5 YEARS OF EXPLORING DIGITAL SPHERES AND SOCIETY

The **Alexander von Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society** (HIIG) explores the dynamic relationship between the internet and society, including the increasing interpenetration of digital infrastructures and various domains of everyday life. Its goal is to understand the interplay of social-cultural, legal, economic and technical norms in the process of digitalisation. The focus is on the relation of **innovation** and **governance**, which stimulate, enable but also constrain each other. Tensions and synergies emerging from this relationship can be found across all societal fields and organisations including corporations and markets, the state and non-governmental organisations, from the local to the global level.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Interaction with government public authorities, civil society and busines

The institute aims to be a relevant source of information for the government, civil society and business. The institute supports "open science" and understands its work as an inclusive process enabling stakeholders and the interested public to engage in a constructive dialogue to tackle pertinent social, economic and political questions.
Experimenting with new formats for knowledge transfer is one of our trademarks, which shapes our exchanges with target groups, especially through **events** and **platforms**.

Building a researchers' network: A German node of an international network in the research area of internet and society

The HIIG has established itself as the German platform of an international collaboration among researchers addressing topics revolving around internet and society, including the **HIIG Fellows**, associated and **visiting researchers**.
As a founding member of the **Network of Centers** (NoC), it cooperates with a broad range of leading academic institutions and groups in order to create and share knowledge on an international level.

Supporting up-and-coming researchers

The HIIG is committed to promoting post-docs and **doctoral candidates**. The institute offers a supportive environment for researchers within the global research field on internet and society. International collaboration especially within the *International Network of Centers*, as well as a strong focus on science communication among our researchers are essential elements of this strategy.
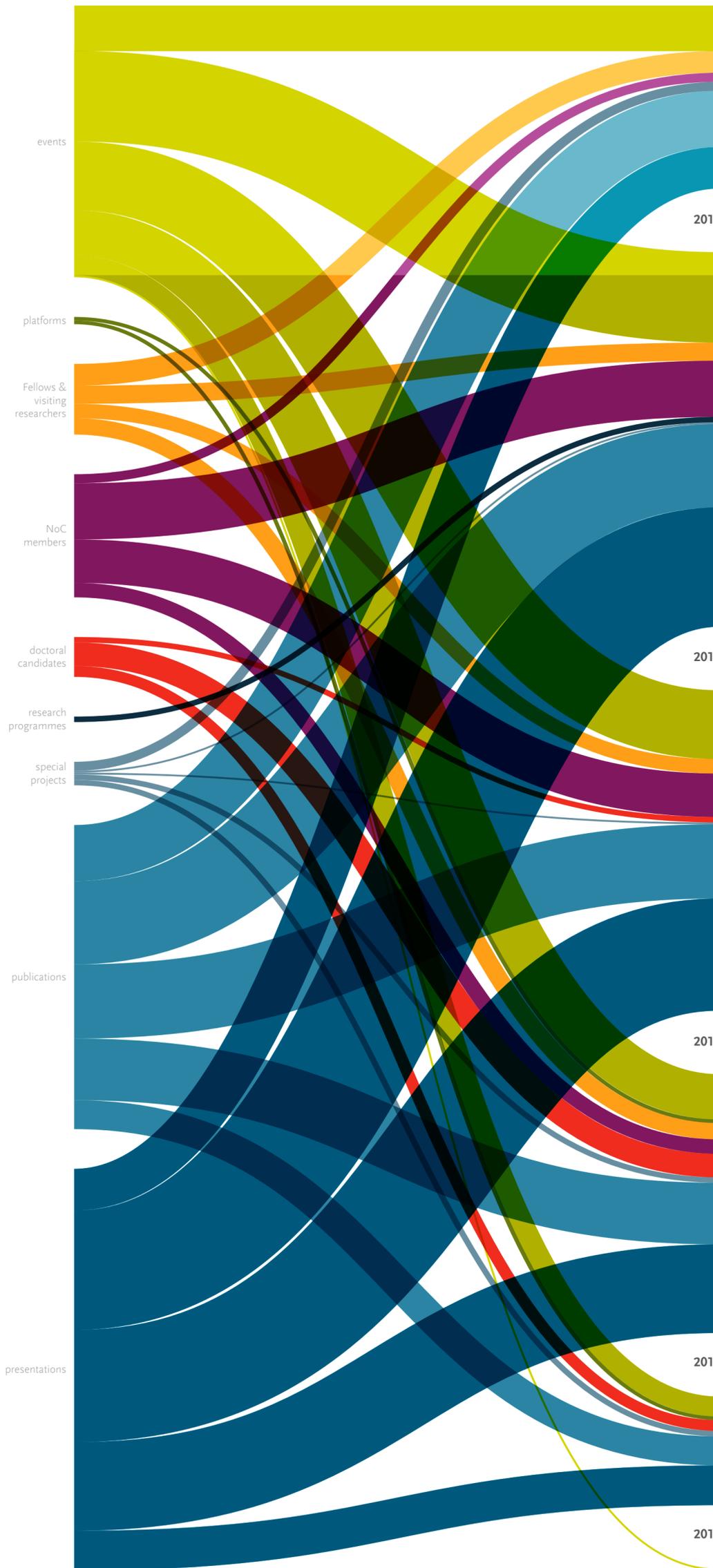
Problem-oriented research on internet and society

