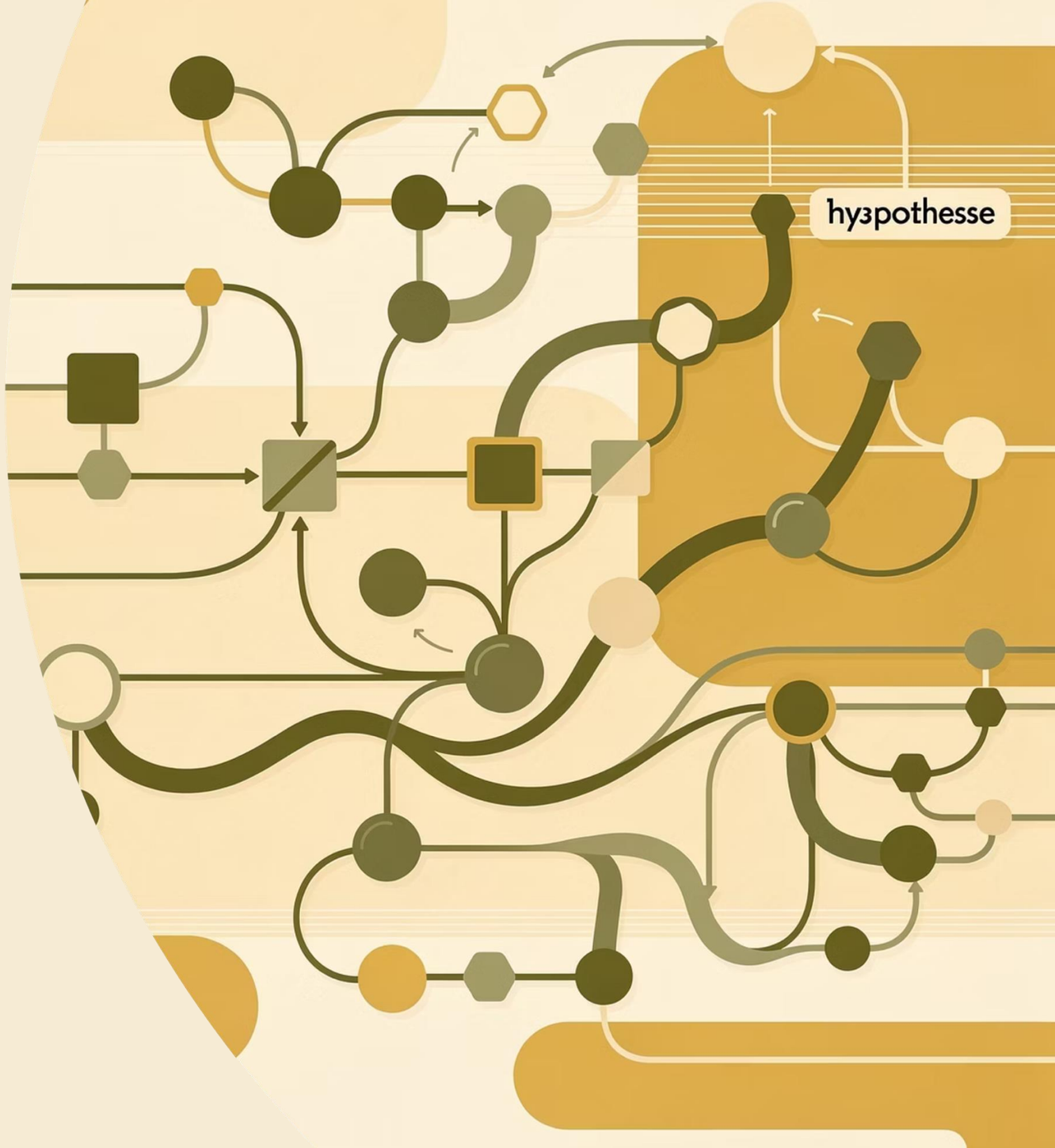
Ph.D. Program in “Politics, Society, and Technology” (PST)
TEACHING ACTIVITIES - CYCLE XLI – a.a. 2025-2026

1. Research Methodology Course

Building Your Research Foundation

This course aims to provide doctoral students with a solid methodological foundation for correctly setting up their research projects, with particular attention to research design and disciplinary, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research methodologies. The course consists of theoretical and practical classes, with opportunities for discussion and exercises.



