

## PREFACE TO THE EDITION

It is with great pride and scholarly enthusiasm that we present the inaugural issue of the **Eduschool Journal of Sociology and Social Work (EJSSW)**. As a new platform dedicated to advancing critical inquiry in sociology and social work, EJSSW seeks to foster interdisciplinary dialogue, amplify marginalized perspectives, and address the evolving complexities of social life in an increasingly digitized and globalized world.

The contributions in this first issue collectively examine how technological transformations are reshaping social structures, labor relations, political mobilization, and professional practice. A unifying thread across the articles is the interrogation of power how it is embedded in digital systems, reproduced through institutional arrangements, and contested through collective action and professional innovation.

The issue opens with a compelling analysis of *algorithmic bias and social stratification*, which challenges the notion of technological neutrality. By demonstrating how machine learning systems in housing, employment, and criminal justice encode historical inequalities, the study reveals the sociotechnical mechanisms that perpetuate discrimination. It calls for greater accountability, transparency, and justice-oriented technological design issues that sit at the heart of contemporary sociological inquiry.

Work and well-being form another central theme. The comparative study on the *right to disconnect* legislation across European nations provides an important institutional perspective on digital overwork and technostress. By examining variations in policy design and enforcement, the research highlights the role of law, culture, and organizational compliance in shaping worker well-being. Complementing this institutional analysis, the article on *platform precarity and digital labor erosion* investigates the lived realities of gig workers subjected to algorithmic management and weakened labor protections. Together, these studies offer critical insights into how digital capitalism restructures labor markets while exposing new forms of vulnerability and inequality.

The issue further explores digital spaces as arenas of resistance and identity formation. The paper on *social media and collective identity formation* illuminates how online platforms facilitate political mobilization among marginalized groups. By analyzing the stages of awareness, organization, action, and sustainability, the study deepens our understanding of how digital networks create counter-publics and reshape democratic participation.

Expanding the scope of inquiry into professional practice, the article on *social work practice in the metaverse* addresses the ethical and practical implications of delivering mental health services in virtual reality environments. By proposing an integrated ethical decision-making framework, the study bridges technological innovation and foundational social work values, underscoring the need for updated competency standards and policy guidance in emerging digital contexts.

Collectively, the articles in this inaugural issue reflect EJSSW's commitment to critical scholarship that is theoretically grounded, empirically informed, and socially engaged. They address urgent questions concerning inequality, labor, governance, digital transformation, and professional ethics issues that demand sustained scholarly attention and interdisciplinary collaboration.

As EJSSW embarks on its academic journey, we extend our sincere gratitude to the authors, reviewers, and editorial team whose dedication has made this first issue possible. We envision this journal as a vibrant forum for innovative research, critical reflection, and constructive dialogue within sociology and social work.

We invite scholars, practitioners, and students to join us in shaping this intellectual community and advancing research that promotes equity, justice, and social transformation.

Dr. Justin P. J  
Chief Editor

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