

## RESEARCH ARTICLE

**Digital activism in students at a university in central Mexico in the COVID-19 era****Javier Carreon Guillen<sup>1</sup> Jose Marcos Bustos Aguayo<sup>2</sup> Jorge Hernandez Valdes<sup>1</sup> Victor Hugo Meriño Cordoba<sup>3</sup>  
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## 1 Introduction

The pandemic caused by the SARS-COV-2 coronavirus and COVID-19 disease has infected more than 8 million, sickened more than 4 million, and killed half a million intubated people (WHO, 2022). In this scenario, digital activism results from the political communication of mitigation and confinement of people, the intensive diffusion of the media and digital networks such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Snapchat, WhatsApp, Periscope or TikTok (PAHO, 2022); as a phenomenon in which a dispute is brewing between the parties against and in favour of a political system, government regime or state form in the face of a health and economic crisis (Karakose *et al.*, 2021, 2022).

Anti-COVID-19 policies have been given through an epidemiological semaphore. The red colour indicates the confinement and distancing of people with direct effects on the transition from the face-to-face classroom to the electronic whiteboard (OECD, 2022). The intensive use of platforms such as Zoom, Google Met or Teams opens the discussion on digital activism as a means of teaching and learning (Karakose *et al.*, 2022).

The green colour suggests deconfinement and a return to the virtual classroom, but without the immunization of teachers and students. In this scenario, the authorities and academic communities follow opposite paths (SA, 2022). The universities propose the transition to the face-to-face classroom through a hybrid model. In contrast, the authorities impose the free return to the classroom.

Consequently, digital activism actors are dissatisfied with the State's guidelines regarding returning to the face-to-face classroom (SEP, 2022). The protests and mobilizations through social networks have reached audiences that the government recognizes as a growing minority (Flores, 2019). The differences between the face-to-face classroom and the hybrid model reveal the emergence of governance as a system of self-regulation between the interested parties.

Governance is a knowledge management system that often begins with a conflict between political and social actors (Nien, 2017). Once the demands are established, dialogue, negotiation and consensus are generated. Subsequently, underlying the self-regulation disposition to a cessation of hostilities culminates in a co-responsibility of maintaining the differences without increasing the conflict.

In the case of university governance, anti-COVID-19 policies are understood as imperative and evaluative guidelines but fallible in terms of the interests of those who cohabit in educational institutions (Coble *et al.*, 2020). If the pandemic affects those over 40, the academic sector will be

very interested in slowing down their presence in the classroom (Papadakis, 2021). Alternatively, establish a protocol that guarantees your health, as with the hybrid model (Konstantopoulou et al., 2022; Mohammed, 2022).

The hybrid model supposes the extension of academic freedom that materializes in the discretionary choice of the professor to conduct or not their activities through an electronic or face-to-face platform (Gonzalez & Contreras, 2014). The hybrid model design allows teachers to define their degree of exposure to risk according to their resources and State of health or emotional condition in the face of the pandemic (Acar & Uluğ, 2016). The contrast between the hybrid and institutional models is that the State would not guarantee health in both models by immunizing teachers, students and administrators (Cadena et al., 2021). Such an immunization strategy places responsibility on the individual for her health care. The teacher can choose not to appear whenever he proves his contagion, but without this test being paid for by the government. In this logic, the teachers of the hybrid model suggest that if they pay for their contagion tests, they have the right to reduce the chances of exposure to the coronavirus through a staggered return to their presence in the traditional classroom.

This work's objective was to specify a model for the study of digital activism in a scenario of prolonged confinement of university students from a public institution in central Mexico. In order to achieve this purpose, it will be carried out: 1) a literature review, 2) methodological approach, 3) diagnosis of the phenomenon, 4) discussion of reported and observed findings, and 5) applicability to the electronic whiteboard.

In the theoretical-conceptual section, the approaches to technology acceptance are reviewed to highlight the notions of risk and utility in the intensive use of electronic devices and networks (Garcia et al., 2017). Next, the perspective of the diffusion of innovations to base activism on the sense of belonging to a collective ideal is exposed (Hernandez et al., 2020). Future decisions are considered to explain the risks assumed to obtain high profits in the mobilization (Garcia, 2009). Regarding the studies of activism, the findings reveal that the regime's image as an enhancer of social unrest is based on trust in the State as a factor that maximizes conflict. Furthermore, mobilization begins the spiral of violence between the parties involved: those governed and governed stand out.

