### Motivation and central research topic

- Inequalities regarding political participation and different ways and means of political participation between men and women in analog sphere
  - Same participation patterns in digital sphere? Same inequalities? Why?
- Current research: gender gap in political online-participation
- Digital divide research: reproduction of social inequalities in the digital sphere instead of more equality, also considering political participation (Second-level digital divide)
- Reproduction of analog patterns of political participation online: male, high income, high educational achievements (also among “digital natives”)
- Also essential for political participation online: “digital skills”, “technology knowledge”, “internet skills”

Main research question:
Which factors influence women's political participation in the „digital field“ of local politics?

### Approach and current status

- Case study: women's political online participation in the city of Cologne; focus = online-opportunities for political participation offered and administered by the city government
- Bourdies theories of “fields”, “capital”, and “habitus”
  - assumption: there must be more driving factors besides income or education; these could be analyzed and described with Bourdies concepts
  - conceptualization of “digital capital”, “medial habitus”, and “digital field”; make Bourdies concepts applicable for internet research
- Further research questions:
  1) To which extent do the different types of capital according to Bourdieu influence women's political participation in the digital field of local politics?
  2) Are there additional and up to now not yet defined kinds of capital which are crucial for women's political participation in the digital field of local politics?
- Methodology: 15 problem-focused and guideline-based interviews with women who live in Cologne who have and have not participated in political decision-making processes online; sample = homogeneous regarding high incomes and high educational achievements

### Inter- and transdisciplinarity

- Research project combines:
  - sociological theory (Bourdieu)
  - theoretical concepts from media and communication research (digital divide(s))
  - theories on political participation which originate in political science
  - feminist theory (gender gap, gendered practices)

### Supervision team

- Prof. Dr. Katrin Möltgen-Sicking (Political Science)
- Prof. Dr. Stefan Marschall (Political Science)
- Prof. Dr. Isabel Zorn (Media Pedagogy)
- Jürgen Behrendt (City of Cologne)

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**Determinants for Women's Political Online-Participation**

**A Case Study on the City of Cologne**

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