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Welcome to the new issue of JeDEM!

This issue is a combination of a very special selection of papers from the IFIP EGOV-CeDEM-ePart conference held in September 2019 in San Benedetto del Tronto (Italy) and the ongoing papers submitted during the first months of 2020 that made it over the hurdle of our 50% acceptance rate. But before you start reading the papers in this issue, let us tell you about some of the major and minor changes we have made to the journal since our last issue. The biggest change is that as from January 2020, we have a new Chief Editor. For the next 4 years, Anneke Zuiderwijk, from TU Delft will be guiding the strategy of JeDEM. As many of you know, Anneke is Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Technology, Policy and Management and her research focuses on open data and to develop theory for the development of infrastructures and institutional arrangements that incentivize open data sharing and use behavior by governments, researchers, companies and citizens. You can find out more about Anneke and her ideas and visions on the Digital Government blog[1]. A sneak preview for you: she is currently preparing a call for papers for JeDEM that focuses on Open Data – so watch out for a dedicated call for papers in this area this year!

We conducted a survey amongst the JeDEM registered users and included the results we gained – we are always looking into ways of improving the quality of the journal so please let us know if you have any suggestions or feedback. Quite a few changes have been made. The OJS platform has been updated and offers new features such as compliance to OpenAIRE Guidelines but also by linking with Google Analytics (although this requires that you have already setup a Google Analytics account) and allows readers to get a published article's citation in one of several formats supported by the Citation Style Language. Reviewers' efforts can be recorded with ReviewerCredits.com if they register for this - ReviewerCredits.com is a great tool for authors and lecturers and we very much recommend checking out their website, instructions, free training and how-to! All papers published with JeDEM as from 2019 are also listed with Scopus. Furthermore, all papers published with JeDEM are aggregated with CORE, one of the world's largest collections of Open Access research papers, offering authors several options for disseminating their work.

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[1] https://wp.me/ptoXX-4wR

This issue contains two different types of scholarly papers from the IFIP EGOV-CeDEM-ePart 2019 that broadly focus on digital governance. We invited the conference keynotes to write a full version of their presentation.

Ingrid Schneider, Professor for Political Science at the Centre for Ethics of Information Technology, University of Hamburg, in her keynote contribution *Democratic Governance of Digital Platforms and Artificial Intelligence? Exploring Governance Models of China, the US, the EU and Mexico* discusses the challenges to democracy presented by the world's seven largest digital platforms and discusses them in terms of four different governance models. She points out not only the dominance of big digital platforms, their control of data, but also focuses on their capacity to create and capture the ensuing value, their ability to accentuate consolidation and concentration rather than try to reduce inequalities between and within countries. Another contribution by a keynote at the conference was made by Daniela Battisti, from the Italian Digital Transformation Team. Like Ingrid, Daniela focuses on digital governance but in *The Digital Transformation of Italy's Public Sector: Government Cannot Be Left Behind!* looks at Italy, in terms of the digital transformation of the Italian public administration by introducing a series of building blocks upon which digital services for citizens and enterprises are developed. This is to not only help reorganize IT projects but also to provide citizens with a richer service experience. Also we asked the authors shortlisted for conference Best Paper Awards to re-write, update and re-submit their papers. Following the second round of peer-review, we are pleased to be able to publish the following three papers, that consider digital governance in the public sector from three different perspectives, including the role of AI, how to benefit from the use of disruptive technologies and the involvement of users through co-production.

The paper of Daniel Toll, Ida Lindgren, Ulf Melin & Christian Ø. Madse offers a qualitative perspective on *Values, Benefits, Considerations and Risks of AI in Government*. Specifically, authors studied AI policy documents in Sweden by applying a value ideas model. As the global race to develop and implement AI in public sectors is well underway, we need to create realistic expectations of what such technology can do for society. Thus, such inquiries can enlighten us about AI's attributed values and provide important clues about current policy discourse, which might not always be realistic and may be too optimistic or too pessimistic. What do you guess applies? Find out by reading the paper!

Volunteer Co-production in Emergency Management is the focus of Sofie Pilemalm's paper – a particularly up-to-date field in today's times of uncertainty. Using civil citizens and semi-professionals as volunteer first responders in excluded areas, readers learn from this case study what the major challenges are with engaging volunteers as civil citizens or first responders in socially vulnerable areas and how ICT artifacts can act as a catalyst in this context. The study also presents a brief comparison between these groups. As governments are planning for digitalized coordination of volunteers in such scenarios (for example in the case of wild forest fires or pandemics), we welcome this highly relevant perspective.

Maria A. Wimmer, Gabriela Viale Pereira, Alexander Ronzhyn and Vera Spitzer, in their paper *Transforming Government by Leveraging Disruptive Technologies* describe how disruptive technologies can help achieve aims of making modernization in the public sector, such as making governments

more efficient, effective, open and transparent, in other words, to Government 3.0 and thus lead to a way services are produced and consumed. At the same time, such technologies may also have an impact on competition and performance management. They therefore suggest that the public sector, in the context of a wide and successful implementation of Government 3.0, must be based on an identification, systemization and deployment of training needs.

The following papers were submitted to us as part of our ongoing submission process (JeDEM accepts submissions throughout the year and is striving for a rapid publishing process).

Focusing on *Algorithmic Decision-making and the Law*, the paper by Dirk Brand is a valuable read for anyone interested in the legal aspects of algorithmic decision making and accountability. The focus of this article is on the key features of such a framework, including dimensions like ethics, fairness and respect for human rights. As AI is already applied in so many daily activities around the world, we urgently need to take part in a discussion that can frame and guide the design of algorithms and the social impacts of algorithmic decision-making.

Finally, we present an article on *the Use of Social Media for Political Participation by Youths in Oyo State, Nigeria*. This is a topic that has been covered by JeDEM before but what is unique about Funmilola Omotayo's perspective is its focus on early adopters and the identification of the types of social media and political activities they engage with. Other studies have shown that social media have redefined the methods of political communication in the country, leading to shifts in the usage of technology for electoral processes and an increasing use of social media for political participation among youth. This study goes further to ask about the factors influencing this usage. Do you think gender or academic discipline play a role in this context? Check out the results of this empirical study on young people in Nigeria!

Enjoy reading this diverse selection of papers!

About the Editors

Noella Edelmann completed her Psychology Degree at the University of Strathclyde, UK and Masters' Degrees at the University of London, UK and the Danube University Krems, Austria. She received her PhD from the Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia where she focused on the importance of online lurking in the context of e-participation. Currently she is a senior researcher at the Department for Governance and Administration at the Danube University Krems. Her main research interests are the digital transformation and the use of social media in the public sector, e-participation, Open Access and scholarly communication. She is involved in the EU-funded projects such as Gov 3.0, Cap4City, and national projects funded by the Lower Austrian Regional Government, the Austrian Ministry of Digital and Economic Affairs (BMDW) and the Ministry of Civil Service and Sport. Noella is the Managing Editor of the international Open Access eJournal for E-Democracy and Open Government (JeDEM), Chair of the Social Media Track at the EGOV-CeDEM-ePart Conference and a member of IFIP WG 8.5.

Judith Schoßböck is a research fellow at the Centre for E-Governance at Danube University Krems, Austria and a HKPFS award recipient at the Department for Media and Communication at City University Hong Kong. She is managing editor of the open access e-journal JeDEM (jedem.org). At Danube University, she was inter alia involved in research projects covering electronic participation, civic online engagement, e-literacy, e-governance and open access.