Regarding the method, the decisions that led to the observation of the phenomenon, its measurement from an instrument and the analysis of the relationships between its variables are based and structured to show a part of the activism that takes place in electronic networks whose users they are the students of a public institution (Garcia et al., 2017b). The diagnosis of the systematic observation of responses to an instrument is presented to discuss its differences and similarities with other instruments used to approach the phenomenon of activism (Garcia et al., 2020). Research lines and intervention strategies are offered in order to be able to de-escalate the spiral of violence and pacify the parties in conflict in the event of a possible mobilization for the injustice of public policy.

## 2 Theory of digital activism

Electronic technologies, devices, and networks have been fundamental for academic, professional, and labour training (Garcia, 2018; Lazarinis et al., 2022; Papadakis & Kalogiannakis, 2019). The documentation of this teaching and learning system has been vast, although significantly few side effects have been observed, such as digital activism, which would be a concomitant socio-political formation to the other three mentioned (Poultsakis et al., 2021). However, unlike these, its approach is radical in that a reception, processing and dissemination of subversive information to the political system, the government regime and the state form.

In this way, in this section, the theoretical and conceptual frameworks are reviewed in order to locate the phenomenon in its academic, professional and labour situation, but concerning a social deviation known as digital activism, which is distinguished from a training process regarding radicalism and fanaticism regarding government policies, strategies and programs in the face of the mitigation of the pandemic, the confinement of people, hospital care and the management of deaths (Aguilar et al., 2019). Digital activism, considered a collateral phenomenon between the media and social networks audiences and users, has been addressed from the Theory of the Establishment of the Agenda. It is an approach that accentuates their interest in the axes and topics of debate in population sectors such as television, radio or press audiences and network users; Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Periscope, TikTok, YouTube, Snapchat or WhatsApp.

Unlike the media agenda, the internet agenda is distinguished by its degree of reception, processing and dissemination of much more frenetic information. In a brief period, users of digital networks can orchestrate or participate in a lawsuit or lynching of political leaders (Garcia et al., 2014). This virtue makes their activism more oriented towards the propaganda

and counterpropaganda of the government regime, the authorities' dispositions, or political strategies (Carreon et al., 2015). Consequently, the Internet agenda focuses its interest on the topics that users of electronic networks intensively receive, process and disseminate (Garcia, 2021). This is so because the perspective of the agenda keeps that the number of activists is not the problem of a political system but rather its capacity to systematize its demands, criticisms or expectations (Garcia et al., 2021). Even the theory of the agenda highlights that not only issues are built, but they are also positioned, and they promote adverse or favourable effects on a political regime (Garcia, 2007). This is the case of a risk event such as a pandemic in which a netizen's agenda positions some topics such as the use of masks and the application of coronavirus detection tests (Garcia & Bustos, 2021). In both cases, it will be favourable to a form of State that goes into debt and intensifies the tests and the distribution of masks, but unfavourable towards a political regime adept at confinement.

However, neither the creation of an agenda, the bias of dissemination of topics, nor the effects on users explain the process of receiving, processing, and disseminating information to question public policy (Garcia et al., 2015). The difference is substantial since it is about passive users in the first case compared to the information surrounding a risk event (Espinoza et al., 2020). In the second case, activism reveals a deliberate, planned and systematic process of aversion or propensity for a government and its risk management (Delgado et al., 2018). The Theory of Acceptance of Technology will explain that the intensive use of digital devices and networks is due to the risks and expected utility (Garcia et al., 2016). In the case of a risk event, activism turns out to be a phenomenon of ideological, political, electoral, or sectorial positions. However, this theory warns that it is also an ambivalence between adopting and adapting a protocol, such as seeking information, analyzing it, synthesizing it, and redirecting it to a specific user sector.

However, the accepted technology theory never explains why activism is so flexible as adapting to people's lifestyles, beliefs, uses and customs, norms and conventions, or the preferences and wishes they hope to obtain in the immediate future (Carreon et al., 2017). The Theory of the Diffusion of Innovations highlights a type of device with the information needs of the activists.

According to the diffusion of innovations, activists eagerly seek information that contravenes or confirms their prejudices, values, discussions and positions (Garcia et al., 2014). This need for information makes them prone to developing data search, selection and processing skills that they will carry out whenever they consider information as part of a symbolic event (Garcia, 2020). This is the case of the pandemic, confinement, hospital saturation and funeral. In all these cases, the diffusion of innovations predicts that the more symbolic the event, the more attractive it is for those who seek to question or support a political system.

