

Navigating opportunities and challenges: Early Career Researchers in transnational projects

Introduction and co-moderator:

Luisa Nienhaus, CHANSE KEF, University College London

Co-moderator

Sara Perry, TEtrARCHS and CHANSE KEF, University College London

Panelists:

Monika Gołąb, DigiPatch, Jagiellonian University

Dorota Wójciak, DIGITISLAM, Jagiellonian University

Aneta Pieczka, HuLog, Kozminski University

Theofilos Gkinopoulos, DigiPatch, Jagiellonian University

CONFERENCE
Europe
and
Mobilities
Challenges and Opportunities for
Socio-Economic Transformations



Any Questions?

Please use the QR
code to submit
your questions.

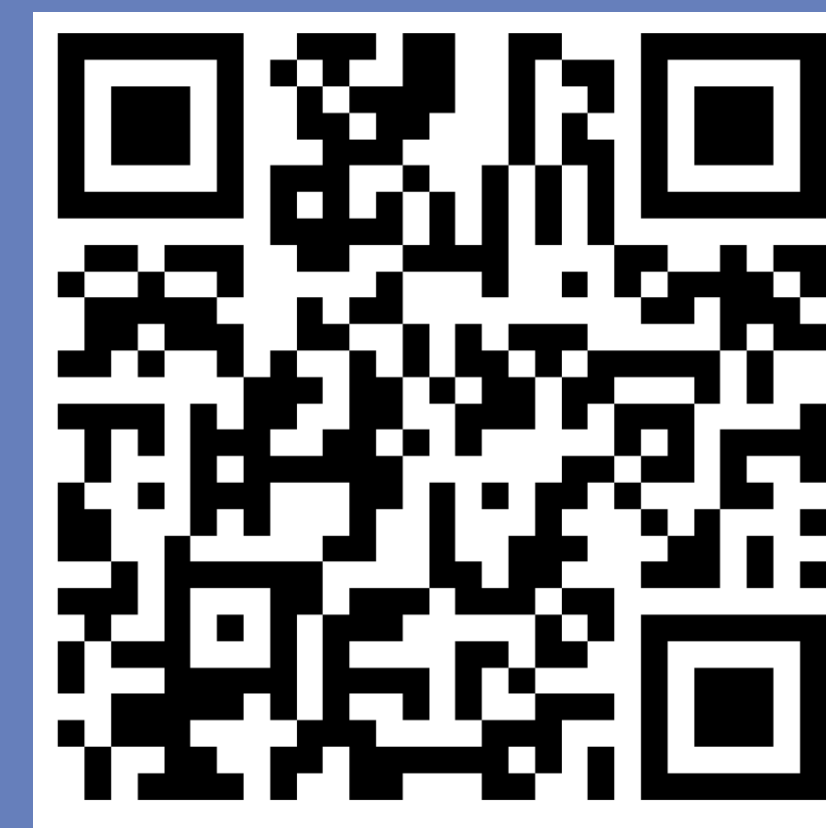


Navigating opportunities and challenges: Early Career Researchers in transnational projects

Being an ECR in DigiPatch project

Monika Gołąb, Doctoral School in
the Social Sciences, Jagiellonian
University

CONFERENCE
Europe
and
Mobilities
Challenges and Opportunities for
Socio-Economic Transformations



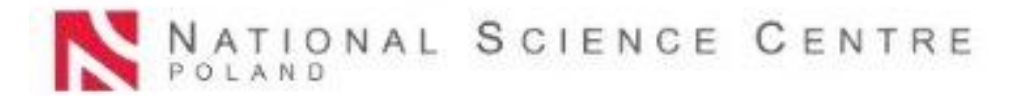
Presentation plan

- DigiPatch project – what it is and what our goals are
- My story – being an Early Career Research in a transnational project
- Key takeaways

DigiPatch project (2022-2025)

- investigate how digital media creates conditions for cultural and societal change from a traditionally networked society to a rigidly 'patchwork' one
- find out why this occurs, with a focus on cultural factors, and the socio-cognitive processes of individuals
- outline what the potential societal consequences of these processes are

Funding organisations



SPONSORED BY THE



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101004509



Work Packages Overview

WP1 Three-wave panel survey

WP2 Experiments

WP3 Semi-intervetion on young adults

WP4 Political and cultural analysis

WP5 Computer modelling of the formation of microidentities



Institute of Psychology, Jagiellonian University, Kraków



About me

- Studied psychology at Jagiellonian University
- Joined **DigiPatch** since early 2023
- Combined work in DigiPatch and finishing master's degree

Key takeaways

- Internationality and interdisciplinarity are great – but also challenging
- Entering a PhD programme directly after a master's degree comes with trade-offs
- A lot depends on the supervisor (and other mentors)!

