
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Dimitris Gouscos is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication and Media Studies at the National and Kapodistrian 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 Issue No. 4, which concludes Vol. 8 of the *International Journal of Electronic Governance*, we are glad to present the IJEG Special Issue on *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.

The special issue, which has drawn research papers from contributors of the EPart conference series (part of the dual IFIP EGOV/EPart conferences), provides a very interesting picture of developments in the research, practice and thought of electronic participation, one of the fundamental pillars of the e-governance landscape.

In the months to come, IJEG will continue with alternating regular and special issues on topics from the journal's subject coverage. In this respect, our forthcoming special issues feature

- *Personalization 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
- *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 co-produced 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 a number of links to selected Electronic Governance-related recent developments and forthcoming conferences in our news in brief and conference calendar columns, respectively.

On top of that, in the current issue of IJEG, we are happy to continue with our 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 the review of one more title: *The Utopia of Rules – On Technology, Stupidity, and the Secret Joys of Bureaucracy* by David Graeber, published by Melville House (2015), providing a theoretically-grounded, and at the same time lively discussion, about the ways in which bureaucracy relates to a spectrum of hidden attitudes, of states and individuals alike.

Leaving the floor to our guest editors for their own introduction of the special issue, we gladly invite you to read on and peruse the research papers, news in brief, conference calendar and book review that follow.

And, last but not least, we extend to all of you our most sincere wishes for a peaceful and prosperous 2017 for everyone on the planet.