In this sense, the surrounding information is reduced to data that questions or supports the public policy. However, the theoretical perspective of the diffusion of innovations only symbolically links events with activist capacities, failing to explain activists' decisions. To confront a government (Garcia, 2021), the Prospective Decision Theory analyzes the asymmetric issue between the parties to explain their intentions and risky behaviours (Garcia et al., 2018). In this sense, the surrounding information is reduced to data that questions or supports the public policy. However, the theoretical perspective of the diffusion of innovations only symbolically links events with activist capacities, and it fails to explain the decisions that activists make to confront a government (Llamas et al., 2018). Prospective Decision Theory analyzes the asymmetric issue between the parties to explain their intentions and risky behaviours (Alvarado et al., 2021). Suppose the perspective of technology acceptance ensures that risk and usefulness are the determinants of intensive learning of search, selection and dissemination of information. In that case, the approach to future decisions warns that both factors will define future action through heuristics (immediate judgments).

The perspective of future decisions accentuates his interest in instantaneous beliefs as the determinants of activism if it is considered a result of the improvisation of resources and capacities in the face of an imminent threat. In the case of the confinement of people, future decisions will define that confinement from the reception, processing and dissemination of propaganda is against or in regimen favour (Garcia, 2021). In this scenario of risky decisions and actions in the future, the perspective of the diffusion of innovations ensures that a link is created between the government's threats to the quality of life of the activists (Garcia et al., 2019). In other words, the differences between rulers and ruled are exacerbated whenever activists relate their material conditions of existence to the policies of their authorities.

Digital activism aims to discredit a system of a political regime on an immeasurable threat such as a pandemic (Garcia, 2021). As confinement intensifies, accepting risks and rewards for a technology, device, or network does not just generate activists (Garcia et al., 2015). Furthermore, the compatibility of the intensive use of these artefacts and a lifestyle of confinement seems to be oriented toward decisions to take high risks to expect more significant gains, such as

discrediting or enhancing a system.

### 3 Studies of digital activism

In the framework of the deprivation of freedom of transit, the confinements of people see before them the possibility of being risk management instruments around the discredit or enhancement of a policy, strategy or program (Garcia, 2017). In this sense, studies of digital activism have set the tone in explaining the effects of confinement and the image, trust, and mobilization towards the performance of a political regime.

Research on the image of a political system links discredit and reputation with political and social activism by emphasizing low, medium and high-intensity thresholds in the differences between rulers and ruled (Garcia, 2021). Low shades of asymmetry represent an intensive use of technology for academic, recreational or entertainment purposes (Sanchez et al., 2018). Medium levels of conflict ensure a gradual increase in the mobilization of enlightened sectors such as students (Garcia, 2021). High accreditation rates suggest high indicators of information processing, identity theft, loss of computer security and state violence on the Internet in the face of blockages, a saturation of pages or leaking of confidential data.

Investigations have detailed the escalation of violence between the parties involved in events that are considered unfair, such as mistreatment of vulnerable sectors, excluded minorities or marginalized flows (Garcia, 2021). Regarding the development of activist skills, there is a stunning orientation towards ridicule of authorities, lack of policies, addiction to leaders or anxiety about confrontation.

In the documentation on political corruption, police brutality stands out as the least reliable sector for society, even when an image and reputation of support from public servants prevail in environmental risk events such as floods, earthquakes, or fires (Garcia et al., 2018). The distance between rulers and the ruled seems to be due to the concept of justice (Garcia et al., 2018). In authorities, the rule of law focuses more on the containment or immediate response to an offence. In citizenship, it refers to crime prevention, rehabilitation and social reinsertion of the offender.

The studies of the government's image agree that individual self-control is the best remedy for both prevention and police attention to crime (Garcia, 2018). Both political and social actors seem to agree on eradicating violence from the legitimate violence of security institutions, but they differ on implementing capital punishment, which in some systems is a deprivation of liberty; in others, it is community service.

In this context of the rule of law and crime prevention, citizens develop more collaborative activism with their government, but impunity revealed in the media and networks reverts confidence into anger, fear, anxiety, and outrage (Rivera et al., 2018). All this emotional repertoire will increase and prove the prophecy that the State seeks to discourage social activism. In this game of conspiracies between a State that looks askance at society as the intellectual author of an overthrow and citizens at its authorities as organizers of collective euthanasia, an educated sector emerges but is vulnerable to the negative emotions of the government (Juarez et al., 2018). The violence escalates to an unprecedented level. The conflicts between the parties soon intensify until the declaration of those against or favouring the regime (Quintero et al., 2018). Civil rights take second place and what matters now is to reduce to a minimum expression of any nationalist, independence, leader, sector or localist movement as the State usually call those who question and confront it.

