A Discussion on:

CHANCES AND RISKS OF SOCIAL PARTICIPATION
FRIDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2013

DESCRIPTION

Participation is a key issue within Internet research and hence also for the Alexander von Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society (HIIG). For this reason the institute is going to initiate a thematically focused meeting on Chances and Risks of Social Participation in Berlin on 22 November 2013. The event, which is being hosted in co-operation with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, will convene a diverse group of collaborators from a broad range of disciplines working on Internet and society issues in Germany, Europe, and internationally. This meeting furthermore adds to the activities of the Global Network of Internet & Society Research Centers.

International senior researchers are invited to join the discussion and contribute to the various sessions as well as to the public panel discussion. We thereby aim to further research and exchange of ideas around the field of participation. The sessions will, among other things, examine the new extent of collaboration in the field of open source hardware and analyse the difference brought about through technological implementations. Furthermore, we will seek to understand how to make participation most effective and explore whether it is enabling or hindering democracy. The profound and focused sessions among renowned scientists will be opened to the public in the afternoon. In that event the scientific community will have the chance to share their insights and prompt the dialogue with politics and society.

Alongside the meeting on participation the annual Early Stage Researchers Colloquium and a meeting of participants of the Network of Centers (NoC) will take place - guaranteeing fruitful and inspiring discussions across disciplines and research institutions.

SCHEDULE

09:00 – 10:00	Welcome Address and Keynote
10:15 – 11:30	Workshop Sessions: Participation - Enabling or Hindering Democracy? Making Political Participation Effective Open Source Hardware
12:45 – 14:00	Concluding Session: How much difference can technology make?
14:30 – 14:45	Welcome address Public Event: Online into Politics?
14:45 – 16:00	Scientific Findings: Participation in Democratic Structures
16:30 – 18:00	Panel Discussion: National Perspectives on Political Participation
18:00 – 19:00	Stand-up Reception

VENUE

Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Forum Berlin, Hiroshimastraße 17, 10785 Berlin, Germany

HOSTS

Alexander von Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society (HIIG)

Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES)

Global Network of Internet & Society Research Centers (NoC)

SCIENTIFIC WORKSHOPS

09:00 – 10:00

WELCOME ADDRESS AND KEYNOTE

Welcome: Thomas Schildhauer (Director, Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society)
Keynote: Nishant Shah (Director, The Centre for Internet & Society, Bangalore)

WORKSHOP SESSIONS

PARTICIPATION - ENABLING OR HINDERING DEMOCRACY?

10:15 – 11:30

Moderator: Ulrike Klinger (Senior Research and Teaching Associate, Institute of Mass Communication and Media Politics (IPMZ), University of Zurich)
Participants: Juan Carlos de Martin (Director, NEXA Center for Internet & Society at Politecnico di Torino), Alexander Trechsel (Head of Department Political and Social Sciences, European University Institute, Florence), Martin Emmer (Director, Institute for Media and Communication Studies, Freie Universität Berlin)

When (political) participation is discussed it is oftentimes seen to entail a certain promise: To promote democracy by allowing for the processing and conversion of public opinion into the political institutional system. To distil the people's will into an act of state, making for ‚better‘ and more legitimate legislation and public administration. The Internet in this context is often seen as the medium that makes widespread participation possible. But it is yet unclear if aside these chances and possibilities there are also risks to be considered. For example, can participation lead to a domination of lobbying minorities or can it even endanger minorities through a tyranny of the masses? How do evolving possibilities and expectations regarding (e-) participation influence the role of political parties both in the present and in future? This workshop will explore the roles participation in general, and eParticipation in particular, can play for democracy.

MAKING POLITICAL PARTICIPATION EFFECTIVE

Participants: Christian Pentzold (Doctoral Researcher, Technische Universität Chemnitz), Tobias Escher (Research Fellow, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf), Steffen Albrecht (Researcher, Technische Universität Dresden)

This workshop aims at identifying a set of criteria for effective participation, starting from the observation that the promises of participation are not self-fulfilling. In a first step, the concept of participation will be looked at more closely: What is participation and what should it ideally look like? Empirical and normative types of participation as well as the different agents involved – such as citizens, organizers, moderators and other intermediaries – will be taken into account. Secondly, different evaluation criteria and measurements of the effectiveness of participation will be highlighted with the goal of mapping differing perceptions and aims. Finally, the workshop will focus on the question of how participation can be made effective. To what degree can participatory processes be shaped purposefully at all? What are the processes, actors and settings conducive to effective participation? Given the wide range of academic, professional and lay opinions and concepts around the subject, and given that participation processes of any kind involve different agents with different agendas, the workshop seeks to collect and connect such varying perspectives and positions.

