Education in a Digital Age

As academics in our Digital Age, how can we use technology more effectively in our teaching and research? What are some practical tools to help us in our research and publishing? What are appropriate ways for us to utilize social media or other technology to communicate with our students?

Rodica Mocan is a senior lecturer and the Head of Cinematography and the Media Department at Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. Her education includes an Engineering degree, an MA in Art from Mississippi College, and a Ph.D. in e-learning, and is the result of a continuing interest in lifelong learning in an interdisciplinary context. Her interest in studying the effects of media use and digital technologies on everyday life led her into new learning contexts like formation in psychotherapy, management of public policies, and a new Ph.D. in multimedia in performing arts. Her research interests are reflected in the book *A Sociological Perspective on eLearning* and in various studies regarding new technologies, of which *Happiness and The Family 2.0 Paradigm* is representative for the interdisciplinary approach. Her current interests focus on interactive documentaries and the use of multimedia in performing arts. She strongly believes that family, profession, and one's walk with God are interwoven in the personal life story. Thus, as a mother of three, a Christian, and an academic that is teaching new media-related disciplines, she strongly believes in the power of mentoring the new generation to harness the great potential of new technologies to better understand the times we live in.

I. **Positive impact of new technologies on academic life.**

    A. **Quality of research** [and teaching] – The use of digital technologies has drastically and permanently impacted and improved the quality of research.

    B. **Integrity** [plagiarism, citations, etc]

    C. **Productivity** [word processing, refrence management software...] – Digital technologies have the potential of exponentially improving our productivity IF we invest the time needed to harness the potential.

    D. **E-learning** – Digital technologies may improve the quality of learning.

    E. **Communication** – At the heart of academia lies a high level of communication. Digital technologies have revolutionized the way academics work and collaborate.

II. **Negative impact and challenges brought by technology for the academic world. Some of these are:**

    A. **Disruptions** – The avalanche of information can be very disruptive and counter-productive when one has to engage in research.

    B. **Information overload** – Newly increased volume of information does not mean that it is all good and accurate information.

    C. **Security of data** – Increased anxiety regarding public exposure and safety of your data

    D. **Privacy** – Blurring of public and private profile and life or between work and personal time due to omnipresence of mobile technologies and integration of social media in other applications.

Suggested reading*:*

***. "The A to Z of Social Media for Academia | THE Essential Guide." N.p., n.d. Web. 17 Mar. 2017.

***. "Why Academics Should Make Time for Social Media | Times Higher Education (THE)." N.p., n.d. Web. 17 Mar. 2017.

***. "Impact of Social Sciences – Academics and Universities Should Embrace Blogging as a Vital Tool of Academic Communication and Impact." N.p., n.d. Web. 17 Mar. 2017.

Choo, Esther K. et al. "Twitter as a Tool for Communication and Knowledge Exchange in Academic Medicine: A Guide for Skeptics and Novices." *Medical Teacher* 37.5 (2015): 411–416. Web. 17 Mar. 2017.

Haryani, Siti, and Shaikh Ali. "Cloud Computing in Academic Institutions." n. pag. Web. 17 Mar. 2017.

Munigal, Achala. *Scholarly Communication and the Publish or Perish Pressures of Academia*. N.p. Web. 17 Mar. 2017.