Navigating opportunities and challenges: Early Career Researchers in transnational projects

Teamwork in the Humanities

Dorota Wójciak, *Jagiellonian University*

CONFERENCE
Europe
and
Mobilities
Challenges and Opportunities for
Socio-Economic Transformations



About me

BA in Religion Studies at Jagiellonian University in Kraków

MA in Linguistics (specialisation: General Linguistics) at Jagiellonian University in Kraków

PhD candidate at the Doctoral School in Humanities at Jagiellonian University in Kraków; Programme: Studies in cultures and religions.

Research team member in „Religion, mothering and identity among young mothers - experiences of Catholic and Muslim women in Poland” (National Science Centre, Poland, Grant 2019/35/D/HS1/00181)

Research team member in „DIGITISLAM: Digital Islam across Europe: Understanding Muslims’ Participation in Online Islamic Environments” (SGH, Warsaw School of Economics, CHANSE, NCN, Grant 2021/03/Y/HS2/00252)

DIGITAL ISLAM

DIGITISLAM: Digital Islam across Europe: Understanding Muslims' Participation in Online Islamic Environments



„The project entails in-depth research in five European countries: **Lithuania, Poland, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.** At its core, the project examines how diverse Muslim populations engage with the online ecosystem, seeking and providing formal or informal advice on issues related to Islam. It will show how these interactions shape, and are shaped by, the success of specific online producers.”

The myth of the individual genius in the humanities

- The idea of the "lone genius" - a singular, exceptional mind producing groundbreaking work in isolation - continues to shape both public perception and academic discourse in the humanities.
- This myth is deeply rooted in Enlightenment ideals and Romantic conceptions of the artist or thinker as a unique, inspired individual.

Practical implications of the „lone genius” myth:

- Academic prestige is still largely tied to individual authorship and accomplishments, often at the expense of collaborative or interdisciplinary efforts.
- Research funding structures often mirror this bias, favoring projects led by a single principal investigator over those based on collective authorship or shared leadership.
- This model tends to obscure the contributions of early-career researchers and reinforces hierarchies within academic institutions.

How Can We Create Conditions for Sustainable, Collaborative Research in the Humanities?

- Shift the focus from "breakthroughs" by exceptional individuals to sustained contributions, process-oriented thinking, and collective knowledge building.
- To recognize researchers' contributions across all phases of research, including tool development, data gathering, and analysis.
- Develop new, more accessible pathways for research teams to collectively apply for funding.

Navigating opportunities and challenges: Early Career Researchers in transnational projects

*Between Practice and Theory:
Reflections on Becoming a Researcher*

Aneta Pieczka, *Kozminski University*

CONFERENCE
Europe
and
Mobilities
Challenges and Opportunities for
Socio-Economic Transformations



Who I am & What I research

Dr. Aneta Pieczka, Post-doctoral Researcher, Kozminski University, Humans in Digital Logistics (HuLog)



HuLog project investigates how digital technologies are fundamentally reshaping work and employment conditions within European warehouses.



Kozminski University
Poland



Hasselt University
Belgium



University of Leeds
United Kingdom



Hertie School
Germany

My Journey: From HR practice to academic research

- ✓ PhD in Management and Quality Sciences, defended in 2021 at Jagiellonian University.
- ✓ Transitioned to Academia in 2023.
- ✓ Drawing on my HR experience, my current research in the Humans in Digital Logistics (HuLog) project bridges practice and theory by focusing on the human dimensions of digital logistics

Why did I transition to Academia?

