



Research for a new course: Gender, Sustainability and Digital Futures of Work

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1. Tasks

Conduct research on decolonial feminist perspectives on digitalisation of work and sustainability, to contribute to development of new optional course “Gender and Digital Futures of Work” at the Gender Department

Task	Output
A Survey existing courses that engage with sustainability and digital futures of work	Brief report with an overview of courses, and any reading lists
B Review decolonial feminist perspectives on sustainability and digital futures of work	Annotated bibliography

<p>Text 3: Clifton, J., Glasmeier, A., & Gray, M. (2020). When machines think for us: The consequences for work and place. <i>Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society</i>, 13(1), 3–23.</p> <p>This text explores AI as both a utopian and dystopian discourses in terms of potential impacts on work, comparing the efficiency and automation effects. The authors seek to draw on actual empirical evidence on AI and avoid overhyped corporate and consultancy reporting on AI and its overestimated employment projections, quality of labour. Gender and racial inequalities. Less skilled occupations and routinisation are more amenable to sector roles, while care sector femininity also less dominant in AI-supportive job negative and positive consequences of Sustainability: Limited.</p> <p>Digital: AI exclusively.</p> <p>Futures of work: AI's impact is explored displacement.</p> <p>Feminist: Gender is explored as an undecolonial: Limited.</p> <p>Text 4: Ravi, U., Castel-Brando, R., 'digital economy, Gender & Develop</p> <p>This text is an introduction to a special the digital economy. Digitalisation is dig gains from digitalisation are unequal to papers on the impact of new technology worker organisation, and the role of the how feminists have explored digital fut Sustainability: Minimal.</p> <p>Digital: Digitalisation defined as compr infrastructure, digital literacy and so on platform work, mobile phones, and so</p> <p>Futures of work: All papers in the issue 1 affected by digitalisation, for example 1 platform work, worker protests/collect</p> <p>Feminist: The digital divide is explored religion, culture, and caste.</p> <p>Decolonial: In some of the texts, digital that reproduces the coloniality fram</p>	<p>Section 2: Detailed findings</p> <p>Digital futures of work</p> <p>Course 1: Macro Perspectives on Digital Economy, King's College London, UK</p> <p>This Masters module in the Department of Digital Humanities examines the digital economy at a macro level. Its theoretical bases include cognitive capitalism and platform capitalism, and it explores debates around addition, surveillance capitalism, and data colonialism.</p> <p>Sustainability: Limited.</p> <p>Digital: Digital technologies.</p> <p>Futures of work: Part 2 of the course focuses on work and class, including 'Digital Labour' and 'The Political Economy of Automation'.</p> <p>Feminist/decolonial: Two interesting topics include 'Digital colonialism', and 'Digital capitalism'. The handbook below includes interesting gender and decolonial papers, but without a sustainability perspective.</p> <p>The 2020/21 course handbook includes a reading list.</p> <p>Course 2: The Sharing Economy and Its Discontents, King's College London, UK</p> <p>This Masters module in the Department of Digital Humanities investigates the sharing economy and its philosophical, political and historical foundations. Topics include relationships between value, labour and consumer power, and whether the sharing economy can challenge power structures.</p> <p>Sustainability: Limited.</p> <p>Digital: Digital technologies underpinning sharing economy, such as ICT.</p> <p>Futures of work: Sharing economy as including gig economy, on-demand economy and so on.</p> <p>Feminist/decolonial: Discussion of power structures and inequalities in relation to the sharing economy.</p> <p>Course 3: The Future of Work, The University of Edinburgh, UK</p> <p>This undergraduate course from 2019/20 in the Business School explored how technology has changed how work is defined, performed and organised, and the impact of this transition. The course focused on how workers and employees respond to technological changes including the social and ethical transformations associated with the future of work, beyond how technology has shaped business needs.</p> <p>Sustainability: Limited.</p> <p>Digital: Technology, including digital economy.</p> <p>Futures of work: Topics include 'The Meaning of Work', 'A History of Work and Technology', 'Digital Economy and Virtualisation', 'Gig Economy and Gamification', 'Agile Economy and</p>
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2. Process

