

Q3 2025 • September

NEWSLETTER

Dear readers,

We are delighted to welcome you to the third DISELMA Newsletter of 2025. Over the past few months, a number of exciting things have happened within DISELMA. At the “Communicating Planetary Health Conference” in Munich, we had the opportunity to present the latest developments and findings from our research. We are also excited to share news about the very first DISELMA Research Visit – an initiative designed to support our PhDs and foster cross-site exchange among members. Franca Singh from Münster traveled to Berlin to work with Juliana Raupp and Elisabeth Gerling, bringing their projects together for joint research. This issue also spotlights Franca's PhD project on how emotions are represented in media content about digital health technologies in the context of chronic conditions. Finally, we provide a preview of upcoming events in which DISELMA will be taking part.

Thank you for following along – we are glad to have you with us!

Warm regards,

Constanze Rossmann

LMU Munich, Spokesperson of the DISELMA Research Unit



DISELMA at the Communicating Planetary Health Conference

From September 10–12, the Department of Media and Communication, LMU Munich, the Munich Science Communication Lab (MSCL) and the DGPUK-divisions Health and Science Communication held the Communicating Planetary Health Conference in Munich. DISELMA contributed several presentations to the conference theme and open panels.

Hosted at the Munich Zoo School, the conference provided a unique setting and a wonderful opportunity to reconnect in person, while also fostering exchange with the health and science communication research community. On the right, you will find an overview of our presentations with selected highlights. Feel free to reach out to us with any questions on our research.



Conference contributions HIGHLIGHTS

Climate–Chronic Disease Connections

Franca Singh and Julia Metag explored this topic through a content analysis of 300 media articles.

→ **Key finding:** German media cover climate-health connections responsibly, but often fall short in communicating existing scientific uncertainty to the public.



CSR communication by mHealth app providers

Juliana Raupp analyzed how 30 diabetes health app providers communicate their corporate social responsibility (CSR) on their websites.

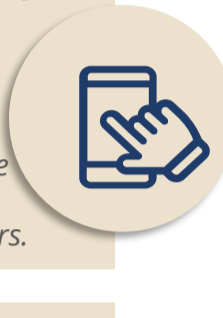
→ **Key finding:** mHealth app CSR emphasizes individual empowerment, organizational values, and the balance between personal and public health responsibility.



Mobile media ecosystem in mHealth research

In a systematic review, Natalie Rödel and Veronika Karnowski assess how the mobile media ecosystem is represented.

→ **Key finding:** Smartphones, smartwatches, and glucose meters dominate, while multi-device use and connectivity remain underexplored, mostly addressing medical and lifestyle behaviors.



Effectiveness of mHealth in research

Through a review of 145 studies, Nariman Sawalha, Alexandra Lux, and Constanze Rossmann provided meta-analytic insights into the effectiveness of mHealth.

→ **Key finding:** mHealth works, showing a significant positive impact on various outcomes, though there is substantial heterogeneity.



Honoring DISELMA's research

We are especially proud that Nariman Sawalha, Alexandra Lux, and Constanze Rossmann received the TOP 2 Paper Award for their systematic review and meta-analysis on mHealth in the self-management of chronic diseases. This recognition highlights both the significance of DISELMA's research and our growing contribution in advancing the research field – an achievement we are very grateful for.

Franca Singh's research visit at Freie Universität Berlin

From July 21 to August 8, research assistant and PhD candidate Franca Singh from the individual project “Reporting” in Münster visited DISELMA colleagues Juliana Raupp and Elisabeth Gerling in Berlin for a collaborative research exchange. Franca shares a report of her stay below.

I had the opportunity to conduct a research visit at the Institute for Media and Communication Studies at Freie Universität Berlin, hosted by Juliana Raupp and Elisabeth Gerling. During my visit, we worked on our joint project that explores the role of organizations in media coverage of digital self-management for chronic diseases, including diabetes, asthma, and COPD – bringing our individual projects “Reporting” and “Organizations” together in a collaborative effort.

