EARLY STAGE RESEARCHERS
COLLOQUIUM 2013
21 NOVEMBER 2013 IN BERLIN

WRAP UP

Nihil sub sole novum?

Is there nothing new under the sun, has everything been thought through and been said? Well, John Perry Barlows's 1966 *Declaration of the Independence of Cyberspace* contributed to the general idea of the Internet being a new space where concepts of property, identity and territoriality would not apply. However, soon it dawned upon the 'netizens' and others that code itself is a regulator («code is law») that is to be regulated. Thus, the modes of governance of the Internet, its political dimension and infrastructure implications are still questions vividly debated – as it happened at the 2013 Early Stage Researchers Colloquium.

PROGRAMME

09:30 – 10:30	Welcome Address and Keynote
	Governance of and by gourmets – what the Internet can learn from wine governance
11:00 – 12:30	Parallel Sessions (1)
	A: Open Science and Open Hardware
	B: Censorship and chilling effects: How does the law determine online behaviour?
13:30 – 15:00	Parallel Sessions (2)
	A: Entrepreneurship: What are the hindering and promoting factors of Internet-enabled entrepreneurship?
	B: Slacktivism, activism and protest online. Does the Internet have what it takes to be political?
15:30 – 17:00	Parallel Sessions (3)
	A: Internet-enabled innovation: New forms of corporate goods, communication and interactions
	B: From net neutrality to governance: Points of entry to understanding present-day problems with Internet infrastructure
17:30 – 18:30	Concluding Session
	Including Poster Award Presentation

KEYNOTE

GOVERNANCE OF AND BY GOURMETS – WHAT THE INTERNET CAN LEARN FROM WINE GOVERNANCE

At the beginning, Jeanette Hofmann and Wolfgang Schulz demonstrated how cultural influences are able to change the mode of self-regulation and in which way they exercise influence on the criteria of quality. They illustrated their reasoning by using a case study in the field of viniculture. In former times, wine had been deeply rooted in catholic liturgy, thus it was part of daily life. It had even been drunken for breakfast as a «drink of moderation». In 1907, this specific, peculiar role of wine led to the French Wine-Grower's Revolt. At that time, overproduction and grape vine diseases had started the crisis and southern France was forced to organize itself due to the pressure of these events. As a result, a new law against adulterated wines could be achieved, flooding the market with new competition rules and conditions. However, in the U.S. wine had been considered to be an «intoxicating liquor». The alcohol prohibition had ensured that there was no chance to develop a growing of high-quality wines, at least at that time. The concept of self-regulation by the private Association of German Quality and Prädikat Wine Estates (VDP) on the one hand and the official inspections of wine quality on the other hand are good examples for quality assurance in Germany. In this co-regulation procedure, you could identify models of self-regulation and the approach of multi-stakeholder-arrangements. The benefits and downsides were obvious: Expertise could be contributed expediently; however, most agents are simply not interested in a holistic approach but feel obliged to their specific area of interest. Consequences could be risks of market foreclosure through participation of potentially biased persons and innovation backlog.

The speakers concluded by stating that the concept of cultural embedding is essential for a proper understanding of Internet governance. In fact, the Internet was not just a new «unique thing». That is why traditional knowledge, of viniculture in this case, could still be made fruitful for Internet research.

Speakers: Jeanette Hofmann, Wolfgang Schulz

SESSIONS

OPEN HARDWARE AND OPEN SCIENCE

In this session, Sarah Hugelier, Maxi Kindling and Christoph Schneider shed light on the topics of Open Science and Open Hardware. Sara Hugelier presented a legal blueprint for open scientific data based on the principle of Open Access that tries to consider the two major legal challenges for data-sharing in the field of research: the protection of intellectual property rights and privacy regarding the research subjects. Maxi Kindling outlined the important role of Library and Information Sciences when it comes to effective data re-use. She identified different types of effective re-use of open research data based on an empirical study. By reference to the example of a laser cutter, Christoph Schneider explained different challenges of an open source approach, e.g. the inclusion of material objects into open source. In Christoph's opinion, «we might be entering a techno-science society that puts technology and science in its center».