1.1. How to Structure Doctoral Research

01

The doctoral program: stages and objectives

Benedetta Giovanola (UniMC)

January 14, 15:00-16:00 | 1 hour

02

Defining the research problem and the theoretical framework

Formulating research questions and hypotheses

Kees van Kersbergen (Aarhus University, Denmark)

January 15, 2026, 9:00-12:00 | 3 hours | Online - Teams

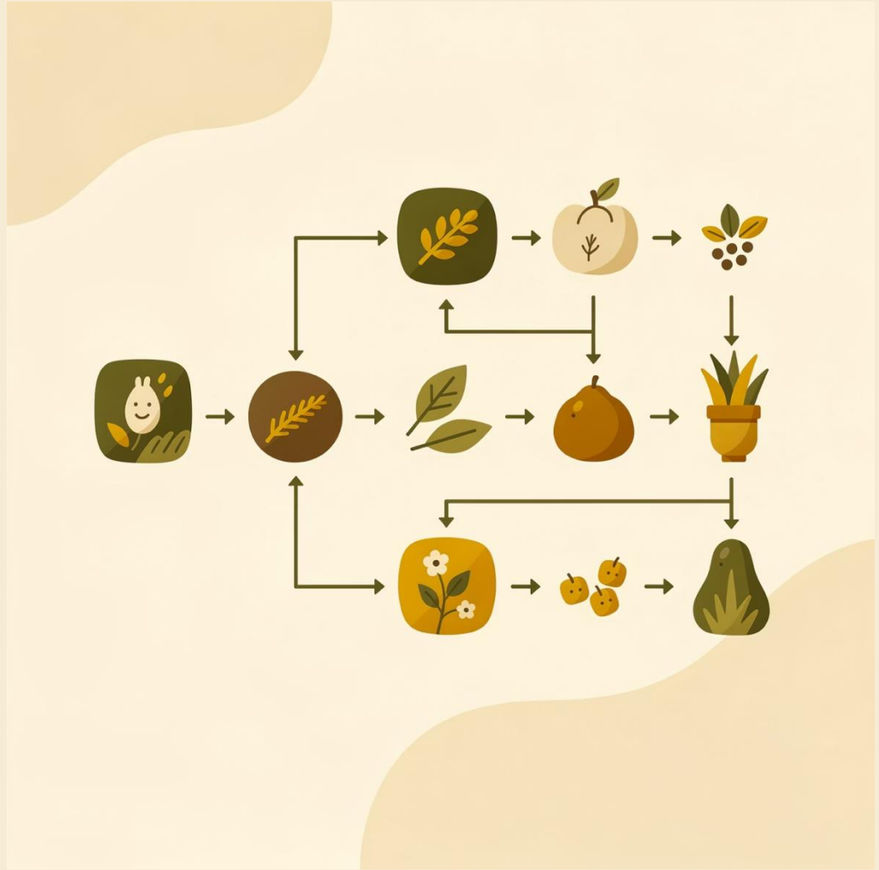
1.2. Methodology of Scientific Research in SSH

Forms of Logical Inference

Methodological Approaches to Social sciences

Luca Lanzalaco (UniMC)

February 3, 2026, 11:00-13:00 | 2 hours



1.3. Disciplinary Research Methodologies

A comprehensive exploration of diverse research approaches in the social sciences and humanities.

1

Oral History Reloaded: Pluralising the Canon Beyond Eurocentrism

Valentina Fusari (University of Turin)

February 10, 2026, 15:00-17:00 | 2 hours

2

Mixedness as a Lens: Expanding Interpretive Horizons Amid Methodological Challenges

Valentina Fusari (University of Turin)

February 10, 2026, 17:00-19:00 | 2 hours

3

Qualitative and quantitative research in social sciences

An approach to qualitative content analysis

Selena Grimaldi (UniMC)

February 12, 2026, 9:00-13:00 | 4 hours

1.3. Disciplinary Research Methodologies (continued)

1

Designing and conducting in-depth interviews

Valeria Quaglia (University of Bologna)

February 17, 2026, 15:00-18:00 | 3 hours | Online - Teams

2

Rethinking Research: Gender, Intersectionality and Transdisciplinary Dialogues

Carlotta Barra (University of Modena-Reggio Emilia)

Nicolò M. Ingarra (UniMC)

February 20, 2026, 14:00-16:00 | 2 hours

3

Approaching the literature: An introduction to scoping and systematic reviews

Alessia Bertolazzi (UniMC)

March 4, 2026, 14:00-16:00 | 2 hours

4

Social networks: models for mechanism-based research

Federico Bianchi (University of Milan Statale)

March 25, 2026, 15:00-18:00 | 3 hours

1.4. Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Research Methodologies

Interdisciplinary Research Methodologies

Transdisciplinary Research Methodologies

How to Apply Interdisciplinarity and Transdisciplinarity in Research

Kees van Kersbergen (Aarhus University, Denmark)

March 26, 2026, 10:00-12:00 | 2 hours | Online - Teams

2. Thematic Courses and Workshops

Expert-Led Deep Dives

Courses and workshops held by members of the teaching staff and prestigious external experts at national and international level, dedicated to the discussion and in-depth analysis of topics related to the two main research areas of the doctoral programme, namely: 'Technology, transformations in communication and media' and 'Technology, transformations in society and the global order'. The topics are defined taking into account the areas of interest addressed in the doctoral students' research projects.