The results of this collaboration will be presented at the upcoming Conference of the DGPUK Journalism Division in Münster in September 2025.



Franca Singh (middle) with Juliana Raupp (right) and Elisabeth Gerling (left) in Berlin

During my stay, we made significant progress in our ongoing quantitative content analysis. A central focus of our meetings was to evaluate the current state of coding, address emerging challenges, and harmonize coding strategies across both research teams.

Beyond our research discussions, I attended an internal meeting of Juliana's team, where I met fellow research assistants and student team members. It was particularly gainful to meet three of the student assistants, who assist us in coding, in person and to learn more about their perspectives on the project. The informal conversations over lunch afterwards offered valuable insight into the team's working culture. Another highlight was meeting Elisabeth Gerling, who had joined the DISELMA research group and Juliana's team shortly before my arrival. Building a personal connection from the outset will undoubtedly strengthen our collaboration. Julia Metag and I are already looking forward to welcoming Elisabeth to the University of Münster in the future. All in all, the visit proved to be a deeply enriching experience. It strengthened our collaboration, clarified methodological decisions, and gave our joint project renewed momentum, far beyond what could have been achieved through remote communication alone.



Did you know?

You can also follow DISELMA on LinkedIn for more news and updates.

[LinkedIn](#)

PhD Projects IN DISELMA



Franca Singh
University of Münster
Individual Project: Reporting

Digital technologies are transforming how we understand and manage health, particularly for people living with chronic illnesses such as diabetes and depression. In recent years, digital health technologies (DHTs) like mobile apps, wearable devices, and telemedicine have gained prominence, offering new forms of support and care. But how are these technologies represented in the media? My dissertation investigates the emotionalization of digital health technologies in German media coverage. The focus lies on how emotions are conveyed textually and visually in media content that addresses digital tools for chronic disease management.



How are emotions represented in media content about digital health technologies in the context of chronic conditions like diabetes and depression?

To explore this, I conduct a manual content analysis of text and images, identifying emotionalization through narrative techniques, emotional language, and visual elements such as facial expressions, color schemes, and symbolic imagery. By examining emotionalization in health communication, this project contributes to a deeper understanding of how media narratives can shape societal perceptions, trust, and acceptance of digital innovations in healthcare. If you are interested in this research or would like to discuss related topics, you are welcome to get in touch with me via francasingh@uni-muenster.de.

UPCOMING

for the next months



SEP
24-26

Journalism and Borders: Annual Conference of the DGPUK Journalism Division (Münster, Germany)

Franca Singh, Julia Metag, and Juliana Raupp will present their joint study on the role of organization in media coverage on digital health technologies in the context of chronic diseases.

[Conference details](#)

SEP
25-26

European Conference on Health Communication (Braga, Portugal)

Veronika Karnowski, Rebecca Kammerer & Claudia Riesmeyer will show insights on their respective projects on mHealth use and the physician-patient-relationship in two presentations.

[Conference details](#)

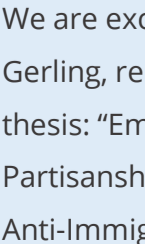
OCT
09-10

10th Congress of the German Society for Network Research (Bayreuth, Germany)

DISELMA will be represented with three contributions by Anna-Lena Esser, Rebecca Kammerer, Claudia Riesmeyer, Juliana Raupp, and Doreen Reifegerste, addressing the role of networks in the context of digital media and chronic diseases.

[Conference details](#)

Beyond DISELMA



Member spotlight:

Congratulations to Elisabeth Gerling!

We are excited to share that our new DISELMA member, Elisabeth Gerling, recently received an award for her outstanding master's thesis: “Emotions on a Silver Platter? The Influence of Partisanship and Social Media Use on Emotional Alignment in the Anti-Immigration Cleavage.”

We are proud to see her work recognized and delighted to welcome such a talented researcher to our team.

