



CALL FOR PAPERS Conference and Publication

THE FUTURES OF EHEALTH Social, Legal and Ethical Challenges

International and Interdisciplinary Conference, 29 and 30 April 2019
Alexander von Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society (HIIG), Berlin, Germany

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Edited Volume (to be published in June 2019)

In recent years, there have been significant technological developments in the field of eHealth. Applications such as electronic health records, wearable technologies (fitness trackers, medical devices, etc.) or telehealth devices that allow patients to consult with a health-care worker using ICT technology, such as video calls or live chats, have led to significant social, legal and ethical challenges and insecurities among patients, healthcare professionals and regulators. Often, these systems are being used in transnational contexts, raising the question of regulatory and policy issues between different jurisdictions. The picture is further complicated by the increase in eHealth applications used on mobile devices (mHealth) as well as the rise of health analytics and automated expert systems (“big data”, “machine learning”).

Both the conference and the subsequent publication aim to identify relevant issues and seek to provide answers to those questions. We welcome contributions from scholars in the diverse fields examining eHealth, such as media and communication studies, law, computer science, sociology and management. Interdisciplinary approaches (e.g those combining social and legal issues) are encouraged. Selected representatives from NGOs, policy and industry will also be invited to this event to foster an exchange between academic and more practical perspectives.

Papers are invited on the following topics (among others):

- Data protection, privacy, cybersecurity
- The political economy of (patient) data
- Patient autonomy and patient empowerment through technology
- Telehealth in aid and development
- User innovation
- Medical surveillance, self-governance and biopolitics
- Liability and the occupational licensing of healthcare professionals (especially in cross-border contexts, e.g. a comparison of jurisdictions such as the European Union and the African Union)
- Standardisation (e.g. quality assurance, digital infrastructure, data interoperability, medical standards)
- Digital literacy and linguistic barriers
- Ethical challenges (e.g. de-personalisation of medical care) and social consequences (e.g. social inclusion/exclusion; stigma associated with certain diseases)
- status and implications of eHealth technologies in public and private insurance policies

Besides papers on these more general topics, we explicitly invite **case studies on innovative eHealth technologies and their use** (such as electronic health records, mHealth, telehealth, VR technology, machine learning applications, blockchain, implants) as well as **on the contexts in which they are applied**. A particular focus is on **telehealth** and the policy implications of current regulations for physicians practicing telemedicine. Relevant questions to be discussed during the conference include:

- What are the applicable legal requirements for rendering these services?
- What are the standards of treatment and documentation? How can the standards of treatment be enforced; what agencies are competent to act?
- What are the legal requirements for licensing?
- What standards apply regarding cybersecurity?
- What are the standards of liability?

Submission process

- Extended abstracts of approximately 6,000 to 8,000 characters in length should be submitted no later than **28 February** 2019.
- Speakers and contributors to the edited volume will be notified by **15 March** 2019.

Conference and publication of the papers in an edited volume

- Publication-ready manuscripts of about 12,000 to 14,000 characters, extending the initial abstracts, should be handed in by **20 April** 2019
- The conference will take place on **29 April and 30 April** 2019 in Berlin.
- An edited volume comprised of the conference contributions will be published by the end of **June** 2019.

Please submit your abstracts through the submission form on hiig.de/ehealth

If you have any questions you can contact the conference organisers Thomas Christian Bächle and Alina Wernick via eHealth2019@hiig.de