AI and Democracy

Daniel Innerarity (EUI, Florence)

Roberta Sala (University Vite-Salute san Raffaele, Milan)

Federica Liveriero (University of Pavia)

February 4, 2026, 15:00-18:00 | 3 hours

AI Regulation: the EU approach

Fulvio Costantino (UniMC)

March 11, 2026, 14:00-16:00 | 2 hours

AI Ethics and Governance (focus on EU-US)

Marianna Ganapini (University of North Carolina, US)

March 11, 2026, 16:00-18:00 | 2 hours | On line - Teams

Technology, Politics, and the Global Order

Rakhmat Hidayat (University of Jakarta, Indonesia)

April 9, 2026, 14:00-17:00 | 3 hours

Platform Governance and Misinformation

David Nelken (King's College, UK)

April 16, 2026 (afternoon) | 2 hours

International relations and technological innovation (focus on EU-China)

Silvia Menegazzi (LUISS)

April 23, 2026 | 3 hours

Generative Knowledge

AI and media ecology

Paolo Granata (University of Toronto, Canada)

April 10, 2026 | 2 hours

Political Leadership

Democracy, political leadership and social media

Thomas Poguntke (HHU-Düsseldorf, Germany)

May 5-8, 2026 | 4 hours

Gender Violence

Gender violence and patriarchal societies

Natascia Mattucci (UniMC), Valeria Stabile (Uni Bo), Julia Ponzio (Uni Ba)

June 5, 2026 | 2/3 hours

3. Cross-disciplinary Course on Artificial Intelligence

AI for Academic Research

This course aims to provide doctoral students with fundamental knowledge and skills in the field of Artificial Intelligence applied to academic and scientific research. The main objective is to introduce participants to the essential tools and techniques of Machine Learning and Generative AI, promoting understanding of the potential for innovation and technology transfer, as well as the social impact of new technologies.

3.1. Fundamentals of AI for Research

Basic Concepts of Machine Learning

Supervised, unsupervised and semi-supervised learning

Emanuele Frontoni (UniMC)

A 1.1 Polo Pantaleoni | January 21, 2026, 9:00-12:00 | 3 hours

Predictive Models and Performance Evaluation Techniques

Regression, classification, clustering

Introduction to Data Analysis with Python

Main libraries (pandas, numpy, scikit-learn)

Luca Romeo (UniMC)

A 1.1 Polo Pantaleoni | January 28, 2026, 9:00-12:00 | 3 hours

Practical Applications of Machine Learning

Interdisciplinary case studies

3.2. Basics of Generative AI for Research

Session 1

Introduction to Generative AI Models

- Generative neural networks
- GPT models and stable diffusion

Prompt Engineering Techniques

- Optimise the results of generative models

Paolo Sernani (UniMC)