At a broader and more substantial level of violence, enforced disappearances are carried out alongside attacks, rallies, mobilizations and demonstrations (Valdes et al., 2018). The media emerge as mediating actors and the networks as scenarios of protest curfews, police repression or investigations (Llamas et al., 2018). In this spiral of violence, the media and networks are essential to worsen the mood, legitimize radical potions and spread the professions of persecution, imprisonment or disappearance.

This is so because the forward-looking decisions activists make are combined with the forward-looking intentions of their government counterparts (Carreon et al., 2018). Both political and social actors seek to expect a zero-sum scenario in which one must annihilate the other to gain credibility (Garcia et al., 2019). In this escalation of violence, the activist sector of society already has the support of other sectors that provide it with resources to confront the State (Bustos et al., 2018). Meanwhile, the regime has already identified the movement's leaders or linked and dismembered the activist network.

Some research has found that mobilization is caused by perceived injustice and the likelihood of social change (Mejia et al., 2018). Furthermore, the perception of social support and the mobilization of resources counts as a motivator for activists (Garcia, 2018). Even the propensity

to imprisonment is a triggering factor for participation in rallies, confrontations or protests.

## 4 Modelling of digital activism

Structural equation systems include four phases for evaluating a model (Sanchez *et al.*, 2018). The first phase of the hypothesis sets up reflective relationships between digital activism concerning indicators (Sanchez *et al.*, 2019). In this sense, the signatures, assemblies, demonstrations or blocking of the State's web pages show digital activism (Juarez *et al.*, 2019). Studies that report this structure warn that digital activism is related to four dimensions related to technological habitus, the diffusion of innovations, computational self-efficacy and digital mobilization.

In the case of technological habitus, defined as a provision against or in favour of anti-COVID policies, the studies report four indicators related to ethical, aesthetic, logical and expressive provisions (Hernandez *et al.*, 2019). This is the case in Higher Education Institutions where it is possible to appreciate that their student community tends to express their ideas through government web pages.

Diffusion of innovations, understood as the adjustment of technology to daily activities such as utility, ease of use, computational self-efficacy or information processing, can be appreciated in knowledge-creating organizations (Quintero & Morales, 2020). Strategic alliances between universities, research centres and local companies allow us to observe the diffusion of innovations (Quintero *et al.*, 2019). The technological habitus that can be inherited by family or school dynamics is complemented by the diffusion of innovations in the face of risk events such as pandemics (Coronado *et al.*, 2019). The inheritance of entrepreneurship strategies and the dissemination of strategies to reduce risks is a scenario once the universities have returned to the traditional classroom.

In a scenario of a return to the virtual classroom, computational self-efficacy emerges along with the diffusion of innovations and the technological habitus (Carreon *et al.*, 2020). Even the pandemic understood as a risk scenario is ideal for the emergence of groups specialized in logical, aesthetic, ethical and expressive issues (Molina *et al.*, 2020). In this way, the self-efficacy indicated by the search, selection, grouping and dissemination of information concerning the questioning of health policies can be observed in the traditional classroom.

A consequence of the discontent of Internet users can be seen in their virtual mobilization that can reach the streets and squares (Bustos *et al.*, 2020). The contagion risk scenario, public policies, technological habitus, computational self-efficacy and diffusion of innovations suppose a chain of responses to the health and economic crisis (Velazquez *et al.*, 2020). In this sense, the mobilization indicated by the collection of digital signatures, assemblies and saturation of government web pages reflect digital activism (Bustos *et al.*, 2020). An example is a conflict between the State and the universities on returning to the traditional classroom without prior immunization.

## 5 Methods

A non-experimental study was carried out with a non-probabilistic selection of 100 students ( $M = 23.24$   $SD = 1.40$  age and  $M = 6893.24$   $SD = 234.56$  monthly income) from a public university in the centre of Mexico, considering his participation in the organization of student representatives.

The condensed version of the Activism Scale Internaut (ASI-16) was used. It measures the technological habitus ("I will send messages to the mail of an authority to press their resignation"), the dissemination of innovations ("I will message abuses of authority"), computational self-efficacy ("I will elaborate slayers to spread our demands") and Internet mobilization ("I will block the propaganda of the authorities"). Each item is answered with any of the options ranging from 0 = "not likely" to 5 = "quite likely" (see Table 1).