The chief task of the HIIG is problem-oriented research on the challenges of the digital society. The guiding principles are academic excellence, independence and social relevance. While the work is based on disciplinary and empirical expertise, we strive for an inter- or trans-disciplinary approach.
Research on digitalisation offers insights in the quick pace of social change and the deep interpenetration of digital infrastructures in everyday life. It comes as no surprise that the projects range from opening science to analysing social media to looking at the effects of digitalising small and medium-sized enterprises.
These research efforts result in broad and overarching **research programmes**, in numerous **special projects**, **publications**, and **presentations**.

ACHIEVEMENTS

events
platforms
Fellows & visiting researchers
NoC members
doctoral candidates
research programmes
special projects
publications
presentations

ACHIEVEMENTS BY YEAR 2016*

2015
2014
2013
2012
2011

achievements in numbers
100
50
10
5
1

SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS

5 Years HIIG and AoIR 2016
With the anniversary in October 2016, the HIIG is celebrating the end of the annual conference of the *Association of Internet Researchers (AoIR 2016)*. It is one of the worlds biggest social science internet conferences with more than 500 researchers, which the HIIG was hosting together with the *Hans-Bredow-Institute for Media Research*, Hamburg.

Launch of OPEN! – Methods and tools for community-based product development
A research project on an open design platform to provide innovative methods and tools for online communities (*DFG* funded).

First doctoral thesis submitted in 2015
The first thesis ever finished at the HIIG was a legal one, dealing with the chilling effects on the exercise of fundamental rights.

Implementation of research programmes
I. The evolving digital society: What are relevant concepts and theoretical approaches?
II. The relationship between actors, data and infrastructures in the digital society: What are key factors of change?
III. The knowledge dimension: What are emerging patterns of research and knowledge transfer in the digital age?

Foundation for Internet and Society
Set up in 2015, the foundation seeks to promote interdisciplinary research projects on the internet, and its interactions with society, politics, constitution, law, art, culture and business. The primary task of the foundation is to support the HIIG.

Launch of dwerft
A research project on new technologies for digital moving images in Babelsberg (*BMBF* funded).

First Early Stage Researchers Colloquium
The annual colloquium gathers up-and-coming researchers from all disciplines to provide a stage for new perspectives on current issues of internet and society.

HIIG Fellow Programme
The HIIG started to invite international researchers to Berlin for subject-specific exchange and to draw promising connections to the HIIG's research agenda.

Kick-off Innovation and Entrepreneurship
The research project explores the enabling and hindering factors within the entrepreneurial journey while supporting founders with their challenges by offering Startup Clinics created by the HIIG.

Network for Civil Security Law in Europe (KORSE)
This project became a German network with Europe-wide impact, strengthening the contribution of German legal scholarship to European civil security research (*BMBF* funded).

Launch of Network of Centers
The HIIG co-initiated and directed for two years the *Network of Interdisciplinary Internet & Society Research Centers (NoC)*. The *NoC* facilitates knowledge exchange, generates synergies, and collectively confronts transnational issues on a global level.
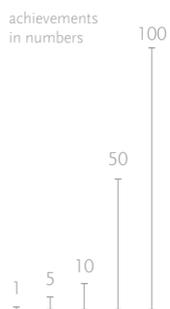
Launch of Internet Policy Review (IPR)
HIIGs peer-reviewed online journal on internet regulation in Europe. *http://policyreview.info/*

Kick-off Doctoral Programme
Having called for applications from internet and society researchers internationally, HIIGs first cohort of 6 doctoral candidates started in September 2012.

First Digitaler Salon
In collaboration with the German broadcasting agency *DRadio Wissen*, the HIIG team started to publicly discuss the impact of digitalisation on the society.

Formal Founding
In march 2012 the institute was legally founded as a nonprofit research organisation.

Inauguration
In summer 2011 the four participating universities declared their aim to found the HIIG. In October 2012 the Alexander von Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society celebrated it's inauguration. This launch was embedded in the first scholarly event of the new institute, the *Berlin Symposium on Internet and Society*.

ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT INSTITUTE FOR INTERNET AND SOCIETY

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