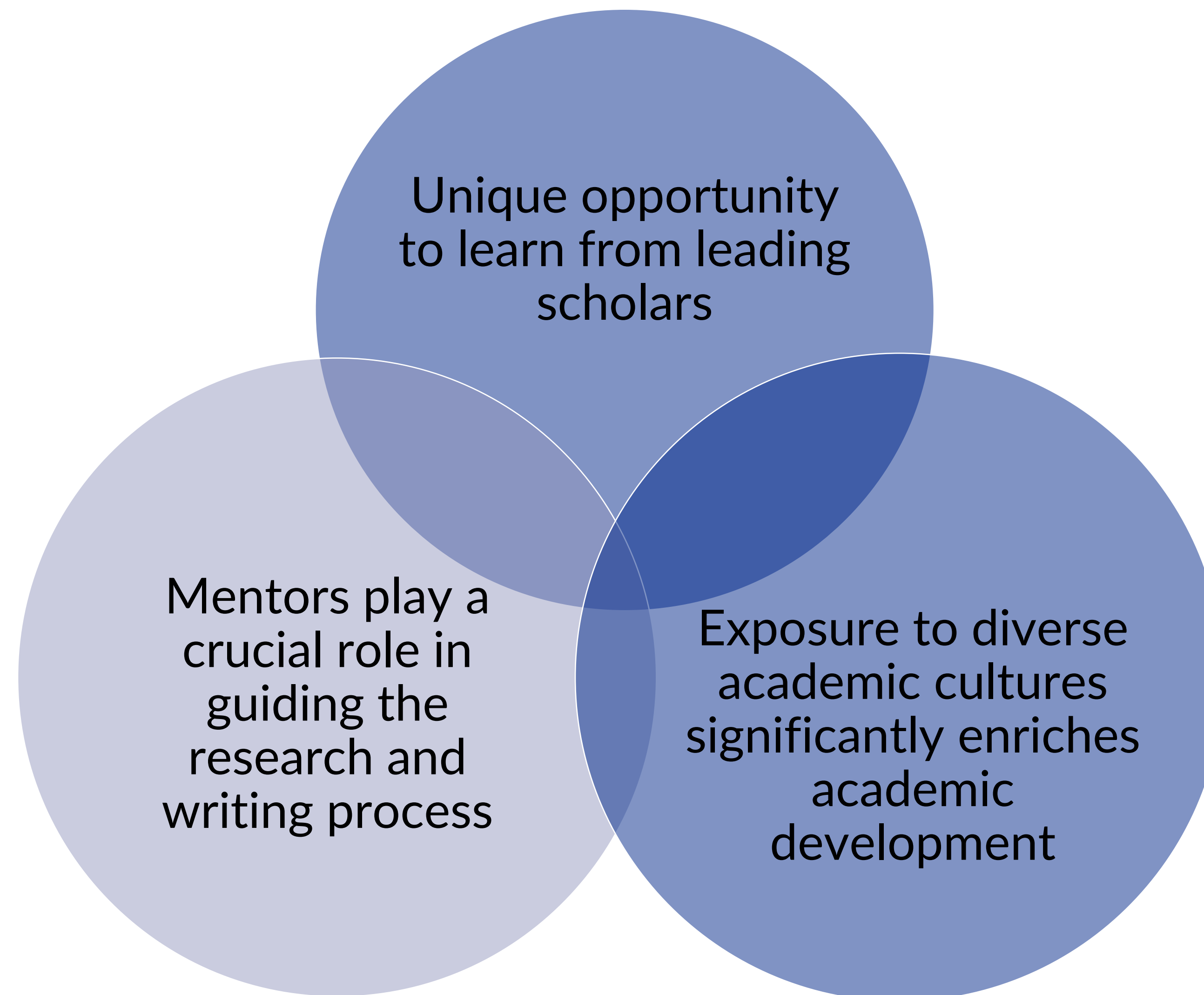
- Personal interests and a reflective attitude
- A desire to engage with socially relevant and complex questions
- A long-term perspective on career development



Initial challenges

- Adapting to new institutional expectations and academic norms
- Understanding stakeholder dynamics in different national and academic contexts
- Navigating identity tensions: When can I truly define myself as a researcher?
- Adjusting to diverse research paradigms
- Absence of immediate feedback or gratification

The role of networks, mentorship and collaborative spaces



Reflections on being a researcher engaged in an international project

Opportunities

- Freedom to explore meaningful and socially relevant questions
- Access to international networks, mentorship, and interdisciplinary collaboration
- Chance to shape emerging fields and contribute to ongoing societal debates

