

Editorial

A multidisciplinary perspective on social media research: Journal of Social Media Research (JSOMER)

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Social media has a rapidly widening impact on individuals' and societies' lives. With its psychological, cultural, economic, and technological dimensions, social media has become a dynamic force that both shapes individuals' daily lives and paves the way for social transformations on a global scale. In this context, the need for scientific studies that address social media from an interdisciplinary perspective is essential and needs attention. Therefore, the number and quality of scientific works have increased drastically in recent decades. This drastic change also necessitates additional means or channels, including periodicals, to publish/share newly produced scientific knowledge/information. Based on this need, we are excited to launch the Journal of Social Media Research (JSOMER) to respond to the need to understand social media thoroughly and diversely. Now, the first issue of the JSOMER is published. Coming to existence after prolonged exhaustive efforts, JSOMER is expected to contribute as much as possible to fill the need mentioned above. It is also likely that the papers published in JSOMER will raise issues related to social media in various field areas, open up discussions about those issues, and suggest different methods of handling or solving the related problems. Further, we hope that the studies published in JSOMER will provide the basis for timely discussions on the various areas of social media research and give direction to innovative research and practices.

JSOMER was established to support inclusive, innovative, and critical approaches to social media research. JSOMER is an interdisciplinary journal with a broad scope that includes *social sciences, humanities, arts, health, medicine, psychiatry, psychology, computational social sciences, artificial intelligence, and natural sciences*, focusing on or related to social media. JSOMER will publish current and innovative research articles, reviews, and argumentative essays focusing on social media. Articles published in JSOMER are expected to raise

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issues related to social media in various fields, open discussions about these issues, and propose different methods to address these issues or solve related problems. It is also hoped that the papers published in JSOMER will provide a basis for current debates on various areas of social media and guide innovative research and practice. JSOMER welcomes a variety of theoretical paradigms and methodologies and considers this a scientific enrichment. JSOMER aims to contribute to scientific accumulation by including original and qualified studies written by academic standards, copyrights, and ethical rules and to be among the first reference sources for those doing research in the field of social media.

Our first issue has five research articles. “Problematic smartphone use, depression symptoms, and fear of missing out: Can reasons for smartphone use mediate the relationship? A longitudinal approach” is contributed by a qualified research team from Germany (Jan Stirnberg, Jürgen Margraf, Lena-Marie Precht, and Julia Brailovskaia). In their longitudinal study, the authors investigated whether reasons for smartphone use, such as “seeking positive emotions” and “avoiding negative emotions,” can mediate the relationship between symptoms of depression, fear of missing out (FOMO), and problematic smartphone use (PSU). The results of the study conducted with German participants with an average age of 28.88 years revealed that the relationship between psychopathological phenomena (depression symptoms, FOMO) and PSU might depend on the reasons for smartphone use (“seeking positive emotions,” “avoiding negative emotions”). This longitudinal study emphasizes the importance of the underlying reasons for smartphone use. The information obtained in the research supports the understanding of the mechanisms that may contribute to the development of PSU.

Association between problematic social media use and physical activity: the mediating roles of nomophobia and the tendency to avoid physical activity” by Dr. Huang and colleagues (Femke Geusens, Hsing-Fen Tu, Xavier C. C. Fung, Chao-Ying Chen). The authors examined nomophobia and physical activity avoidance as underlying factors potentially explaining the association between problematic social media use (PSMU) and physical activity among Taiwanese young adults. The results indicated that PSMU may be associated with lower physical activity through nomophobia and physical activity avoidance. It can be said that this study has the potential to draw attention to the adverse effects of PSMU on physical health.

The article “Exploration of the Association between Social Media Addiction, self-esteem, self-compassion, and Loneliness” by Dr. Eirini Marina Mitropoulou was conducted with 426 Greek adults. The study revealed a positive relationship between loneliness and social media use. It noted that as self-compassion increases, social media use decreases. In the fourth article of our first issue, Ali Gökalp and his colleagues adapted the social media fatigue scale to Turkish culture with Turkish pre-service teachers ($M_{age}=21.75$). In line with the validity studies of the Turkish version of the scale, they concluded that the original structure was confirmed in Turkish culture. The three-factor structure of the Turkish version of the social media fatigue scale has satisfactory psychometric properties in both internal and external validity. Social media fatigue has become a phenomenon that attracts more attention every day. This phenomenon, which emerged as an indirect result of excessive and intensive use of social media, indicates that users cannot give up social media very quickly despite experiencing social media fatigue.

The last article of our first issue is “Pathways to Social Media Addiction: Examining its Prevalence and Predictive Factors among Ghanaian Youths” by Dr. Ahorsu. In this study, Dr. Ahorsu examined the prevalence of social media addiction, pathways to social media addiction, and predictive factors among Ghanaian youth. He shed light on the associations of social media addiction with variables such as gaming disorder, internet gaming disorder, smartphone app-based addiction, nomophobia, stress, anxiety, and depression. The results revealed prevalence rates of social media addiction (12.3%), gaming disorder (3.7%), internet gaming disorder (3.1%), smartphone app-based addiction (29.1%), nomophobia (49.6%), stress (26%), anxiety (62.1%) and depression (49%) among Ghanaian youth. Smartphone app-based addiction was found to have direct effects on social media addiction and indirect effects on gaming disorder and nomophobia. In addition, the direct effects of smartphone app-based addiction on gaming disorder, internet gaming disorder, nomophobia, stress, anxiety, and depression were emphasized.

Our editorial team is committed to ensuring the publication of quality and innovative research while adhering to ethical standards. However, we hope that our journal will function not only as a publishing tool but also as a scientific community where social media researchers can interact with each other. We want to take this opportunity to thank all our authors, reviewers, and readers for being with us on this journey. We sincerely believe this first issue of our journal will bring new life into social media research. We invite you to contribute to this critical scientific dialog and community.