

Johannes Breuer (GESIS & CAIS)

Ethical questions in research with digital trace data

Digital trace data are widely used in computational social science (CSS). While such data are highly valuable for CSS research, their use raises critical ethical questions that researchers need to address. This presentation provides an overview of ethical considerations in working with digital traces across the research lifecycle, including study design, data collection, processing, analysis, publication, and data sharing. It will particularly focus on critical issues, such as informed consent, privacy, and the inference of user attributes. The presentation will also refer to helpful resources and offer some general recommendations for conducting ethically sound studies with digital trace data.