
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Dimitris Gouscos is an Assistant Professor with the Faculty of Communication and Media Studies of the University of Athens and a Research Fellow of the Laboratory of New Technologies in Communication, Education and the Mass Media. His research interests include digital communication, electronic governance, social media and digital games.

In this concluding issue of the *International Journal of Electronic Governance* for 2013, our focus turns to the interdisciplinary domain of online political participation. The special issue on “New developments in online political participation”, guest-edited by Dr. Simon Gadras, University Lumière-Lyon 2, France, and Dr. Fabienne Greffet, University of Lorraine, France, gives us the opportunity to publish a set of research articles that bring forward novel issues and much fresh thinking in the ways that online political participation evolves and expands. The introduction of our guest editors that follows, as well as the invited research paper by Prof. Dr. Norbert Kersting, University of Muenster, Germany open up the discussion by highlighting a number of important advancements and issues in this domain, whose significance extends beyond online participation to some core factors that influence political engagement itself.

Alongside the research articles that follow in this special issue, our regular columns on news and briefs as well as forthcoming conferences of interest to our readership provide a broader spectrum of directions in which research and practice moves along, not only in e-governance but also in cognate domains such as electronic communication, digital mediatisation, social media and others.

Volume 7 of the journal will continue in 2014 with alternating regular and special issues on topics from the IJEG subject coverage. At the same time, the call for papers for our special issue on “Challenging Government: e-Participation and the social web”, guest edited by Dr. Darren Mundy, University of Hull, UK and Dr. Tobias Bevc, University of Augsburg, Germany and planned for publication in 2015 is currently open (more details available on the IJEG Call for Papers webpage), whereas some more special issues will also be announced in the months to come.

Leaving the floor to our guest editors for their introduction, please be invited to peruse the articles of this special issue and stay close to IJEG for more to come.