

Corso di dottorato

POLITICS, SOCIETY, TECHNOLOGY

BREVE DESCRIZIONE DEL CORSO

The Ph.D program “Politics, Society, Technology” aims to train researchers that critically analyze the relationship between technologies, political transformations, and social change. The Ph.D program offers an interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary and strongly international research and training path, combining socio-humanistic and technological expertise, and structured around two main research areas:

Research area 1. “Technology and Transformations of Communication and Media”, focused on the social, normative, ethical, business, cognitive, and behavioral implications of changes in the media and communication ecosystem, and including topics such as:

- the impact of AI on communication practices and the production and dissemination of media content;
- the influence of digital platforms and disinformation on political communication, information, and public opinion;
- the role of digital media in fostering new forms of activism and political engagement, as well as in reshaping consumer perceptions of value and preferences in relation to businesses.

Research Area 2: “Technology and Transformations of Society and the Global Order”, focused on the impact of technological transformations on society, politics, and international relations, and including topics such as:

- the relationship between technological change and the evolution of political institutions, public powers, the democratic institutional order, and the global order;
- AI ethics and governance, and the dynamics of cooperation and competition among states, international organizations, and tech companies in this field;
- the impact of new technologies on inclusion and on social and global justice, with particular attention to sustainability, health, and transformations of work.

CONVENZIONI E COLLABORAZIONI

The Ph.D program counts on a relevant number of collaborations with public institutions, businesses, and international organizations, as well as with foreign academic institutions, whose faculty members are also involved in the academic board.

SBOCCHI OCCUPAZIONALI

The PhD Program prepares graduates for a wide range of high-level academic and non-academic career paths, characterized by a strong international and interdisciplinary orientation. Possible career opportunities include:

- **Academic and Research Sector:** Researcher at universities and research centers, with a specialization in analyzing the interactions between technology, politics, and society; project leader for both national and international research initiatives; policy officer or

researcher at public research institutions.

- **Public Institutions and International Organizations:** Program Specialist, Policy Advisor, or Technology Governance Expert at European and international institutions involved in developing regulations on AI, data, disinformation, and digital technologies; analyst or consultant for think tanks and foundations focused on public policy, technological innovation, and governance strategies; senior official or civil servant in local, national, or European public administrations, specializing in AI regulation, digital platforms, and technological infrastructure.
- **Private Sector:** Chief Innovation Officer or AI Ethicist, responsible for the design, development, and responsible governance of AI systems; Data Governance & Compliance Manager, ensuring corporate compliance with ethical and regulatory standards in data protection and digital security; Change Manager, Innovation Manager, or Digital Transformation Strategist, leading technological change across affected sectors.
- **Media and Communication Sector:** Communication Specialist; analyst of media and digital communication, focusing on the impact of digital platforms on information and public opinion; Reputation Manager for companies and institutions; expert in countering disinformation and information manipulation for news outlets, NGOs, public institutions, etc.
- **Education and Training:** Trainer and facilitator for the responsible and informed use of technology; expert in evaluating information sources to promote fact-checking and responsible information flows; advocate for using technology in education and knowledge-sharing, particularly to support vulnerable groups and reduce the digital divide.

DIDATTICA E RICERCA MULTIDISCIPLINARE

The Ph.D program is highly interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary and international.

The training and research activities are conceived as an incubator for critical thinking and innovation and involve:

- The social and political sciences (sociology, economics, marketing, law, political science);
- The humanities (ethics, philosophy of technology, political philosophy, psychology, pedagogy, history, geopolitics);
- Communication and digital media studies, with a focus on disinformation, propaganda, platform regulation, and algorithmic culture;
- Computer science and artificial intelligence, particularly in relation to human–AI collaboration and the impact of AI on governance and society.

In addition to theoretical and methodological training, the PhD program offers seminars and workshops in collaboration with public institutions, businesses, and international organizations, aiming to promote the social impact of research and provide doctoral candidates with opportunities for applied research and cross-sectoral training.

Finally, with a strong emphasis on internationalization, the program includes research experiences abroad for a period of at least six months, encourages participation in international scientific networks, offers skills enhancement paths for publishing and disseminating research results in

English, and fosters engagement with leading global experts in the fields of technology, governance, and communication. The international dimension of the program is further strengthened by the presence, within the academic board, of a significant number of faculty members from foreign institutions.

INNOVAZIONE TECNOLOGICA E BIG DATA

The Ph.D program revolves around technological innovation, as it aims to enhance the contribution of the social sciences and humanities (SSH) to the understanding of technological transformations. Technological innovations – especially artificial intelligence – will be at the core of the program and will be tackled through a comprehensive research and training path that integrates economic, historical, legal, and governance expertise with ethical and political reflection on technologies and their impact on democracy and global inequalities.