traditionally underrepresented in the field to apply.

Organizing committee: Fynn Bachmann, Alexandre Bovet, Philip DiSalvo, Karsten Donnay, Fabrizio Gilardi, Sara Kallis, Matthias Leese, Meret Prangulaishvili, Rebekka Rieser, Morgan Wack. We can be reached at digitalpublics@dsi.uzh.ch.