Initial meeting with Dr Islam

Check-in with Dr Islam

Check-in with Dr Islam

Develop approach and proposed format of outputs

Undertake initial research, recording findings in spreadsheet

Refine search strategy, finalise research

Write reports

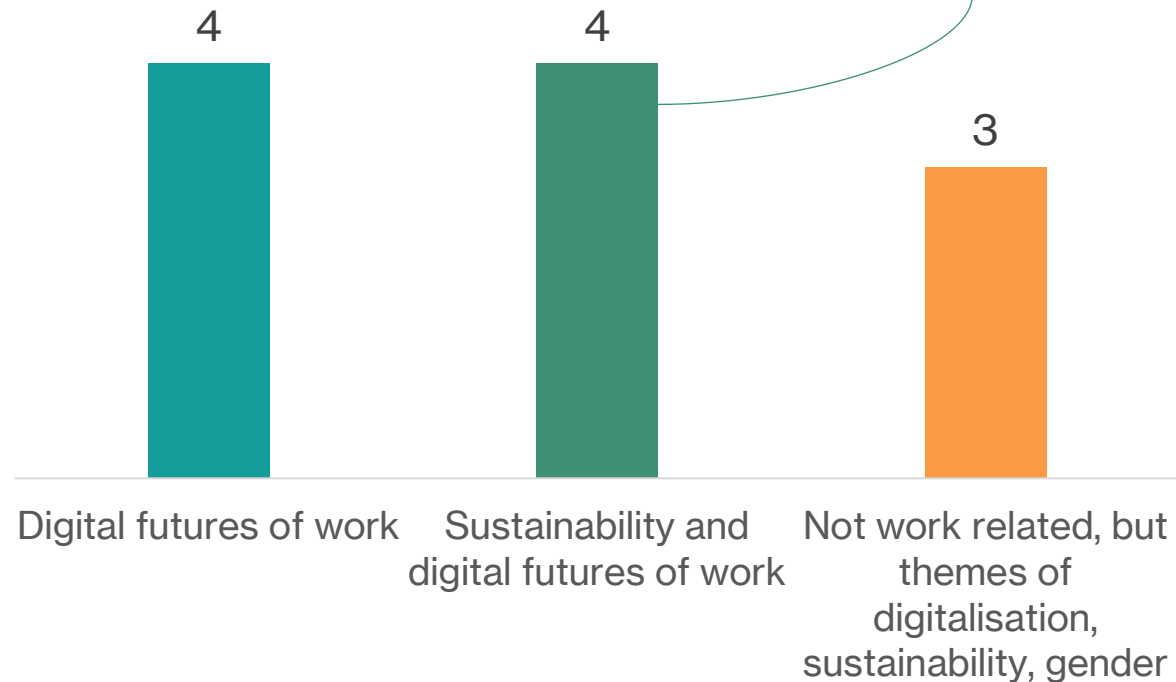
#	Search no.	Name	Course provider	Type	Discipline	Location	Year	Brief summary	Sustainability focus	Digital focus	Digital work focus	Gender or intersectional focus	Reading list availability	Source link	Reading list link (if available)
1	1	Digital Sustainability Learning Path	UCL System Staff College	Online short course/module (4 modules, each 3-4hrs)	No specified one discipline	Global	2025	Short course for UCL staff and relevant partners on using digital technologies to support sustainability efforts	Sustainable development, climate action, biodiversity	Digital technology, digital transformation	Limited	NA	NA	https://www.ucl.ac.uk/courses/digital-learning-path	
2	2	Establishing Sustainable Digital Transformation	Harvard	Summer school/online course for Masters and Bachelors students	Sustainability/Arts	US	2025	Digitalisation as an accelerator of environmental risks but also enabler of environmental protection. Mostly focus on sustainability challenges of digital technologies. "Course topics include the evolution of digital carbon footprints, the promise of clean AI, the need for energy aware computing, the unsustainability of digital events (for example, metaverse), the deepening of the digital divide, and the rising role of climate change digitalisation."	Climate change, environmental waste and protection	Digital technologies of Fourth Industrial Revolution including AI	Digitalisation moved as disrupting work/business, but not a key component of course topics	Not explicit, but not a key component of course topics	NA	https://www.harvard.edu/courses	https://blogs.harvard.edu
3	3	Sustainable Digitalisation	KTH Royal Institute of Technology	Two-year Master's program	Engineering/IT	Sweden	2025	Technical knowledge development and leadership/professional skills related to sustainable use of digital technologies	Climate change, ecological crisis	Digital technologies including IT systems, media, ICT etc	Limited. Some courses look at just climate, and transition between economic growth and ecological sustainability	Do not search for it given low relevance	https://www.kth.se/en/education/master/sustainable-digitalisation		
4	4	Digitalisation for Sustainable Digital Innovation	University of Stavanger	Masters course	Social Sciences	Norway	2025-26	Sustainability of different digitalisation approaches, including environmental but also social sustainability. Conceptual and thematic focuses. Themes include transportation, communication, food and water provision.	Unclear	Unclear	Limited	Unclear but seems limited	Y	https://www.uhi.no/en/courses/MEI23_1	
5	5	Innovation	Coursera	Online course				Not investigated	appears out of scope					https://www.coursera.org/learn/sustainable-innovation	
6	6	Designing Sustainable Digital Futures	King's College London	Masters course	Arts, humanities, media		2025	Moving beyond disciplinary discourses about the negative impacts of modern digitality, the focus is on potential for a sustainable, ethical and equitable digital future, across a range of industries like design, education, policymaking and activism.	Ecological sustainability e.g. in companion with digital technologies and needs e.g. AI and algorithms	Contemporary digital technologies and media e.g. AI and algorithms	Limited	Some references to decarbonity, inequality, privacy	N	https://www.kcl.ac.uk/courses/designing-sustainable-digital-futures	
7	7	Sustainability and Digitalisation						Knowledge and skills to be a 'digital native' and be able to implement ESG/sustainability strategies	Broad environmental sustainability, ESG not also social and						