A 1.1 Polo Pantaleoni

February 4, 2026, 9:00-12:00 | 3 hours

Session 2

Applications of Generative AI in Scientific Production and Dissemination

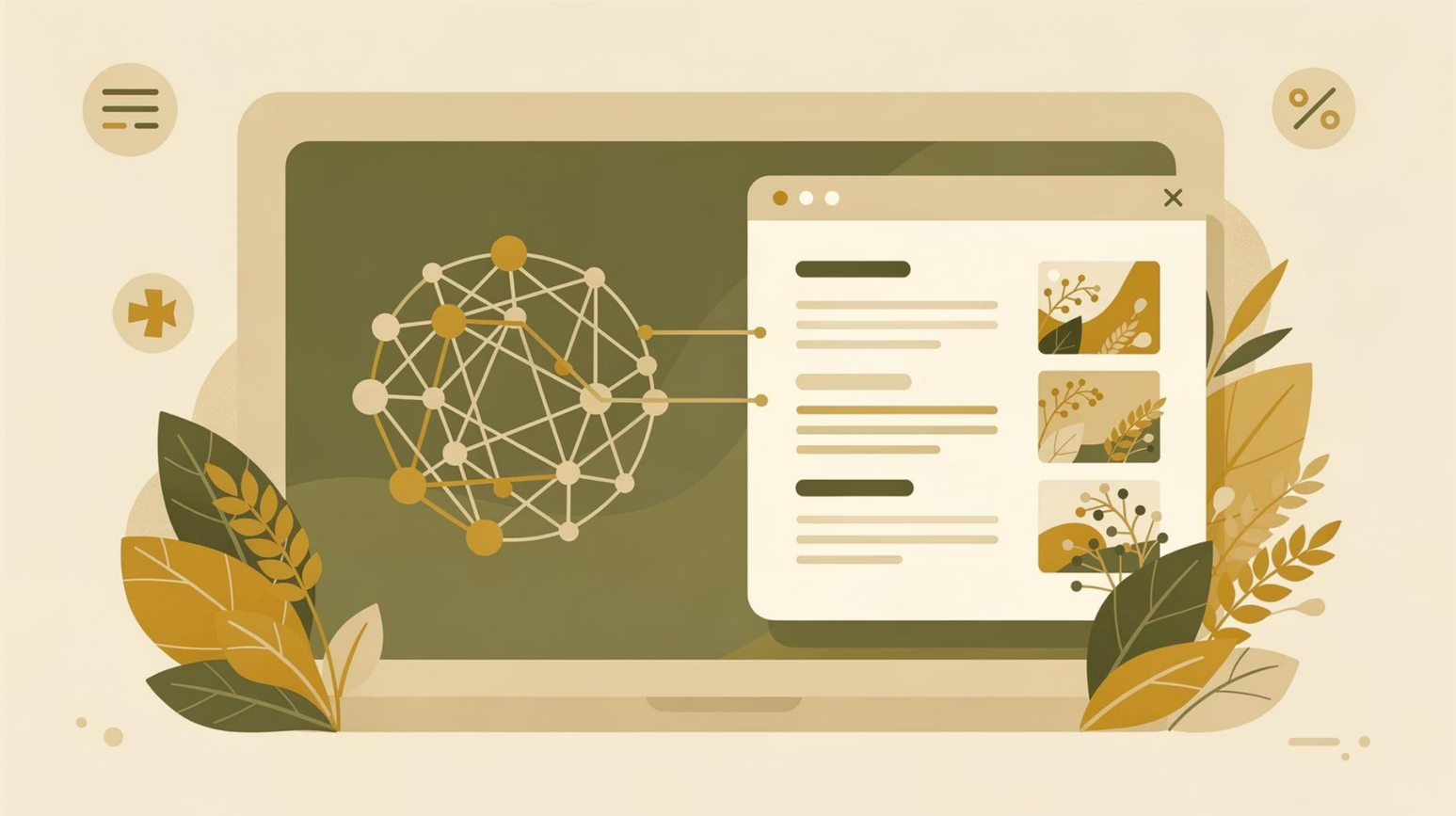
- Automatic text synthesis
- Academic writing support
- Generation of innovative content for research projects

Technology Transfer and Social Impact

- Opportunitie and challenges of generative AI in society and academia

Marina Paolanti (UniMC)

A 1.1 Polo Pantaleoni
February 11, 2026, 9:00-12:00 | 3 hours



3.3. AI and SSH Research: Applications

Quantitative Text Analysis in SSH Research

Joshua Cova (Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies, Germany)

April 9, 2026, 10:00-13:00 | 3 hours

This specialized session focuses on applying artificial intelligence techniques to social sciences and humanities research, with particular emphasis on analyzing textual data using quantitative methods.

Final Assessment Requirements

Research Methodology Course

The final assessment will consist of a written report

Thematic Courses and Workshops

The final assessment will consist of a written report

AI Course

The final assessment will consist of a written report, integrating the adoption of AI and Generative AI solutions in support of the core research activities of the doctoral pathway. Guidelines for the structure and content of the report will be provided during class.

The reports will be submitted at the end of the courses

Program Highlights - CYCLE XLI – a.a. 2025-2026

60+

Total Hours

Comprehensive training
across three core components

25+

International Experts

Prestigious lecturers from leading scholars
and universities worldwide

2

Research Areas

Technology, transformations in
communication and media
Technology, transformations in society and
the global order

Delivery Formats

- In-person classroom sessions
- Online sessions via Teams
- Hybrid learning opportunities
- Theoretical and practical classes
- Discussion and exercise sessions

Key Locations

- SPOCRI Department and Polo Pantaleoni
- Online - Teams platform
- Various UniMC facilities
- International partner institutions