

## Seminar

# Digital Transformation and Educational Inequalities

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27 May 2026, h. 10:00-12:00

Room 3D233 | Campus Luigi Einaudi | University of Turin  
Lungo Dora Siena, 100 - Turin

### Abstract

This seminar examines the ongoing digital transformation of education and its broader social implications. It explores the evolution from early forms of platform-based education—such as Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)—to the more recent emergence of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) in formal education and lifelong learning contexts. By situating these developments within a sociological framework, the seminar aims to critically assess how digital technologies reshape access to learning opportunities, the organization of knowledge, and the distribution of educational resources.

Particular attention will be devoted to the ways in which digital transformation both reproduces longstanding social inequalities and generates new forms of stratification. While digital platforms have often been associated with increased accessibility and democratization of education, empirical evidence suggests that participation and outcomes remain strongly patterned along socio-economic, institutional, and geographical lines. At the same time, the integration of AI-based tools introduces emerging dimensions of social risk, including issues related to algorithmic bias, differential digital competencies, and the reconfiguration of pedagogical practices.

Drawing on recent comparative and theoretical contributions, the seminar will discuss the role of platform education in shaping a “better-skilled” workforce, while questioning for whom these opportunities are effectively available. Overall, the session seeks to provide participants with conceptual tools to analyze the interplay between technological innovation and educational inequality in contemporary societies.

### Background readings

Goglio, V. (2022). *The Diffusion and Social Implications of MOOCs: A Comparative Study of the USA and Europe* (1a ed.). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003009757>

Goglio, V. (2025). A better-skilled workforce for the digital transformation: What role for platform education. In V. Goglio & C. Biancalana (Eds), *Mapping the Evolution of Platform Society* (pp. 27–46). Emerald Publishing Limited.