Speakers: Sarah Hugelier, Maxi Kindling, Christoph Schneider

CENSORSHIP AND CHILLING EFFECTS: HOW DOES THE LAW DETERMINE ONLINE BEHAVIOUR?

Judith Townend, Stephan Dreyer and Julian Staben discussed the influence of laws on online behaviour. Townend illustrated how the British law against defamation and libel and its soakage system had a negative, self-restricting effect on journalists' conduct of publishing. For showing this mechanism she used statistic analysis and surveys. Dreyer addressed the control theory to examine such «chilling effects» with analytic categories. It was plausibly shown that these effects could also come from private actors, codes and algorithms. All in all, the session revealed that it is necessary to find a way to somehow deal with the growing importance of deterrent effects, even in a context of constantly changing law.

Speakers: Judith Townend, Stephan Dreyer, Julian Staben

ENTREPRENEURSHIP: WHAT ARE THE HINDERING AND PROMOTING FACTORS OF INTERNET-ENABLED ENTREPRENEURSHIP?

Janet Merkel, Dennys Antonialli and Marie-Luise Groß approached the topic from a sociological, legal and economic perspective. Janet Merkel focused on the role of co-working spaces for Internet-enabled entrepreneurship and presented four hypotheses: co-working spaces are spaces of «(re)organization of knowledgework», are «learning spaces», are a «new innovation model for distributed, inter-organizational, collaborative knowledgework» and, lastly, are «urban interfaces». Dennys Antonialli observed that regulatory frameworks of data protection vary from country to country. It has been argued that entrepreneurs face a bigger challenge to monetize their businesses in countries where data protection rules have been enacted. Based on a survey,

Dennys wanted to examine the influence of the German national data protection law on the competitiveness of German companies. Marie-Luise Groß focused on the industry of translators and observed their role in entrepreneurship. The social web, suprisingly, has negative effects for translators. Using a methodological framework of storytelling and a social network analysis, Marie-Luise aimed to analyze the question of why a nascent professional translator decides to enter the market via professional associations or via online communities.

Speakers: Janet Merkel, Dennys Antonialli,Marie-Luise Groß

SLACKTIVISM, ACTIVISM AND PROTEST ONLINE. DOES THE INTERNET HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE POLITICAL?

The topic of the session was how forms of online activism can be reflected from a social-scientific, media-scientific and philosophical perspective. Nir Yamin addressed Olson's (1965) *Theory of Collective Political Action* in order to defend actions such as the signing of online petitions, often pejoratively named as «slacktivism» due to the low threshold of participation. According to Yamin, «slacktivism» can help to reduce the obstacles of political protest since expenses and asymmetries of information among the participants can be relieved. Carlo Milani and Vivien Garcia, inspired by Wittgenstein's term of «family resemblance», spotlighted the linguistic phenomenon that various forms of online activism use symbolic terms such as «freedom». Therefore, a careful observation of all aspects, not only semantic differences was necessary. Moritz Queisner paid attention to the place of political action that was traditionally connected to physical and locally visible actions. In taking an indirect route through the 90s when cyberspace had been understood as «non-space», Queisner declared the «rebirth of space» in explicating all the new possibilities around geolocation, tracking and Geo Data.

Speakers: Nir Yamin, Carlo Milani/Vivien Garcia, Moritz Queisner

INTERNET-ENABLED INNOVATION: NEW FORMS OF CORPORATE GOODS, COMMUNICATION AND INTERACTIONS

This session revolved around a world of networks, free producers, influencers and a new relationships between traditional hierarchies and the users. Patryk Galuszka conducted research on the Polish crowdfunding platform MegaTotal and analysed the relationship and the motivational factors of contributors, artists and fans in online communities. Nirit Weiss-Blatt presented her dissertation research about the role of tech bloggers in the flow of information. Her study offers a bridge between the theories of Agenda-Setting and Two-Step-Flow, in order to understand the influence of bloggers in their role as opinion leaders. Dora Kaufman aimed at identifying how collaborative practices between consumers and companies were assimilated by the Brazilian market. Dora argued that companies tend to approach a digital environment by «analogical thinking». A very interesting aspect of her presentation was the example of Fiat, in which the company invited consumers to participate in the design process of the Fiat Mio concept car.

