



awareness and engagement, does play a role in the adoption of electronic governance offerings.

Haydari and Montazer, in a ‘A sub-national model for assessing e-government readiness in Iranian organisations (case study: Tarbiat Modares University)’ that follows, shift this discussion onto the broader theme of electronic government readiness, with a specific focus on subnational organisational contexts. Drawing from research in Iranian organisations and academia, the authors come up with a model of intra- and extra-organisational factors of varying importance for the degree to which organisational actors perceive their home institutions as electronic government-ready.

The papers that follow move the discussion to even broader themes from the electronic governance agenda. In ‘The digital responses of the Brazilian legislative to the Covid-19 pandemic: a prospecting of initiatives at the federal and state level’ Anes and Barros study the patterns of electronic governance initiatives undertaken by the federal and state legislative houses in Brazil to handle the coronavirus pandemic. From a corpus of more than 100 initiatives analysed, the authors identify a diversity of activities all the way from information exchange, to transparency of actions and engagement and participation in decisions.

Shifting to more traditional domains of online political discussion, in the context of elections, Oni, Oni and Udemezue, in ‘Sentiment analysis of political discussion on Twitter in Nigeria 2019 presidential election’, employ sentiment analysis techniques to explore the ways in which social media discussion has correlated with election events. An important finding of this work shows that, in this case, Twitter has not been used to share original political ideologies, but rather as a medium for further disseminating the tweets and campaign messages of candidates.

And last but not least, in ‘Eroded sovereignty or algorithmic nation? transnational diffusion of blockchain in governance’, the concluding paper of our current issue and the 2021 volume of IJEG, Lu, Wu and Liu set out to explore the ways in which adoption of blockchain in electronic governance may affect the relationships between transnational non-state actors and state sovereignty. As the authors highlight through examples, the adoption of blockchain technology, beyond its evangelised transformative potential, may give rise to opposite phenomena. In fact, blockchain may render state sovereignty weaker in settings where it is already weak (e.g., displaced communities), and at the same time stronger in contexts where it is already strong (e.g., e-government transactions).

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, NTNU, Norway, 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. Research submissions

touching upon the open response to and open recovery of governments worldwide from the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as to their adaptations to the Covid-19 shock, are especially welcome in this respect. The same is true for contributions on the crossroads of e-governance and open government with climate change effects, such as the big fires that are currently experienced worldwide. Meanwhile, 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.