Acknowledging our position

- Recognizing the privilege of academic work
- Maintaining critical awareness of how our research topics, paradigms, and methods shape broader narratives
- Engaging ethically and respectfully with research participants, collaborators, and the wider public

Navigating opportunities and challenges: Early Career Researchers in transnational projects

Being an ECR in DigiPatch project

Theofilos Gkinopoulos, Assistant
Professor in Social Psychology,
Behavior in Crisis Lab, Jagiellonian
University, Poland

CONFERENCE
Europe
and
Mobilities
Challenges and Opportunities for
Socio-Economic Transformations



About me-Educational Background

Ph.D. in Social Psychology

University of Surrey, United Kingdom (2014–2018)

Doctoral research focused on identity entrepreneurship processes in political commemoration contexts.

B.Sc. in Psychology (First Class Honours: 8.82/10)

Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences, Athens, Greece (2007–2012)
jagiellonian.academia.edu/1conspiracytheories.eu/1

About me-Research expertise and role in DigiPatch project

Areas of Expertise

- **Conspiracy Beliefs and Misinformation**
Explores the psychological underpinnings of conspiracy theory endorsement, including factors like personal relative deprivation and social media usage.
- **Trust in Science and Institutional Communication**
Analyzes the dynamics of public trust in scientific information and the role of institutional messaging during crises.
- **Moral and Emotional Dimensions of Political Apologies**
Examines how political apologies affect public perception, trust, and emotional climate, especially following disasters.

Current Research and Participation in the DigiPatch Project

DigiPatch Project Involvement

Active member of the DigiPatch project, a collaborative initiative involving multiple European institutions aimed at understanding and addressing the spread of misinformation and its psychological impacts.

The challenge of thinking what I could bring to the international project

- Bridging Theory and Practice**

Translating identity and trust research into practical tools for combating misinformation.

- Adapting to Interdisciplinary Work**

Integrating psychological insights within tech- and policy-driven frameworks.

- From Understanding to Intervention**

Moving beyond analysis to co-designing effective counter-disinformation strategies.

- Reflecting on My Perspective**

Staying aware of how my background shapes the project's approach.

The challenge of thinking what I could take from the international project for my future career

- **Applied Research Skills**

Strengthening the ability to translate social psychology into real-world digital interventions.

- **Global Research Networks**

Building lasting professional relationships across European institutions.

- **Enhanced Public Impact Awareness**

Learning to shape research outputs for policy, media, and civic engagement.

- **Career Agility in Societal Challenges**

Positioning myself to contribute to urgent global issues like disinformation, trust erosion, and digital citizenship.

Navigating opportunities and challenges: Early Career Researchers in transnational projects

Introduction and co-moderator:

Luisa Nienhaus, CHANSE KEF, University College London

Co-moderator

Sara Perry, TEtrARCHS and CHANSE KEF, University College London

Panelists:

Monika Gołąb, DigiPatch, Jagiellonian University

Dorota Wójciak, DIGITISLAM, Jagiellonian University

Aneta Pieczka, HuLog, Kozminski University

Theofilos Gkinopoulos, DigiPatch, Jagiellonian University

CONFERENCE
Europe
and
Mobilities
Challenges and Opportunities for
Socio-Economic Transformations

Panel Discussion

- What does autonomy look like for you, and how are pathways shaped in your search for and identification of new research topics?
- In your view, what are the benefits and challenges of working in an international environment? What does being embedded in an international project mean to you?
- How has working on a transnational project changed your perspective on academia / industry?
- What are your experiences of mentors, universities and research funding agencies while shaping/influencing your career?

Questions for the audience

- What challenges and opportunities do you perceive in relation to employment opportunities both for current and future Early Career Researchers?
- Is there any advice you, the audience, has for Early Career Researchers?

Navigating opportunities and challenges: Early Career Researchers in transnational projects

Introduction and co-moderator:

Luisa Nienhaus, CHANSE KEF, University College London

Co-moderator

Sara Perry, TEtrARCHS and CHANSE KEF, University College London

Panelists:

Monika Gołąb, DigiPatch, Jagiellonian University

Dorota Wójciak, DIGITISLAM, Jagiellonian University

Aneta Pieczka, HuLog, Kozminski University

Theofilos Gkinopoulos, DigiPatch, Jagiellonian University

CONFERENCE
Europe
and
Mobilities
Challenges and Opportunities for
Socio-Economic Transformations