



Created by Joshua D. Savage

Sociology Department

NEW

MA in Sociology: Digital Societies (MADS)

New in 2022, the aim of this MA is to provide students with an advanced understanding of the social, economic, cultural and political impacts, risks and opportunities of digital technologies in Ireland, and internationally. The focus is on the digital in all its manifestations, from digital media to embedded digital technologies in our homes and cities.

The digital offers new possibilities for societal transformation, for connecting people and spaces in new ways, and for generating social change. It also brings risks. While issues of access to digital networks remain for many, social science research has identified digital and data inequalities marked by gender, race, ethnicity and class. We need to understand how to identify and mitigate these risks.

This one year full time MA provides students with an opportunity to engage with contemporary social science theories of technology and the digital, with options to gain insights into legal, policy and humanistic topics. You will be able to deepen your qualitative and quantitative research skills and extend your research skills with digital research methods. Finally, you will have an opportunity to work alongside staff on real world research projects.

This MA is your pathway to becoming a Digital Sociologist.

Q. Why study this MA at the Dept. of Sociology at Maynooth University?

A. The Department of Sociology at Maynooth has an internationally recognised profile in media and technology studies, the sociology of work (e.g. software and digital media work), active citizenship, data infrastructures and in research methods. Along with our colleagues in other departments we are committed to offering a critical and empirically informed approach to contemporary developments and to using our research to inform our teaching. We are also committed to public sociology and working to bring sociological perspectives to bear on contemporary social issues.

Q. Who teaches on this course ?

Sociology – may vary year to year:

Prof. A. Kerr – Understanding Digital Societies
Prof. J.Gray – Data Studio
Prof. H.Fagan – Qualitative Methods
Dr. E. Flaherty – Quantitative methods
Dr. P. Ryan - Intimate Lives
(Varies) Digital Social Science Methods

Other Departments – may vary year to year:

Prof. R. Kitchin (Geog) – Critical Data Studies
Dr. C. B- Roche (Law) - Surveillance Societies
Dr. M. Murphy (Law) – IT Law, Info Privacy Law
Dr. G. Tittley (Media) Media Publics
Dr. K. Jarrett, (Media) - IMedia Theory
Dr. P. Garvey (Antrop)- Antrop.of Digital Media

For questions about course content please contact the MA programme director:

Prof. Aphra Kerr
email: aphra.kerr@mu.ie

web: <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/sociology/ma-programmes>

twitter: @MU_Sociology

MA Sociology: Digital Societies

MA MHY40 1 year / GD MHY 42

Course Structure

MA students take a total of 90 credits - 6 taught modules x 10 credits each (60 credits) and a thesis (30 credits). There are two core Sociology modules that all students take. Students then choose 4 optional modules offered by the Sociology, Law, Geography, Anthropology & Media Studies.

A graduate diploma option (MHY 42) is available where students do not write a thesis.

Classes are seminar based and assessment is 100% based on continuous assessments.

Entry Requirements

A BA in Sociology, or a similar discipline, with a high 2:2 or above in Sociology, or international equivalent, is required. For international students for whom English is not their first language, an English language exam certificate of at least IELTS 6.5 (or similar) is required.

Careers

This MA equips social science and arts graduates with the conceptual and practical research skills to understand, research and work in digital societies. Possible careers include working as a social science researcher, working in digital or public policy for public sector or private companies, working in training, literacy and skills education, working on online campaigns for voluntary or charity organisations, or in politics. Other potential careers are in education. Some graduates may wish to continue to PhD research and to academia.

MA Sociology: Digital Societies Modules

Understanding Digital Societies

Digital Social Science Methods

Thesis - MA students only

Optional modules (Choose 4):

Data Studio

Quantitative Research Methods

Qualitative Research Methods

Information Technology Law

Information Privacy Law

Surveillance Societies

Media Publics

Critical Data Studies