#	no.	Source type	Author/s	Title	Year	of research	Journal/Discipline	Brief summary	Feminist focus	Decolonial focus	Sustainability focus	Digital focus	Future of work focus	Source link
1		Journal article	Enda-Radh, Doreen, Caroline, and Nancy Smith	Feminist perspectives on the future of work	2020	Canada	Environment and Planning Economy and Space	Discussion of conference papers on feminist economic geography. Most conceptualised using intersectional theory, what course work and research people work	Intersectional feminist perspective on the future of work	Intersectional feminist perspective on the future of work	Intersectional feminist perspective on the future of work	Intersectional feminist perspective on the future of work	Intersectional feminist perspective on the future of work	https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09697540.2020.1811111
2		Journal article	Susan Paulson	Model-making technologies, gender, race and gender	2024	USA	Environmental values	Intersection of the supposed independence of technology to be a solution to environmental problems, which has led to environmental destruction and gendered, racial, class inequalities. Examination of these processes in environmental and digital work	Intersectional feminist perspective on the future of work	Intersectional feminist perspective on the future of work	Intersectional feminist perspective on the future of work	Intersectional feminist perspective on the future of work	Intersectional feminist perspective on the future of work	https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09697540.2024.2111111
3		Short paper	Sabina, Renshaw, Susan, and Susan	How can affective digital technologies be used to support sustainability?	2024	Europe	NA	Intersection of the supposed independence of technology to be a solution to environmental problems, which has led to environmental destruction and gendered, racial, class inequalities. Examination of these processes in environmental and digital work	Intersectional feminist perspective on the future of work	Intersectional feminist perspective on the future of work	Intersectional feminist perspective on the future of work	Intersectional feminist perspective on the future of work	Intersectional feminist perspective on the future of work	https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09697540.2024.2111111
4		Journal article	Patricia Carole Glick	Intersectional feminist perspective on the future of work	2024		Intersectional feminist perspective on the future of work	Intersectional feminist perspective on the future of work	Intersectional feminist perspective on the future of work	Intersectional feminist perspective on the future of work	Intersectional feminist perspective on the future of work	Intersectional feminist perspective on the future of work	Intersectional feminist perspective on the future of work	https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09697540.2024.2111111
5		Journal article	Julie M. V. M. M.	Feminist perspectives on the future of work	2020	UK	Intersectional feminist perspective on the future of work	Intersectional feminist perspective on the future of work	Intersectional feminist perspective on the future of work	Intersectional feminist perspective on the future of work	Intersectional feminist perspective on the future of work	Intersectional feminist perspective on the future of work	Intersectional feminist perspective on the future of work	https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09697540.2020.1811111
6		Journal article	Uma, Ruth, and Ruth	Intersectional feminist perspective on the future of work	2022	UK	Intersectional feminist perspective on the future of work	Intersectional feminist perspective on the future of work	Intersectional feminist perspective on the future of work	Intersectional feminist perspective on the future of work	Intersectional feminist perspective on the future of work	Intersectional feminist perspective on the future of work	Intersectional feminist perspective on the future of work	https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09697540.2022.2111111

