**Проектное предложение/ project description**

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| **Type of project** / Тип проекта | Research |
| **The name of project** / Название проекта | Big Tech and Society: Political Power, Ethics, and Algorithmic Justice |
| **Department of university** /Подразделение инициатор проекта | Department of Sociology |
| **Project supervisor** / Руководитель проекта | Kirill Bryanov |
| **Project summary** /Подробное описание содержания проектной работы | In this project, students will dive into the debate over the social role of tech companies that is unfolding on the intersection of academia, tech industry, policymaking community, and civil society. In what ways does the Big Tech harm society? Have tech platforms become too powerful? Who, and how, should put limits on the outsize social influence of Google, Facebook and Amazon? What are the approaches to governance and regulation discussed by the Silicon Valley insiders, legislators, and activists? Students will explore the key issues and arguments shaping this debate about the fundamental principles of the future digital society. They will learn what publications, academics, journalists, and watchdog organizations to follow in order to keep abreast of this fast-moving space. We will also discuss how the same problems play out in the Russian context. By the end of the project, students will produce either a research note or an article intended for the general public. |
| **The goals and objectives of the project** /Цель и задачи проекта | * Introducing students to key arguments and issues around the governance and regulation of the tech industry; * Developing possible solutions to the pressing problems related to the Big Tech and drafting policy proposals addressing them; * Producing a publishable research note/opinion piece on the issues around tech and society. |
| **Project’s tasks** /Проектное задание | Students will either submit a piece an academic paper to a relevant conference, workshop or journal, or publish a non-academic piece on one of the focal issues in a general-interest outlet. |
| **Project implementation period** / Сроки реализации проекта | October 26, 2020 – April 1, 2021 |
| **The number of credits** / Количество зачетных единиц | 3 |
| **The form of the final control (exam or test)** /Форма итогового контроля | Exam |
| **Entry requirements for student** /Требования к студентам, участникам проекта | Second, third, or fourth-year Bachelor’s or Master’s students. At least intermediate English; a 200 to 300-word motivation letter. |
| **The results of the project** /Планируемые результаты проекта | Publication of a non-academic article or policy brief on an appropriate platform (general-interest publication). |
| **The presentation of the project’s results to estimate** / Формат представления результатов, который подлежит оцениванию | Conference paper, journal submission, or open-access publication/policy brief. |
| **Assessment criterion** / Критерии оценивания результатов проекта | «Excellent» (8-10): Student demonstrates steady progress throughout the duration of the project; solid command of the project material evident from the discussions with the instructor. Final paper/article/policy brief meets the quality standards of the selected venue, as manifested in the fact of acceptance to a relevant conference/journal/media outlet.  «Good» (6-7): Student is generally proficient with the project material, but some minor lapses are visible. The final product generally meets the target outlet’s quality requirements, but publication/presentation is impeded due to external reasons;  «Satisfactory» (4-5): Student is proficient with some of the material but fails to demonstrate comprehension of other fundamental components. The research paper/policy brief is completed but falls short of getting accepted to the selected outlet due to insufficient quality.  «Fail» (0-3): Failure to demonstrate knowledge of most of the discussed topics; final paper/policy brief is not completed. |
| **The number of vacancies** / Количество вакантных мест на проекте | Up to 6: no more than 3 Bachelor’s and 3 Master’s students. |
| **Selection criteria of students** /Критерии отбора студентов | English language proficiency, demonstrated interest in the effects of technology on society. |
| **Educational programs for** /Рекомендуемые образовательные программы | Sociology and Social Informatics;  Modern Social Analysis;  Political Science and World Politics;  Media Production and Media Analysis. |
| **Location** /Территория | HSE Department of Sociology + online |