P01 / New Frontiers in Digital Citizen Engagement - Exploring the Future of Democracy

Topic : PUBLIC PROBLEM, SOCIAL MOVEMENT AND AGENDA SETTING

Chair : Hiroaki Inatsugu (Waseda University)

Second Chair : Junro Nishide (Meiji University)

Third Chair : Atsuo SATO (Hiroshima City University)

GENERAL OBJECTIVES, RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE

The rapid development of digital technologies and their transformation have greatly expanded the forms and possibilities of citizen and civic engagement. This panel seeks to explore new forms of both citizen and civic engagement that go beyond traditional representative or participatory democracy. We focus on innovative approaches such as citizen science and civic technology, discussing the potential of these digital tools to transform social and political processes. Digital tools could bring about new ways of interacting, making decisions, and shaping society and politics in a more effective, participatory, and inclusive manner.

We aim to examine how technological advancements are influencing democracy and civil society, and how we can leverage these technologies to foster more inclusive and effective forms of citizen and civic engagement, from both theoretical and practical perspectives. This includes evaluating how tools such as social media and digital platforms can enhance democratic participation, transparency, and accountability. Additionally, we will consider how technology can be used to bridge gaps between governments and communities, empowering marginalized voices and fostering a more participatory, responsive governance.

CALL FOR PAPERS

We welcome research presentations related to the following themes:

Citizen Science
- Design and implementation of citizen-participatory scientific research projects
- The role of citizens in data collection and analysis
- The impact of citizen science on scientific progress and society

Civic Technology
- Development of citizen-led technological solutions
- Use of open-source approaches in solving local issues
- Formation and sustainability of civic tech communities

Digital Democracy
- Possibilities and challenges of online voting systems
- Political participation through social media
- Transformation of representative democracy in the digital age

Open Data Utilization
- Release of government data and its utilization by citizens
- Initiatives in data literacy education
- Balancing privacy and transparency

We encourage submissions on innovative research or practical examples related to the use of digital technology for both citizen and civic engagement, beyond these suggested themes. We particularly welcome interdisciplinary approaches that span multiple fields and initiatives that bridge theory and practice.

Selection Criteria

- Originality and innovation of the research
- Theoretical or empirical foundation
- Social impact and practical applicability

We look forward to receiving ambitious research presentations that explore new possibilities for both citizen and civic engagement in the digital age. We hope that your research will contribute to the realization of a more open democracy and a vibrant civil society.

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Session 1Digital engagement and democracy

Thursday, July 3rd 08:00 to 10:00 (B10)

Understanding and Developing a Model of Digital Engagement and Participation in Urban Heritage Issues: a Tale of Four Cities in Indonesia

Ario Wicaksono (Universitas Gadjah Mada)

Civic Crowdfunding as a Digital Policy Instrument: Evaluating Co-Production in Public Service Delivery through Taejai in Thailand

Ada Chirapaisarnkul (Chiang Mai University School of Public Policy)

Democratizing the Policy Process through Media Innovation: Policy Watch and the Future of Policy Communication in Thailand

Theerapat Ungsuchaval (Mahidol University)

Nattaya Waewweerakoupt (Thai Public Broadcasting Service (Thai PBS))

Digital Frontend and Bureaucratic Backend for Resolving Citizen Complaints: Evidence from Indonesia

Amirah Sumarto (University of Oxford)

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Session 2Civic engagement and local governance

Thursday, July 3rd 10:15 to 12:15 (B10)

Local governance and public engagement in digital age

Taketo Terada (Kanagawa University)

Kobe City’s Digital Transformation: A Model for Citizen-Powered Innovation in Japan

GO Nakagawa (Okinawa International University)

Boosting Civic Engagement Through Digital Giving Platforms: Synergies with wellbeing and health management

Yuko Nishide (Tohoku University)

Junro Nishide (Meiji University)

A study of the agent that plays a pivotal role in the introduction and diffusion of generative AI in the Japanese local government sector

Satoru Kohda (Deloitte Tohmatsu Strategy Institute)

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Session 3Citizen participation and public policy

Thursday, July 3rd 16:00 to 18:00 (B10)

ONLINE VOTING: STEP FORWARD OR DANGER TO DEMOCRACY?

Marko Krtolica (Ss Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje - Iustinianus Primus Faculty of Law)

Kenya’s Third Liberation? The Role Of X Spaces And TikTok On The New Political Consciousness

Jackline Nthiga (Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology)

Reversal of Policy Feedback Effect- An evidence from India

Devasheesh Mathur (International Management Institute)

(Virtual) Citizen Monitoring for Healthy and Sustainable Development: Case Study in the Territories of Pôr do Sol and Sol Nascente, Brazil (2021-2024)

LETÍCIA DE JESUS (Fundação Oswaldo Cruz (Fiocruz))

Wagner Martins (Foundation Oswaldo Cruz Brasilia)

Cecilia Sampaio (Universidade de Brasília)

Fernanda Machiner (Faculdades Oswaldo Cruz)

Social Media Responses in the Philippines' Congressional Budget Hearings: Reflections on Active Citizenship under Monitory Democracy

Jephte Muñez (University of the Philippines Open University)