3. Outcomes – Task A: Review of courses

Survey existing courses that engage with sustainability and digital futures of work

11 relevant courses identified, with varying relevance of themes



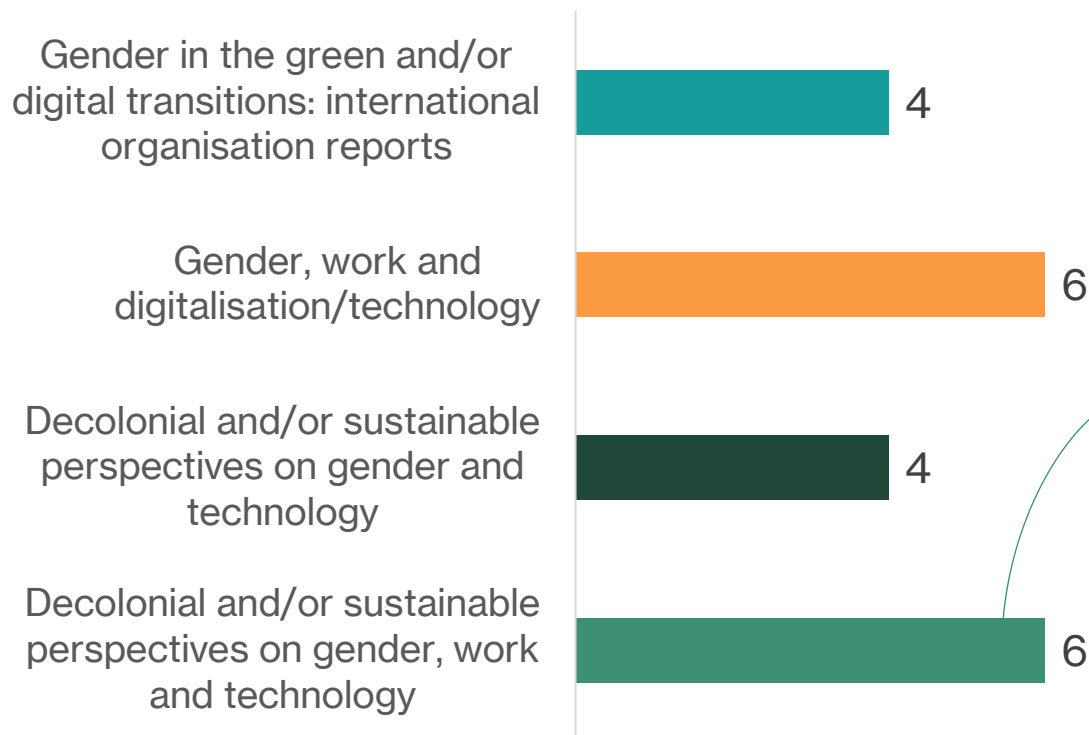
Example: Work in the Digital Era, University of Warwick, UK

- Explores how digital and social technologies are shaping the definition, content and organisation of work and workplaces
- Topics include 'New work practices in response to environmental and sustainability challenges (e.g. SDG 8)', and 'Utilising technologies in sustainable and responsible employing organisations.'

3. Outcomes – Task B: Annotated bibliography

Review decolonial feminist perspectives on sustainability and digital futures of work

20 key sources identified, with varying relevance of themes



Example: Ramirez, J., Vélez-Zapata, C. P., & Maher, R. (2023). Green colonialism and decolonial feminism: A study of Wayúu women's resistance in La Guajira. Human Relations, 77(7).

- Case study of Wayúu women's resistance to green energy investment in La Guajira, Colombia
- Explores how technological resources are used to justify green energy investment that exploits Indigenous lands and peoples (a new form of 'green' colonialism).
- Argues that the green and digital energy transition is rationalised by the modernity and rationality of colonial exploitation
- Outlines the complex dynamics of gender-based oppression and the coloniality of power, as the Wayúu women are excluded from green energy consultations by men from their communities

4. Reflections

- Engaging research content, similar but distinct to content in my courses
 - Interesting observation – difficulty finding content on sustainability that linked to other themes
- Opportunity to discuss themes and collaborate with Dr Islam
- Gained insight into how courses are put together
- Freedom/initiative to develop process, approach, and format