



IF DaD
International Forum
on Digital and Democracy



Ca' Foscari
University
of Venice

// call for contributions

International Forum on Digital and Democracy

IFDaD 2020 // First International Forum on Digital and Democracy

Towards a sustainable Evolution

December 10th - 11th 2020

Ca' Foscari University of Venice & Fondazione Giorgio Cini // Venice, Italy

www.ifdad.org

The conference aims to be a meeting place for policymakers, practitioners and academics in order to foster international collaboration through the exchange of information, ideas and good practices.

Internet caused a first transformation of the context, determining an acceleration of the trends and of the possibility of interaction. A bidirectional communication between center and periphery, skipping the intermediate structures. A real time mass personalization of messages up to the individual level. A decrease of distances with a subsequent reduction/cancellation of the relevance of intermediate structures, while depriving emptying them of their formative, educational, cohesive and organizational roles. The exponential spread of the Internet of Things, with its upcoming trillion of connected devices, promises such an acquisition of data that they can be used for political purposes at unprecedented levels. The evolution of Artificial Intelligence expands the scalability and speed of computer actions to areas, such as perception, classification and prediction, previously restricted to humans.

Centennial laws, institutions and organizations develop at a human speed, which is hardly consistent with that of the immaterial world exploited for political purposes.

The first effects caused by these evolutions see the emergence of personal parties or the strengthening of autocracies, the reduction of accountability, the emergence of mass underground information manipulation (thanks to the exploitation of individual psychological mechanisms), the rise of misinformation and trivialization, the lowering of the cost of coordination leading to the rise, in frequency and participation, of leaderless movements' unrest.

The search for neutral communication towards the development of political opinions has undergone a dramatic retreat. The balance between the right to information, the right to privacy and freedom of expression is on the ropes. This recalls the tension between individuals and society, the tension that emerges between rights and duties, especially in critical situation. Even if digital evolution seems to be oriented towards a divergence from SDGs' objective #16, we should always remember that "We cannot hope for sustainable development without peace, stability, human rights and effective governance, based on the rule of law."

INVITED SPEAKERS:

Romano Prodi // VP EU // Gianluca Misuraca

Jeffrey Sachs // Kofi Annan Foundation // UNESCO // UNSDSN





TRACKS:

TRACK 1 Democracy and political decision-making

Analysis from the individual standpoint: develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions. The role of technology in pursuing such aims. Computer aided policy making, civic artificial intelligence. How artificial intelligence could assist citizens in activating their rights, including information and participation rights. The changing role of institutions based on inclusive voting. How e-voting can help participation in decision-making process, parliamentary, assembly proceedings (e.g. critical situation like COVID-19). Balance between representative system and direct participation.

TRACK 2 Social involvement and participation

Analysis from the society standpoint: ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels. How people are engaged and eventually become part of the organization. How people are educated and informed, how the public opinion is formed and can be oriented, how media and platforms should work to promote democracy and human rights (top down flows). Citizen inclusion and digital divide: gender, age, education.

TRACK 3 Participation and functioning of parties

Analysis from bodies standpoint: broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance. How people opinion is collected, structured, analyzed; how people self-organize to form political entities; the role of participatory budgeting, e-Consultation, e-Polling, and e-Legislation [citizen assemblies, popular initiatives, petitions (bottom up flows)]. Parties' internal operation: frameworks for a political ERP system.

TRACK 4 Information access and integrity

Analysis from institutions standpoint: ensure public access to sound information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements. How people are informed about the organizations (including PA) workings. Methods to finance political parties and campaigns; methods for countering corruption; how to address the self-propagation issue in the political class (i.e. people getting in power and then doing whatever it takes to stay there and/or get a private financial gain). Big data, fake news and democracy manipulation: after Cambridge Analytica.

SUBMISSION AND REVIEW PROCESS

Proposals will be reviewed single-blind and do not need to be anonymized before submission. Paper content must be original and relevant to one of the tracks. Authors are required to ensure accuracy of quotations, citations, diagrams, maps, and tables. The paper should be in English and should be no longer than 10 pages including references when formatted according to the downloadable [Word](#) or [Latex](#) template.

Contributions can be selected to be presented to the conference either as oral presentation or poster presentation.

Authors should select one among the four tracks when submitting using [EasyChair](#).





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Each submitted paper will be carefully peer-reviewed by a panel of PC members based on originality, significance, technical soundness, and clarity of exposition and relevance for the conference. For each accepted paper, at least one author is required to attend the conference and should plan to present the paper.

PUBLICATION

The proceedings of the forum shall be submitted to be published by CEUR in the CEUR-WS.org: AI*IA Series. CEUR is a free open-access publication service of Sun SITE Central Europe. The copyright of each paper remains with the authors, and each author is responsible for maintaining the copyright of the presented material. Note that only papers that are 6 pages or more in length will be published in the forum CEUR proceedings.

IFDaD 2020 will not consider any paper that, at the time of submission, is under review for or has already been published or accepted for publication in a journal or another conference. Once submitted to IFDaD 2020, authors may not submit the paper elsewhere during IFDaD's review period. These restrictions apply only to refereed journals and conferences, not to unrefereed forums or workshops with a limited audience and without archival proceedings. Authors must confirm that their submissions conform to these requirements at the time of submission.

BioLaw Journal may consider conference papers in the area of law, artificial intelligence, life sciences and bioethics for publication. Selected papers need to be extended and adapted according to the journal's requirements.

IMPORTANT DATES

31/07/2020 // Electronic proposals due at 11:59 PM UTC-10 (midnight Hawaii)
10/10/2020 // Notification of acceptance or rejection
10/11/2020 // Camera-ready copy due at 11:59 PM UTC-10 (midnight Hawaii)

Submission deadline: July 31st 2020

Communication of the Accepted Position paper Proposals: October 10th 2020

Final version of accepted Position paper Proposals due: November 10th 2020

GUIDELINES FOR CHANGES TO TITLES // AUTHORS AFTER SUBMISSIONS

MODIFICATIONS TO ABSTRACT/PAPERS ARE ONLY ALLOWED UNTIL THE PROPOSAL DEADLINE. Nothing can be changed after July 31st 2020. No exceptions will be granted.

In the case of restrictions on mass gatherings and large events or on travels, e.g. due to Covid-19, IFDaD 2020 will be held online.

