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## Editorial

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**Biographical notes:** Dimitris Gouscos is an Assistant Professor with the Department 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.

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It is with pleasure that we welcome you to the current special issue of the *International Journal of Electronic Governance* on *Challenging Government: e-participation and the Social Web*, guest-edited by Darren Mundy, University of Hull, UK and Tobias Bevc, University of Augsburg, Germany. As the theme of this issue testifies, our guest editors' introduction and the research papers that follow showcase a number of selected approaches that indeed build on the advancements of what can nowadays be called 'the social web', in order to challenge our expectations for the ways in which digital media can be used for e-participation and e-deliberation, in the broad sense of these terms.

Before leaving the floor to our guest editors for their own introduction, please note that more special issues on interdisciplinary topics from the journal's subject coverage are on the way, to be published during the next few months of 2015 and throughout 2016, including:

- *Methodologies, technologies and tools enabling e-government*, guest-edited by Barbara Re, University of Camerino, Italy and Marino Miculan, University of Udine, Italy.
- *Electronic governance and open society: challenges in Eurasia*, guest-edited by Yuri Misnikov, ITMO University, Russia; Christine Leitner, Centre for Economics and Public Administration, UK and Dmitrii Trutnev, ITMO University, Russia.
- *Personalisation in e-government and smart cities*, guest-edited by Nikolaos Loutas, PwC, Belgium; Fedelucio Narducci, University of Bari Aldo Moro, Italy; Adegboyega Ojo, Insight@NUI, Ireland; Matteo Palmonari, University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy; Cécile Paris, CSIRO Digital Productivity Flagship, Australia and Giovanni Semeraro, University of Bari Aldo Moro, Italy.

- *Electronic participation*, guest-edited by Efthimios Tambouris, University of Macedonia, Greece; Konstantinos Tarabanis, University of Macedonia, Greece; Øystein Sæbø, University of Agder, Norway and Panos Panagiotopoulos, Queen Mary University of London, UK.
- *Empowering citizenship in the hybrid city*, guest-edited by Dimitris Charitos, University of Athens, Greece; Martijn de Waal, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands and Penny Travlou, University of Edinburgh, UK.
- *Citizen rights in the world of the new computing paradigms*, guest-edited by Sokratis Katsikas, University of Piraeus, Greece and Alexander Sideridis, Agricultural University of Athens, Greece.

We invite all our readers and contributors to check the *IJEG* call for papers page at <http://www.inderscience.com/info/ingeneral/cfplist.php?jcode=ijeg> for currently open calls for submissions to the special issues above.

Alongside these developments, in our ongoing quest to expand the subject coverage of the *International Journal of Electronic Governance*, and especially so across boundary-spanning interdisciplinary topics, we are constantly looking out for regular contributions and special issues on emerging topics such as open data and big data, collaborative and coproduced governance and participation, smart local governance, DIY citizenship and many others.

At the same time, in the effort to provide our readership with a rich coverage of news and upcoming conferences of interest to the broader electronic governance constituency, we are providing some 40 links to selected recent developments and forthcoming electronic governance-related conferences in our News in Brief and Conference Calendar columns, respectively.

Last but not least, in the current issue of *IJEG* we are happy to continue with our recently launched Book Reviews column, featuring review presentations of books that span a broad spectrum of interdisciplinary topics of interest for electronic governance researchers and practitioners. In this respect, we are glad to present a review of *Matching Voters with Parties and Candidates – Voting Advice Applications in Comparative Perspective*, a collective volume edited by Diego Garzia and Stefan Marschall (ECPR Press, 2014) that offers an integral view to state-of-the-art developments in the field of VAAs.

We gladly invite you to peruse for your interest the guest editorial, research articles, news and briefs, conference calendar and book review that follow and stay close to us for more advancements and updates.