

# DIGITAL CAPITAL

### Praise for *Digital Capital*

As digital communications becomes ever more central to everyday life, work and leisure, their impact on inequality becomes increasingly profound. Is there a new 'digital capital' acquired by those who gain most from these technologies? The authors, established experts in this field, address this problem with a thorough and informed analysis of the concept, and its implications for policy and understanding.

**Peter Golding**, Professor, Northumbria and  
Newcastle Universities, UK

Taking their inspiration from Bourdieu's analysis of capital, Ragnedda and Ruiii extend the concept theoretically to the digital. Digital capital is operationalised through the creation of an index that accounts for differences in digital skills and competencies. Digital capital is then related to other forms of capital – economic, social and cultural – showing how digital capital works as a bridging capital allowing those with economic and cultural resources to use the digital to acquire ever greater advantage. This speaks to an important new wave of research on the 'third level of the digital divide' that seeks to measure outcomes. This is a highly cogent and important book both theoretically and empirically that should be of interest

to sociologists of class and inequality as well as communication scholars seeking to understand the digital divide.

**John Downey**, Professor of Comparative Media Analysis and Head of Communication and Media, Loughborough University; Vice-President, European Communication Research & Education Association

Ragnedda and Ruiu build the field of Bourdieusian analysis of digital inequalities in their timely scholarship that speaks to key issues in the emergent field of digital divide studies: theory, methodology and implications. The authors push the field forward by conceptualising and operationalising digital capital, thus integrating important theoretical insights with replicable empirical examination. Meeting this challenge allows their work to make real impact concerning the implications of digital inequalities for theorists, academics, policy-makers and practitioners.

**Laura Robinson**, Associate Professor,  
Santa Clara University

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## A Bourdieusian Perspective on the Digital Divide

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