



DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

The Impact of Emerging Technologies on Law, Politics, and Civic Life

WZB Berlin Social Science Center

Berlin Germany

10 November 2019

University of Florence & European University Institute

Florence Italy

8-9 May 2020

CNRS

Paris France

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Organisers:

Primavera de Filippi | CNRS;

Liav Orgad | EUI, IDC, WZB;

Wessel Reijers | EUI; **Andrea**

Simoncini | University of Florence



Berlin Social Science Center





Statement of Purpose

The protests in Hong Kong in 2019 have revealed how the lives of citizens are intertwined with the development and deployment of technologies. To assert control over its citizens, China has used surveillance technologies that are linked to social incentive systems; punishing those who protest and rewarding those who stay at home. The protesting citizens in Hong Kong have also used technologies, such as cryptocurrencies and encrypted messaging services, to create ‘cloud communities’ that challenge the centralised power of China. Do new sociotechnical systems lead to a dystopian future, ruled by faceless bureaucracy and mindless machines, or a utopian future where virtuous citizens can participate for the common good?

This workshop series seeks to understand the challenges that emerging technologies pose to the institution of citizenship. The workshop series tackle three challenges. The *first* focuses on the impacts of emerging technologies on citizens. It will investigate how citizens use technologies to give shape to new conceptions of political communities. What does it mean for people from different countries and across cultures to connect in digital

communities and engage in new modes of political decision-making by using technologies and co-decision software?

The *second* challenge focuses on the role of institutions, corporations, and states in shaping civic life through the development and deployment of emerging technologies. It will explore how governments and large firms create new institutional structures through the use of surveillance, data collection and analysis, and nudging and enforcement. It will engage with ‘surveillance capitalism’ and ‘functional sovereignty’ to investigate how governments and corporations impact digital public life, and the implications for corporate social responsibility and corporate citizenship.

The *third* challenge brings citizens and institutions together in a call for ‘digital constitutionalism’. It asks how to think about digital rights and responsibilities in a global environment that is increasingly saturated with networked, cybernetic technologies. What public law norms should apply to this new situation, based on which justifications, and for what goals? And what should be the regulatory legal mechanisms to address the challenges?



Berlin, 1st Meeting: Digital Citizenship in Cities

The first workshop at **WZB Berlin** will be on **November 10, 2019** on the topic of **digital citizenship**. It will bring together world-leading academics in the fields of philosophy, political theory, law, and computer science, to discuss the notion of digital citizenship in cities.

An increasing number of European cities suffers from low civic participation, absence of social solidarity, and apathy of citizens in creating solutions to common problems. A recent report of the City of London is alarming—it indicates a ‘withdraw from collective life,’ a lack of ‘cross-community contact,’ and a low level of active citizenship. The report finds this reality to be ‘one of the key challenges facing cities across the Western world’ and urges to find ways to promote active citizenship, a sense of responsibility, and a community life.

In response to the challenges, cities turn to digital solutions, trying to incentivise active citizenship by a set of municipal benefits. Can technologies bring about participatory regimes? How to decide on policy areas, by which institutions, according to which criteria, and based on which data sources? How

should the city disseminate the idea, register participants, record data, and measure deeds? How effective are such incentives in cultivating habits and morals, and what can be the societal side effects? And what can be the justifications to incentives ‘good citizenship’ by rewards, rather than morality and education? We seek to investigate these and other questions.

The workshop has **three goals**. First, **empirical**, prominent European cities will share with us their experiences with ‘digital citizenship’. We seek to learn about different municipal initiatives for solving local problems by using novel technological solutions. Second, **normative**, leading academics will discuss challenges and opportunities related to such initiatives, as well as analyze their justification, design, and effect. Third, **policy**, we will discuss notions of ‘good deeds’ in return to ‘municipal benefits’ and consider the idea of putting together a consortium of European cities participating in such initiative. The discussion will be organised according to the ‘World Café’ format, followed by an interactive scenario and prototype building session led by Somatic Artist Susan Ploetz.

Programme

08:45 Welcome and Registration	Guido Smorto; Digital Citizens in the Cooperative City
09:00 Introduction	30 minutes Q&A
Liav Orgad and Wessel Reijers; Digital Citizenship: A Research Agenda	13:00 Lunch
09:30 Digital Citizenship in Cities	14:30 World Café Session
City presentations of local initiatives for digital citizenship (Madrid, Amsterdam, Cascais, and Citibeats)	Five working groups on different aspects of digital citizenship & group facilitators
10:45 Coffee break	Liav Orgad; Normative Challenges
11:15 Scientific Presentations	Primavera de Filippi; Technological Challenges
Surveying the state-of-the-art in digital citizenship studies.	Mathias Siems; Economic Challenges
Mo Chen; Social Credit Systems for Good Deeds – a Comparison Perspective	David Bovill; Democratic Challenges
Quinn Dupont; Blockchain Governance for Digital Citizenship	Kalypso Nicolaidis; Challenges for Politics and Democracy
Catalina Goante: Public Value for Digital Citizenship	16:00 Coffee break
Udi Shapiro; Building a Municipal Community of Trust	16:15 LARP: Scenarios of Digital Citizenship
	19:00 End of programme
	20:00 Dinner

Participants

Mo Chen TUM	Susan Ploetz Artist and Consultant
Paula Berman Democracy Earth	Benedikt Schuppli FQX AG
David Bovill Viral Academy	Ehud Shapiro Wiestmann Institute
Quinn Dupont University College Dublin	Guido Smorto University of Palermo
Silke Elrifai DIS	Mathias Siems EUI
Primavera de Filippi CNRS	Federico Tomasello EUI
Florian Glatz Blockchain Embassy	Borja Prieto Municipality of Madrid
Catalina Goante University of Maastricht	Wessel Reijers EUI
Alon Harel Wissenschaftskolleg Berlin	Carlos Yarza Artist and Filmmaker
Jens van 't Klooster KU Leuven	
Kalypso Nicolaidis University of Oxford	
Liav Orgad WZB	