OPEN SOURCE HARDWARE

Participants: Wolf Jeschonnek (CEO, FabLab Berlin), Andreas Steinhauser (Board of Directors, Holzmarkt, Co-Founder txtr und Gate5, Berlin), Jussi Ängeslevä (Honorary Professor at the Berlin University of the Arts)

Open Source Hardware describes an emergent bundle of technologies, practices, business opportunities, and regulatory approaches for collaborative manufacturing. In the field of consumer 3d printing, for instance, intense innovation activity has sprung from a surge of hardware devices and organizations. The expectations projected unto Open Source Hardware are therefore high and relate to its potential contribution to value creation networks just as much as to sustainability considerations. This workshop will ask to what extend prior experiences and developments in the field of open source software can be applied to the production of open hardware. Furthermore, the question shall be asked whether current developments indeed point towards a democratization of production, as proclaimed by some researchers, or how this direction may be support-

ed. Finally, the workshop will seek to identify opportunities that could lead to complementary interactions between established firms and the creative community, such as implied by the open innovation paradigm.

CONCLUDING SESSION	**HOW MUCH DIFFERENCE CAN TECHNOLOGY MAKE FOR SOCIETAL PARTICIPATION?**
12:45 – 14:00	Speakers: Carlos Affonso Pereira de Souza (Director, Rio de Janeiro Institute for Technology and Society), Mayte Peters (Chair of the Board, Publixphere e.V., Berlin) Final Whistle: Wolfgang Schulz (Director, Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society, Berlin)

This concluding session will address the role of technology for societal participation from an international perspective. The focus of the discussion will lie on actual applications and practices, ranging from the collaboratively drafted Brazilian Civil Rights Framework for the Internet ("Marco Civil da Internet") to participatory tools and platforms, such as "Publixphere". By referring to their experiences within the Brazilian, US and European contexts the panelists will point towards the complexity and variety of political, cultural, and institutional factors influencing the participation landscape. The discussion will thus aim to provide a practical view on the realization of technology-based societal participation by pointing not only towards opportunities but also towards limitations.

AFTERNOON

PUBLIC EVENT: ONLINE INTO POLITICS?

14:30 – 14:45

WELCOME ADDRESS (GERMAN)

Irina Mohr (Head of Forum Berlin, Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Berlin), Ingolf Pernice (Director, Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society, Berlin)
(Translation will be provided)

SCIENTIFIC FINDINGS	**PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURES**
14:45 – 16:00	Speakers: Helen Margetts (Director, Oxford Internet Institute, Oxford), Jan Schmidt (Researcher, Hans Bredow Institute, Hamburg) Host: Wolfgang Schulz (Director, Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society, Berlin)

In this joint session, studies on political participation in the United Kingdom and Germany will be disclosed and discussed. Firstly Helen Margetts, director of the Oxford Internet Institute will present her findings, followed by the presentation of a recent study on the ePetition platform of the German Bundestag, carried out by the Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society in cooperation with the Hans Bredow Institute for Media Research.

PANEL DISCUSSION	**NATIONAL PERSPECTIVES ON POLITICAL PARTICIPATION (GERMAN)**
16:30 – 18:00	Panelists: Teresa Bücker (Social Media Strategist for the SPD Parliamentary Group, Berlin), Alvar Freude (Activist and Member of the Special Committee on Internet and the Digital Society of the German Bundestag, Berlin), Bettina Gaus (Journalist), Jonas Westphal (Forum Netzpolitik of the SPD State Office, Berlin) Moderator: Marlis Schaum (Moderator, DRadio Wissen)

This panel will complement the previous academic discussions around political online participation in Germany by adding perspectives from journalism, politics and society. The representatives gathered will explore the question of how German society uses and perceives Internet-based participation, as well as analyse the latter's influence on Germany's democratic structures. Potential risks as well as chances for democratic legitimacy associated with online participation will be taken into account. The discussion will be moderated by Marlis Schaum of DRadio Wissen.
(Translation will be provided)