Speakers: Patryk Galuszka, Nirit Weiss-Blatt, Dora Kaufman

FROM NET NEUTRALITY TO GOVERNANCE: POINTS OF ENTRY TO UNDERSTANDING PRESENT-DAY PROBLEMS WITH INTERNET INFRASTRUCTURE

In the session about Internet infrastructure, Moran Yemini enriched the «under-theorized» debate on net neutrality with ideas from Political Theory. This approach would ensure a common understanding of norms and values that apply for information and communication systems. The freedom of speech, for instance, embodies a social value regardless of whether all citizens would ever author internet-based innovation. Robert Yanguas

argued about the hidden danger for operators in open WiFi if third parties cause damages. Exemplarily, the jurist recognised problem-solving approaches in technological regulation and coding as «out of the box» as well as transparent terms and conditions for providers. Ben Wagner gave a lectur8961e on this trend of technological regulation, showing that the Internet is significantly defined by codes in private IT-products, algorithms and technical standards. Furthermore, regulators are gaining influence. In his presentation, Wagner sensitised the audience for the topics of deficient transparency and democratic control in the field of technical regulation.

Speakers: Moran Yemini, Robert Yanguas, Ben Wagner

This documentation is based on the blogposts by Hannfried Leisterer and Stefan Stumpp. Please find the full version including presentations of Track A as well as the full version including presentations of Track B online.

22 NOVEMBER 2013: ONLINE INTO POLITICS?

14:30 – 14:45	Welcome Address Public Event: Online into Politics?
	Speakers: Irina Mohr (Head of Forum Berlin, Friedrich Ebert Foundation), Ingolf Pernice (Director, Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society)
14:45 – 16:00	Scientific Findings: Participation in Democratic Structures
	Speakers: Helen Margetts (Director, Oxford Internet Institute), Jan Schmidt (Researcher, Hans Bredow Institute, Hamburg)
	Host: Wolfgang Schulz (Director, Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society)
16:30 – 18:00	Panel Discussion: National Perspectives on Political Participation
	Panelists: Teresa Bücker (Social Media Strategist for the SPD Parliamentary Group), Alvar Freude (Activist and Member of the Special Committee on Internet and the Digital Society of the German Bundestag), Bettina Gaus (Journalist), Jonas Westphal (Speaker of the SPD Forum Netzpolitik); Moderator: Marlis Schaum (DRadio Wissen)
18:00 – 19:00	Reception

SCIENTIFIC FINDINGS: PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURES

Helen Margetts, director of the Oxford Internet Institute (OII), presented her institute's research on online petitions in the United Kingdom. The data showed that petitions are only successful if they quickly gain supporters. Since collective attention decays rapidly, petitions that don't succeed within the first days end up in the «digital dust», according to Margetts. Those results were contrasted with first findings from a study on the e-petition platform of the German parliament, the Bundestag. Within the last five years eleven online petitions collected enough signers to be heard by the petition committee. Half of the users learn about a petition when directly visiting the platform, another third discover petitions via social media.

Read more about the study on the German e-petition platform (German).

PANEL DISCUSSION: NATIONAL PERSPECTIVES ON POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

In the panel discussion Teresa Bücker (Social Media expert for the parliamentary SPD group), Alvar Freude (member of the commission of enquiry, 'The Internet and the Digital Society'), Bettina Gaus (journalist) and Jonas Westphal (speaker of the SPD's 'Forum Netzpolitik') gave insights on online participation from a national perspective. The participants addressed the questions of who are the people that engage in online participation and which part of the society is represented by them? Will online participation affect our parliamentary democracy? Is online participation needed and how can we foster it?

Watch the video of the panel discussion.