

Bachelor Thesis / Master Thesis

The Digital Workplace and the Future of Work

Emerging technologies shape organizations' existence and business models, which also impacts their structure, processes, culture, the collaboration between employees, and interaction with customers. Thereby, digital transformation has a decisive influence on the workplace and the future of work, enabling great potential from increased productivity, worldwide collaboration and sharing, mobile and flexible work (anywhere, anytime, any device) or business apps. At the same time, striving towards the vision of a smart workplace, organizations face several challenges often requiring an entire organizational transformation.

Generally speaking, the aim of this thesis is to shed light on different perspectives for the digital workplace and the future of work. Thereby, this thesis can address different research opportunities to be agreed on in an initial appointment with the supervisor. Topics may include but are not limited to:

- Artificial intelligence in integrated human-machine-teams (e.g. interaction forms)
- The use of emerging technologies for collaboration (e.g. augmented and virtual reality)
- The potential of virtual assistants in a professional environment (e.g. x.ai)
- The employer-employee-relationship (e.g. digital job requirements and workplace expectations)
- Cultural workforce divide (e.g. technology acceptance and ability/willingness to change)

Students are invited to propose their own topics within our research focus. While the specific research method should be discussed after topic identification, we generally welcome conceptual work as well as literature reviews and empirical research (expert interviews, surveys, design science research).

Recommended Literature:

- Dery, K., Sebastian, I. M. and van der Meulen, N. (2017) The Digital Workplace is Key to Digital Innovation, MIS Quarterly Executive, 16, 2, 135-152.
- Köffer, S. (2015). Designing the digital workplace of the future – what scholars recommend to practitioners. In: Proceedings of the International Conference on Information Systems (ICIS 2015), Fort Worth, USA.
- Köffer, S. and Urbach, N. (2018) Die Digitalisierung der Wissensarbeit - Unternehmen im Spagat zwischen Innovation und Kontrolle, in: Arbeit 4.0 - Digitalisierung, IT und Arbeit, J. Hofmann (ed.), Springer, Heidelberg: 17-27.
- Urbach, N. and Ahlemann, F. (2018) Der Wissensarbeitsplatz der Zukunft: Trends, Herausforderungen und Handlungsempfehlungen, in: Arbeit 4.0 - Digitalisierung, IT und Arbeit, J. Hofmann (ed.), Springer, Heidelberg: 79-93.

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