



“Higher education in the digital era” is the theme of the new call for the ESS Journal

The [Journal Higher Education and Society](#) (ESS in Spanish) of the UNESCO International Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (IESALC) opens its call for the second issue of Volume 35, which will include a thematic dossier entitled: **“Higher education in the digital era”**.

In recent decades, digital technologies have led to innovations in all areas of life: economic, social, political, among others. Society and the digital economy challenge higher education with the demand for new knowledge and the performance of new roles. The COVID-19 pandemic further drove these changes, given the great expansion of online activities. Higher education institutions (HEIs) quickly implemented digital services to sustain pedagogical processes and their regular functions, but both their structure and organization have been shaken and new institutional and pedagogical models began to be created to meet new diversities.

This dossier calls for a critical review of the state of higher education to face the multiple challenges of the digital era from a posthumanistic perspective.

We expect articles that cover research works on:

– **Higher education in the framework of the digital ecosystem: Contributions of HEIs towards the construction of an inclusive and sustainable society based on technological advances.** Some of the topics that may be included, among others, are: The role and functions of HEIs in the digital society and their contribution to promoting sustainable development, considering cultural diversity, gender equity and environmental sustainability; HEIs as a central actor in the innovation ecosystem; their contributions to knowledge production and innovation; the connections between digitization in higher education and engagement, dissemination and extension to the community.

– **The challenges of the university in the construction of new knowledge, abilities and skills.** Some possible themes are linked to innovations in institutional and pedagogical models for the development of these new capabilities; the merging of pedagogical transformation trends and technologies with the support of infrastructure; the promotion of STEM areas; new learning environments: innovations in management and academic development to address inclusion with more relevant knowledge in the digital society.

– **The transformation of the university to address new requirements:** Some questions are: What digital transformation processes at the higher education level have been developed and how can these be evaluated?, How does digital transformation contribute to the construction of a more democratic university?, What conditions in terms of accessibility, technological readiness and skills at all levels (teachers, students and management) are necessary for the digital transformation of HEIs?, Are we advancing in lifelong learning, in an environment of constant change?

– **Linking the challenges and opportunities of digitization and digital transformation to the promotion of equity in higher education.** Topics of interest include those focusing on gender and the LGBTQIA+ community, the use of e-learning and other digital solutions to address geographic disparities (rural/urban), and studies that consider the intersectionalities of marginalized groups in relation to technology and equity in higher education.

Studies, systematization of experiences, trends and state of the art on the theme are also expected.

Papers may refer to the regional, sub-regional or national level. The dossier will be organized by Pedro Prieto (Universidad del Valle, Colombia); Marisa Álvarez (Universidad de Buenos Aires and Universidad Nacional de Tres de Febrero, Argentina) and Emma Sabzalieva (UNESCO IESALC) as Guest Editors.

We will also continue to receive for the General Section -as in every edition of the journal- articles with studies and research related to higher education



in the region or in the countries that make up the region or in their university institutions.

The deadline for submission of articles for this issue (General Section and Dossier) is **June 30, 2023**.

All articles will be received through the [platform of the Journal Higher Education and Society \(ESS\)](#) where the standards and presentation formats for submission are available. Likewise, all articles received will be subjected to an external double anonymous peer review.

For more information write to ess-iesalc@unesco.org

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The [ESS Journal](#), whose General Editor is Norberto Fernández Lamarra (Universidad Nacional de Tres de Febrero, Argentina), is a periodical journal published by the UNESCO International Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNESCO IESALC) and is the main space for dissemination and approach to scientific research in Universities and Higher Education Institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean and other regions. ESS is mainly oriented to the dissemination of research papers and theoretical studies on the field of higher education and its thematic trends. It is a biannual journal, refereed and indexed, and disseminates internationally the most relevant advances in research and innovation in the field of higher education.