



Editorial

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Abstract: *This issue of JeDEM is based on a selection of extended and updated versions of papers presented at EDEM 10 (Conference for Electronic Democracy and Open Government, Krems, Austria). It comprises the papers receiving the best reviewer scores and the keynote talks of the conference.*

Keywords: eParticipation, eDemocracy, Open Access, Social Networking, Government 2.0

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Welcome to the first issue of Volume 3 of the international, peer-reviewed Open Access eJournal of eDemocracy and Open Government! JeDEM continues to address the theory and practice in eDemocracy and Open Government as well as eGovernment, eParticipation, eSociety and Open Access. Whilst focusing on the broad scale of these topics, we especially seek to encourage contributions on recently evolving and expanding research areas like Open Data, Government 2.0 or new forms of civic participation and the Digital (Data) Divide.

Changing Governmentality

Recent years have seen a number of changes affecting both top-down and bottom-up governmental structures based on a shift in power and control. Open Government is finally on the political agenda, not only in states that set an example, but also on the European and Eastern European level. In more and more countries, Open Data initiatives are trying to convey the importance of open information and data, mostly bottom-up driven. Possibilities of publishing governmental information online or the case of Wikileaks strongly illustrate the power of information in our eSociety. And citizens find themselves confronted with vast possibilities of shaping their society online. They are doing this in a semi-public sphere and out of their private chamber – a practice that is significantly changing the notion of the political in our times. That way, topics can be put on the political agenda easily and along the way. In a networked society, citizens are increasingly using the expressive and organizational possibilities of the social web. However, researchers need to examine these developments critically and independently from a public or institutional rhetoric that might be influenced by economic or strategic agendas. Last year's developments, for instance the protests in the Arabic world, once more gave rise to a techno-optimistic view of the internet addressing the power of social networking and its potential for voicing citizens' concerns. Concerning the effects of the social web for increased political action – one of the key issues of electronic democracy – researchers have not still come to a common view and techno-optimists and –pessimists are presenting their theories one after the other.

Government today is not limited to state politics alone, but including a wide range of concepts such as citizen empowerment, control techniques and, in particular, a new understanding of power. The challenge of today's research is to shed light on issues between the contradictory contexts of disruption, empowerment, control and autonomy. Media awareness and eLiteracy, new forms of the Digital Divide or the effects of the social web in organizational and governmental contexts

continue to be amongst the key topics, and more research in those areas is still needed. But also government strategic planners, politicians and CIOs must look at an ongoing transformation process characterized by the progressive socialization and commoditization of information, data, processes and services.

With this issue, we publish a selection of papers presented at last year's EDEM 10 conference. These papers take on up-to-date issues ranging from new modes of digital citizenship over citizen empowerment to networking in a political or scientific context.

Painting a broad picture of eDemocracy

Democracy and revolutions are actually discussed around the notion of the digital. Ismael Peña-López is taking on this topic by asking about the socioeconomic changes currently taking place and how these changes could eventually lead to a much acclaimed new (e-)democracy. As the main components of eDemocracy, Open Data and social media are opening new scenarios and new approaches to openness, transparency and accountability. Based on these observations, the *goverati* is a key concept in the information society.

Andy Williamson's article *Disruption and Empowerment* is another state of the art discussion of the changing landscape of society and politics. The paper is placing current practices and methods of democratic engagement and representation within a historical framework. By identifying key transformational agendas in the modus operandi of citizen to government exchange, a transformative model for citizen-driven democracy that might connect with the systems of power in a more democratic way is described.

We are particularly pleased to be able to include a paper on *Open Access to Research* in this section. The contribution of Stevan Harnard explains how Open Access (OA) metrics can be used to measure and reward research progress and impact, why not all peer-reviewed research is yet OA and why scholars and scientists need the inducement of mandates from their institutions and funders.

Besides these updated *keynote papers*, the *scientific research papers* section comprises updated and extended papers receiving the best reviewer scores at EDEM 10 (the order of appearance following the thematic focus, not the scores).

Jakob Svensson's *The Expressive Turn of Citizenship in Digital Late Modernity* is taking on an innovative approach by connecting the idea of expressive rationality to current debates on citizenship and political participation. The author argues that today's network sociability favours an expressive form of rationality. Maybe this view can add to the development of a more rewarding theoretical concept for understanding political participation in digital late modernity.

Another innovative concept is presented in the paper of Axel Bruns and Adam Swift. The *g4c2c* model is building on existing approaches in Government 2.0, in particular recent Australian initiatives and taking them a step further by suggesting a workable compromise based on government support for citizen-to-citizen engagement including public service broadcasters.

After these theoretical and conceptual foundations, the following papers take on a more practical and case scenario-based approach by asking about the potential of social networking and e-services for political, organizational and social aims: Marko M. Skoric and Grace Kwan seek to find out whether *Facebook and video games promote political participation among youth* by focusing on the intensity of Facebook use and frequency of video gaming.

Aspasia Papaloi and Dimitris Gouscos present a new view on *Parliaments and Novel Parliament-to-Citizen services* and explain how an e-enabled parliament can not only offer flexibility in parliamentary proceedings and facilitate the work of its members, but also strive for the inclusion of citizens. A number of existing citizen deliberation applications and research projects are highlighted as potential candidates for deploying parliament-to-citizen services.

Changes in the organizations' environments often create a need to redesign business processes, reallocate responsibilities, and reorder tasks. With the AGILE project described in the paper *Public Agility and Change in a Networked Environment*, Tom van Engers and Alexander Boer develop a design method, distributed service architecture, and supporting tools that enable organizations to orchestrate their law-based services.

Finally, the article of Francesco Molinari and Erika Porquier is dealing with *Social Networking on Climate Change* and reports on the deployment of a multilingual social networking platform in three regions of Europe (Catalonia, Poitou-Charentes and Tuscany). It includes ideas for policy makers on whether and when social networking in this context can be useful.

We hope you enjoy reading our little selection of high quality papers painting just a small but comprehensive picture of the state of the art in eDemocracy and Open Government. Of course, we are open to your feedback concerning this or the upcoming issue, so do not hesitate to contact us if you have any suggestions.

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