



# EARLY STAGE RESEARCHERS COLLOQUIUM 2015

24 SEPTEMBER 2015 IN BERLIN

Hereby the Alexander von Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society announces the annual colloquium held in Berlin, 24 September 2015. We wish to gather early stage researchers (Ph.D. candidates and post-docs) from all disciplines in order to drive forward the discussion on topics in the field of Internet research. The colloquium provides a stage for new perspectives on current issues of Internet and society.

## CALL FOR PAPERS

This year's colloquium will consist of five thematically focused tracks. **We cordially invite you to submit your research projects on one of the following topics:**

### 1. RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE IN A DIGITAL AGE

The Internet offers fundamentally new premises for how knowledge is created and disseminated. Research in particular is facing massive changes in the way it produces and conveys knowledge. Scientific blogs allow communicating at a faster pace, data sharing platforms enable collaboration at an intermediate stage in the research process, and new models of participation, as for example citizen science, allow volunteers to take part in the discovery process. In this stream we welcome entries from areas such as communication science, information science, economics, and science and technology studies that cover changes and emerging practices in scholarly communication, research collaboration and access to scholarly output. We also welcome entries from related fields that cover changes in knowledge creation and dissemination.

### 2. INTERNET AND PUBLIC GOVERNANCE

The use of the Internet in public services is gaining more and more attention. We therefore want to discuss structural repercussions the Internet has on fundamental ordering principles as well as on the general functions of public administrations and state institutions as regards the provision of public goods, tasks and outreach. The focus of this workshop lies less on how these technologies are rolled-out but rather on the impact and challenges these developments have on state actors and specific public governance areas. We look for approaches to e-Government and e-Services like e-justice or e-health, fight against corruption, one-stop shop approaches, smart utilities, and law enforcement; but we are also interested in research that addresses guiding ordering principles for the state institutions, like open government, transparency and privacy. We are interested in new cases, novel approaches and innovative perspectives. We especially welcome insights into areas of the global southern hemisphere, that provide an understanding of the role of contextual factors.

### 3. INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH ON INFORMATION PRIVACY, SURVEILLANCE, AND DATA PROTECTION

Facing the inherent complexity of information privacy and the growing interdependence between social, legal, economic, and technological aspects of privacy in the Internet age, research on information privacy, surveillance, and data protection is depending more and more on interdisciplinary cooperation. But interdisciplinarity is posing major scientific challenges in itself. In the workshop, we want to ask which theoretical foundations and research approaches are able to bridge the gap between the disciplines involved. How can we create a mutual understanding between social, legal, economic, and technical sciences? What are the assumptions, scopes, and limits of theories of information privacy, surveillance and data protection, and how can we make them transparent to researchers from different disciplines? We invite perspectives from all disciplines and theoretical and empirical backgrounds to contribute to our debate on interdisciplinary information privacy, surveillance, and data protection research. During the session there will be very brief five-minute inputs by the paper givers and ample room for discussion and the generation of new ideas.



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#### 4. ALGORITHMIC GOVERNANCE

Data and algorithms seem to organise and structure our communications, our purchases and financial trades, our mobility and our risk evaluations – in short: our lives in a digital society. While this governance by algorithms is increasingly getting public attention, rigorous empirical research is still scarce and fragmented. For this track, we call for papers that empirically scrutinise exemplary cases of algorithmic governance (e.g. content regulation on platforms, user profiling, predictive policing). What happens when existing rules and practices are translated into computable decisions systems? What are the normative evaluations and business interests that shape the creation of these algorithms? What kind of data is included (and what does this process exclude)? How does the proliferation of abstract quantifications and algorithmically produced knowledge relate to the conventions and assumptions that underpin our understanding of society?

#### 5. DIGITAL COMMUNICATION AND VALUE CREATION BETWEEN COMPANIES AND THE CROWD

Given the need to become more malleable and meet the demands of the business environment of the so-called network information economy companies seek renewed organisation models particularly in the relationship with internet users. Companies are no longer players that have a linear and unidirectional dialogue with the consumer, but are part of a decentralised and complex information ecosystem with multiple players. The connected consumer requires other marketing and communication strategies. This workshop therefore focuses on different theoretical and methodological approaches in their analysis of the communication relationship between companies and the crowd in the context of digital networks.

Please feel invited to submit theoretical, practical or experimental research work. We kindly ask you to follow these submission guidelines:

- An abstract outlining the relevance of the topic, the research method and questions. *Max. 300 words/1800 characters with spaces (possibly printed in the programme)*
- A short paper providing more detailed information about your research. *2 to max. 8 pages; File type: PDF*
- Short CV. *Max. 2 pages; File type: PDF*

Selected papers will be considered for publication in the [Internet Policy Review](#), an open-access, short-form, fast-track academic journal published by the HIIG.

**Submission will be accepted via the conference system until 15 June 2015.** Please note that you need to register in order to submit a proposal.

<http://colloquium.hiig.de/index.php/esrc>