Students were surveyed in the facilities of their university, previous guarantee of anonymity, confidentiality and not affecting the results to their academic status. The information was processed in the statistical analysis package for social sciences (SPSS by its acronym in English, version 23.0).

Digital activism is a phenomenon that has been studied from the structure of its indicators. Therefore, the accumulation of findings allows its modelling and the empirical testing of the proposal. In this sense, the technique of structural equations is pertinent since it deals with a series of requirements with non-parametric and ordinal data. In this way, the demonstration of linearity, normality, sphericity, adequacy, validity, and adjustment is essential for the proposed model's contrast.

**Table 1** Operationalization of variables

Variable	Dimension	Concept	Scale	Item
Technological habitus	Reflective	Refers to expressions, logic, ethics or aesthetics around COVID-19 derived from exposure to social networks	0 = "not at all likely" to 5 = "quite likely"	On YouTube, I express my support for those fighting COVID-19
Dissemination of innovations	Reflective	Refers to the proximity or distance of the information on COVID-19 disseminated on networks concerning daily life	0 = "not at all likely" to 5 = "quite likely"	On Instagram, I can share my experiences related to COVID-19
Computer self-efficacy	Reflective	Refers to information search skills related to COVID-19	0 = "not at all likely" to 5 = "quite likely"	On Twitter, you can organize a space for the debate on anti-COVID-19 vaccines.
Internet mobilization	Reflective	Refers to expressions and manifestations of repudiation or support for those who design or implement anti-COVID-19 policies.	0 = "not at all likely" to 5 = "quite likely"	On Facebook, I can spread testimonies about anti-COVID-19 vaccines

Source: Elaborated with data study

We estimated parameters that show the normal distribution; mean, deviation, bias and kurtosis; adequacy and sphericity with KMO and Bartlett test, validity for the case of factorial weights, adjustment for the goodness coefficients CFI, GFI and residual RMSEA to test the null hypothesis of the significant differences between the theoretical relationships and the structural model.

## 6 Results

Table 2 shows the descriptive values of the parameters that indicate the normality, adequacy, sphericity and validity of the construct related to electronic activism. The general scale and the subscales reached alpha values above the indispensable minimum of 700.

**Table 2** Instrument descriptions

R	M	S	K	A	F1	F2	F3	F4
r1	4.3	10.3	1.0	0.78	0.46			
r2	4.6	1.4	10.2	0.70	0.54			
r3	4.9	10.5	10.3	0.75	0.65			
r4	4.4	1.7	1.7	0.73	0.37			
r5	4.1	1.0	10.5	0.78		0.57		
r6	4.2	1.1	1.6	0.75		0.63		
r7	4.6	10.3	1.7	0.71		0.40		
r8	4.7	10.2	10.8	0.72		0.51		
r9	4.8	10.5	1.0	0.79			0.51	
r10	4.9	1.4	1.0	0.78			0.47	
r11	4.0	1.6	10.2	0.75			0.69	
r12	4.5	10.8	1.4	0.73			0.40	
r13	4.6	1.9	10.5	0.72				0.52
r14	4.6	10.3	1.1	0.75				0.69
r15	4.3	10.2	10.5	0.70				0.57
r16	4.2	1.4	1.6	0.77				0.51

Source: Prepared with the study data; R = Reactive, M = Median, S = Standard deviation, K = Kurtosis, A = Alpha by removing the value of the item. Adequacy (KMO = 0.761), Sphericity [ $\chi^2 = 32.3$  (14gl)  $p < 0.01$ ] Method: Main Axes, Rotation: Promax. F1 = Technological Habitus (18% of the total variance explained), F2 = Dissemination of Innovations (14% of the total variance explained), F3 = Computational Self-efficacy (10% of the variance to t explained), F4 = Mobilization Internet user (6% of the total variance explained).

In a second study, once the four factors that explain 48% of the total variance were established, we observed their relationship structure among the factors to infer the emergence of a second-order factor common to the four first-order factors (see Table 3).

