



Call for Papers

2nd DPE Forum

“Critical Perspectives on Digital Platform Ecosystems: Governance, Influence, and Consequences”

15–16 June 2026, Passau, Germany

<https://www.dpe.uni-passau.de/en/dpe-forum>

The Research Training Group *Digital Platform Ecosystems (DPE)* at the University of Passau – funded by the German Research Foundation ([DFG](#)) – is pleased to announce the second **DPE Forum**. The DPE Forum is an in-person conference at the University of Passau, devoted specifically to research and insights on digital platform ecosystems. It is unique in its interdisciplinarity, bringing together researchers, practitioners, and policymakers from backgrounds in communication science, (development) economics, information systems, management, marketing, organization science, and adjacent disciplines. The first DPE Forum in 2024 gathered approx. 90 participants from across the globe, including the keynote speakers Prof. Marshall Van Astyne (Boston University) and Prof. Martin Selmayr (European Commission and University of Passau).

The second DPE Forum will be held from **15 to 16 June 2026**. While our focus is as broad as two years ago, we particularly encourage critical conversations and perspectives around the ambivalent, contextualized ramifications of digital platform ecosystems – their formidable and often highly problematic influence on vital societal processes and structures, well beyond business and the economy. Doctoral students are offered a post-conference doctoral consortium.

We welcome theoretical and empirical contributions, quantitative and qualitative approaches, early work as well as further developed studies from all disciplines represented in DPE (see above). Submissions should focus on topics related to digital platform ecosystems, including but not limited to:

- Digital platform ecosystems as new spaces of governance, organization, and innovation
- Digital platform ecosystems as arenas of strategic influence, leadership, and communication
- Digital platform ecosystems and their socio-economic impact, including in the Global South

Keynote Speakers

Professor Hemant K. Bhargava, PhD

*Distinguished Professor, Jerome and Elsie Suran Chair in Technology Management
University of California, Davis - Graduate School of Management*

Professor Tawfik Jelassi, PhD

Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information, UNESCO, Paris

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Location

Passau, located in the heart of Europe right on the borders of Germany, Austria, and the Czech Republic, is one of Germany's most beautiful historical towns. The [University of Passau](#) is top-ranked, especially for its programs in business and economics, communication studies, political science, cultural studies, computer science, and law. The university is also renowned for its scenic campus nestled along the Inn River.

Submission of Abstracts

You are invited to submit an extended abstract for presentation at the conference. The abstract should be no longer than 1,000 words and should clearly indicate the theoretical perspective and methodology used (if applicable). Please submit your abstract via <https://www.conftool.net/dpe-forum-2026/> no later than **31 January 2026**. The decision on acceptance will be communicated by **16 February 2026**.

Registration

Presenters must register for the conference by **15 March 2026** via <https://www.conftool.net/dpe-forum-2026/>. The conference fee is 200 Euros, which includes the conference dinner, lunch, and coffee breaks. Participants are responsible for their travel and accommodation expenses.

Doctoral Consortium (post-conference, 17 June)

PhD/Doctoral students are invited to submit a research paper for the doctoral consortium held on 17 June, 9am-2pm, after the conference. Selected PhD students will receive feedback on their papers from members of the scientific committee in their specific domain. The event also includes roundtable discussions and a wrap-up lunch. Participation in the doctoral consortium is free and includes free registration for the main conference.

Please submit your paper via <https://www.conftool.net/dpe-forum-2026/> no later than **31 January 2026**. The decision on acceptance will be communicated by **16 February 2026**.

Scientific Committee

- Jenny Aker (Tufts University)
- Stefan Bauernschuster (University of Passau)
- Robert W. Gregory (University of Miami)
- Michael Grimm (University of Passau)
- Carolin Häussler (University of Passau)
- Andreas König (University of Passau)
- Jan Krämer (University of Passau)
- Don Lange (Arizona State University)
- Philip Leifeld (University of Essex)
- Kelly D. Martin (Colorado State University)
- Robin Nowak (University of Passau)
- Jens Prüfer (Tilburg University and University of East Anglia)
- Timothy Quigley (University of Georgia)
- Hannah Schmid-Petri (University of Passau)
- Jan Schumann (University of Passau)
- Thomas Widjaja (University of Passau)
- Chayanin Wipusanawan (University of Passau)

The Research Training Group “Digital Platform Ecosystems”

The Research Training Group (RTG) “Digital Platform Ecosystems” (DPE) is a doctoral qualification program. It is dedicated to studying digital platform ecosystems – a key phenomenon of the digital economy and society – from an interdisciplinary perspective and to set new standards for the qualification of emerging academics. DPE draws from a unique combination of scholarly disciplines, particularly information systems, business administration, economics, and communication science. The DPE Forum is DPE’s platform for international research on digital platform ecosystems and a vital hub for strengthening research networks on digital platforms and ecosystems. It also provides an interface to practitioners, policymakers, and members of the society, reflecting the profound and far-reaching implications of digital platform ecosystems.

The RTG DPE is generously funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG).

Contact and Information

For more information on the Research Training Group and the DPE Forum 2026 and its past edition in 2024, or to subscribe to our mailing list, please visit our [website](#) or follow us on [LinkedIn](#).

