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 at 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.



We gladly welcome our readers to the second issue of the *International Journal of Electronic Governance* for 2020, featuring a number of research papers that extend across our subject coverage and span the journal's international reference.

In 'Role of organisational aspects in requirements engineering processes of a sociotechnical system: insights from e-governance case studies', by Kompella, issues of stable designs of socio-technical systems based on requirements engineering approaches are discussed. The author builds on transition theory to analyse inter-organisational interactions, focusing on e-governance socio-technical system as a case. The paper contributes to extending socio-technical transition theory with organisational aspects and categories that can help to improve the stability of inter-organisational designs such as the ones required for e-governance applications.

Moving on to issues of open government practices, 'A critical study of electronic participation, transparency and open data in two Latin American countries', by Freitas, Macadar and Henriqson, compares two Latin American open government programmes by focusing on electronic participation, transparency and open data practices. The authors apply a Theory of Communicative Action approach to demonstrate some potential faults that arise out of poor alignment of government programmes with government discourse

and political wills. This approach promises potential as an instrument to critically portray the status quo of open government and highlight eventual improvements needed at the policy making level.

Taking this thread on to broader governance issues, in 'Decentralisation and governance in IoT: Bitcoin and Wikipedia case', by Sedrati, Stoyanova, Mezrioui, Hilali and Benomar, the authors focus on the ways in which the 'decentralised' structure of contemporary internet continues to raise questions on power, governance and democratic processes online. Bitcoin and Wikipedia, as two characteristic examples at different levels, are used as cases for studying decentralised decision-making processes and bring forward some policy inconsistencies that are not in line with democratic and consensus-based governance principles. The authors discuss some further improvements in the quest for more democracy and equity in the digital environment.

The research paper concluding our current issue, 'Differential roles of usage patterns of social networking sites in political learning', by Park, draws on results of a national survey of more than 1,000 South Korean adults to explore whether usage of social networking sites for news information is positively associated with knowledge about political issues. Removing aspects of SNS use not linked to political expression, this research suggests that the association between SNS use and political knowledge is contingent upon usage patterns and political reasoning.

During the months that follow, IJEG will continue with alternating regular and special issues, with respective calls for papers to be announced. In this respect, we are glad to announce a forthcoming special issue on *Safeguarding Democracy and Human Rights in the Digital Age*, guest edited by Prof. Sokratis Katsikas, Open University of Cyprus, Cyprus, and Dr. Vasilis Zorkadis, Hellenic Data Protection Authority, Greece.

At the same time, we invite all of our readers and contributors to check our call for papers page at http://www.inderscience.com/info/ingeneral/cfplist.php?jcode=ijeg for upcoming calls for submissions to IJEG.

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 that reach out to bridge electronic governance with public value innovation, and so much so innovation for the sustainable development goals agenda, be it through digital government, open government, public participation, social solidarity, humanitarian technology and innovation, we are constantly looking out for regular contributions and special issues on emerging topics. And we continue to provide our readership with a coverage of news and upcoming conferences of interest to the broader Electronic Governance constituency, in our News in Brief and Conference Calendar columns, respectively.

Leaving the floor to our authors for their research contributions, we welcome you to read on and peruse the research papers, news in brief and conference calendar that follow.