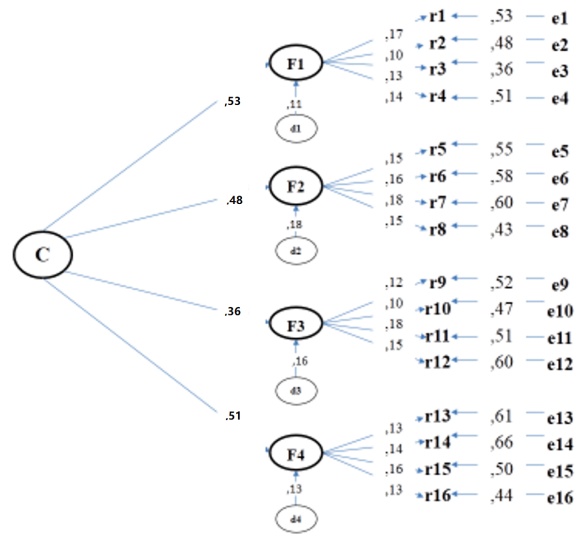
**Table 3** Correlations and covariances between the factors

	M	S	F1	F2	F3	F4	F1	F2	F3	F4
F1	40.56	13.24	1.000	0.439 *	0.548 *	0.632 **	1.898	0.457	0.590	0.542
F2	59.34	15.46		1.000	0.512 **	0.540 *		1.894	0.672	0.518
F3	38.56	16.59			1.000	0.456 ***			1.899	0.672
F4	46.58	15.40				1.000				1.787

Source: Prepared with the study data; M = Mean, S = Standard Deviation; F1 = Technological Habitus, F2 = Dissemination of Innovations, F3 = Computational Self-Efficacy, F4 = Internalized Mobilization. \*  $p < 0.01$ ; \*\*  $p < 0.001$ ; \*\*\*  $p < 0.0001$ .

Once the factorial structure and relations between the variables were established, the structure of trajectories of relationships among the factors was estimated to observe the model's

composition and warn of the emergence of a factor common to the four dimensions and 16 indicators (see Figure 1).



**Source:** Elaborated with data study; C = Digital Activism, F1 = Technological Habitus, F2 = Dissemination of Innovations, F3 = Computational Self-Efficacy, F4 = Internalized Mobilization; r = Reactive, d = Disturbance of the measured factors, e = Errors of measured indicators;  $\zeta$  relations between disturbance and factors or errors and indicators;  $\epsilon$  relations between factors or/and indicators.

**Figure 1** Structural equation modelling

The adjustment and residual parameters [ $\chi^2 = 67.4$  (56 gl)  $p < 0.01$ ; GFI = 0.997; CFI = 0.990; RNSEA = 0.007] suggest the non-rejection of the null hypothesis compared to the significant differences between the trajectories of theoretical relationships concerning the structural model of reflective associations.

## 7 Discussion

The contribution of this work to the State of the question lies in the confirmation of a reflective structure of digital activism, setting up the prevalence of four factors: technological habitus, diffusion of innovations, computational self-efficacy, and internet mobilization. The structure explained 48% of the total variance, showing the emergence of other factors that the literature identifies as the ease and usefulness of using the Internet for digital activism.

Concerning the theory of digital activism that raises its emergence in the adoption and learning of electronic technologies, devices and networks, the present work suggests that such a process is established in the virtual classroom considering the pandemic. Study lines related to the impact of the pandemic in the virtual classroom and the learning of digital activism will allow us to anticipate the effects of the state management of the pandemic.

Regarding studies of digital activism that highlight the intensive use of electronic technologies, devices, and networks, this work warns that digital activism underlies a prolonged exposure to electronic sources and interaction with users who look for, proceed, and disseminate information regarding the pandemic. Future studies concerning the impact of state risk communication on Internet users will predict the differences between political and academic actors.

Regarding the modelling of digital activism where the structure of habitus, self-efficacy, mobilization, and diffusion of innovations is described, the present work established as a preponderant factor the provisions against and in favour of health policies disseminated on the Internet. Work-related to the impact of state risk communication on the opinions of Internet users' family members, friends and colleagues will expect conflicts between the governed and the governed exposed to information disseminated on electronic networks.

## 8 Conclusion

The objective of this work was to confirm the factorial structure of digital activism, considering an informative scenario of a pandemic disseminated in electronic networks. The results highlight that the technological habitus, indicated by aesthetic, ethical, logical and expressive dispositions before the state communication of risks, explains the model's more significant percentage of variance. The implications of studying in the virtual classroom suggest the teaching of information processing. In a scenario of a return to the traditional classroom without

students' immunization, pedagogical decision-making sequences are recommended to compare data. In addition, the instrument used will make it possible to evaluate the progress and setbacks of the teaching and learning of discernment of information related to anti-COVID policies.

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