# Psychological Development and Media

## Prof. Davide Massaro; Prof. Angelo Cangelosi

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to provide an in-depth analysis of the psychological dynamics involved in the interaction between people and digital media, with a specific in-depth study of social robots, as well as the changing of these dynamics according to the age, purposes and contexts in which the interaction occurs, to the type of psychological process considered (learning, memory, communication, social skills…) and to the specific type of media involved.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

* know and understand the possible impact of digital media on a person's psychological development;
* use what they have learnt in the design, management, evaluation and provision of educational and training activities in all those contexts in which specific expertise in digital media is required.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Lifelong psychological development interfaces (at least in terms of opportunities) with the possibility of interacting with others – intra- and extra familial interaction – and with the use of information and culture offered by different kinds of media, including the digital media which are the most recent and omnipresent acquisition. Their role in the creation and transformation of psychological skills and activities is known in psychological literature on intertwining mental processes, behaviour and cultural artifacts. Digital media offer their users the possibility of connecting with an external world of contents and relationships that need to be filtered, processed and connected to processes of the internal psychological world for the creation of a meaning that makes this unlimited possibility a resource. Such phenomena change according to the age of users, the cultural opportunities of use of the digital media (digital literacy) and the purposes and activities (work, leisure time, rehabilitation…) connected with the use of these tools.

Within this framework, the development of robots, especially social robots, and the implementation of artificial intelligence represent two crucial topics that will be covered and explored in depth in a specific didactic module on “*Developmental Robotics and Cognitive Modelling*" run by Prof. Angelo Cangelosi, professor of "Machine Learning & Robotics" at the University of Manchester.

***READING LIST***

P. Wallace, *La psicologia di internet (nuova edizione)*, Raffaello Cortina Editore, Milan 2017.

A. Marchetti-D. Massaro (edited by), *Robot sociali ed educazione. Interazioni, applicazioni e nuove frontiere* . Raffaello Cortina, Milano, (in printing).

The articles, lecture material – made available online on Blackboard – and activities carried out during the course are part of the exam.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course is structured as a blended-learning course over eight intensive classroom modules and eight online working units, four each semester. In the distance-learning course students are expected to refer to the video lessons and the supplemental study material, and to analyse the case studies used both as active teaching method (including classroom and practical webinar discussions) and as a support to self-assessment (with feedback webinars response).

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Assessment is based on an integrated system including the activities developed by students and contained in their portfolio, an interim written test and a final oral exam.

Assessment will aim to ascertain students' level of preparation, their ability to critically reflect on the topics covered, and their ability to grasp the applicative value of such knowledge.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no prerequisites for attending the course.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG, or on the Faculty notice board.