

The Production of Participation in the Digital World

Workshop 12-13 December 2019
NTNU, Trondheim



INFORMATION

We are excited to welcome you to our workshop on 12th-13th of December. Below you will find an outline of the program.

The event will be held in the premises of [NTNU Akrinn](#) (Kalvskinnet), Sverre Gt. 12. It is located downtown Trondheim next to Leutenhaven, a 3-4 min walk from the Market Place (Trondheim Torg). Once there, look or ask for SIT Café. We will be located in an unnamed room behind, in the far end of the café.

Lunches will be held in the SIT Café. Dinner Thursday evening will take place at [Jossa Mat & Drikke](#) at Ladeveien 9 for chairs and presenters. Lunch will only be covered by the workshop for presenters and chairs. Other participants are welcome to join but must purchase their own lunch in the SIT Café.

Please fill out the following scheme about lunch and dinner attendance: <https://tinyurl.com/sl9r7fb>

For updates about place and program, follow our event page at <https://www.facebook.com/events/2101469596815391/>

PLEASE NOTE that each presentation should be 15-20 minutes, *MAX* 20 minutes long, to give room for questions and discussions.

WORKSHOP THEME

With the heading *the production of participation in the digital world*, the workshop has a special focus on how recent digital developments influence users'/citizens'/consumers' participation and empowerment in digital society. Our starting point is that the conditions for future participation are carved out and battled over, openly or covertly, by and between different "production sites" and "actor collectives". Although large platforms and technology companies may have dominated the battlefield the last decade, they are not the only contestants. Governments, nongovernmental organizations, cooperatives, consumers, citizens, incumbent businesses, individual entrepreneurs, hackers, visionaries, engineers, branders and workers all participate and contribute, consciously or unconsciously, to the shaping of the infrastructures of the future as they maneuver them today. More or less stable collectives and alliances are formed, and clashes among actors pursuing different interests take place at various levels, local, national, supranational, global.

The workshop asks: How is this work carried out? Through which strategies and techniques? Under which frameworks? What are the objectives and agendas of the various stakeholders? And how do they comply with democratic ideals of citizen empowerment and participation?

WORKSHOP PROGRAM

THURSDAY

- 09:00-09:30 Registration and coffee
- 09:30-10:30 **1st Key Talk**
Civic participation in a datafied society by Dr. Lina Dencik (University of Cardiff)
- 10:30-11:45 **Session 1 - Public data infrastructures and citizen participation part I**
Participation in data infrastructures in the public sector by Elena Parmiggiani (NTNU) and Miria Grisot (Kristiania University College)
Laboratory 717 - a platform for participation and democratic innovation in Andalusia by Esteban Roomeroo-Frías (University of Granada)
In Search of the Citizen – Mapping the Norwegian Public Sector’s discourse on Artificial Intelligence by Heather Broomfield (Difi) and Lisa Reutter (NTNU)
Chair: Aksel Tjora
- 11:45-13:00 **Lunch**
- 13:00-14:00 **2nd Key Talk**
Governing platforms and Value-Centric Design by Dr. Thomas Poell (University of Amsterdam)
- 14:00-15:15 **Session 2 – “Decisions”, “trust”, “value” – renewing our concepts for a digitized world**
What is an algorithmic decision?
Michael Grothe Hammer (Helmut-Schmidt-Universität Hamburg and NTNU)
What does the concept of trust mean in the age of digital organizations?
Nataliia Korotkova (NTNU) and Margareth Horn (NTNU)
Datafication, hierarchization and new social orders of worth by Emil A. Røyrvik (NTNU)
Chair: Heidrun Åm
- 15:15-15:45 **Coffee Break**
- 15:45-17:00 **Session 3 – The production of participation on media platforms part I**
Just a folk theory? User understandings of algorithms as media critique by Sophie Bishop (King’s College London) and Ellis Jones (University of Oslo)
The production of participation on streaming platforms by Hendrik Storstien Spilker (NTNU)
Between algorithms and editors: An examination of the cultural industries perceptions of personalization and diversity in streaming services by Håvard Kiberg (University of Oslo)
Chair: Gundhild Tøndel

FRIDAY

09:30-10:00

Coffee

10:00-11:15

Session 4: Public data infrastructures and citizen participation part II

Infrastructural socialism: Digital feedback and non-markets by Alex Gekker (University of Amsterdam) and Sam Hind (University of Siegen)

Is platformization limiting participation? Assessing the malleability of design elements for citizen participation by Tangni Dahl-Jørgensen (NTNU)

Promoting digital justice in social work by Anne Wullum Aasback (NTNU)

Chair: Ann R. Sætnan

11:30-12:30

Lunch

12:30-13:45

Session 5: The production of participation on media platforms part II

Leading by numbers – Deciding news stories by digital measures by Gudrun Rudningen Skjælåen (OsloMet)

Identifying public service values in the digital. Strategies of the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation by Ewa Morsund (NTNU)

Reflections on means, ends, and the morality of gamification by Ann Rudinow Sætnan (NTNU)

Chair: Melanie Magin

13:45-14:00

Coffee Break

14:00-14:45

Session 6: The production of participation in politics

How political parties tried to produce participation in the European Election Campaign 2019 – a comparative content analysis of parties' Facebook campaigns in 11 countries by Melanie Magin (NTNU)

Digitizing Democracy: Facebook's Emergence as a Digital Infrastructure for Democratic Participation Among the Young Politically Engaged in Norway by Tor Anders Bye (NTNU)

Chair: Emil Røyrvik

14:45-15:15

Round-up panel

Panel: Lina Dencik, Thomas Poell, Melanee Magin, Emil Røyrvik

Keynote speaker

Dr. Lina Dencik

University of Cardiff

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Civic participation in a datafied society

Citizens are increasingly assessed, profiled, categorized and ‘scored’ according to data assemblages, their future behavior is predicted through data processing, and services are allocated accordingly. In a datafied society, state-citizen relations become quasi-automated and dependent on algorithmic decision-making. This raises significant challenges for democratic processes, active citizenship and public engagement. At the same time, we have seen a (re)emergence of citizen-centered democratic practices, from citizen assemblies to crowdsourced policies, that suggest a recognised need to enhance citizen voice in decision-making. Drawing on the on-going collaborative project ‘Towards Democratic Auditing’ carried out by the Data Justice Lab, in this talk I will engage with the question of advancing civic participation in a context of rapid technological and social transformation, considering also experiments in new democratic practices to ensure legitimacy, transparency, accountability and intervention in relation to data-driven governance. In so doing, I will outline emerging terrains for developing citizen agency in a datafied society.

Bio

Lina Dencik is Reader at the School of Journalism, Media and Culture at Cardiff University, UK and is Co-Founder of the Data Justice Lab. She has published widely on digital media, resistance and the politics of data and is currently Principal Investigator of the DATAJUSTICE project funded by an ERC Starting Grant. Her publications include *Media and Global Civil Society* (Palgrave, 2012), *Worker Resistance and Media* (Peter Lang, 2015), *Critical Perspectives on Social Media and Protest* (Rowman & Littlefield International, 2015) and *Digital Citizenship in a Datafied Society* (Polity, 2018).

Website: <https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/people/view/182924-dencik-lina>

Keynote speaker

Dr. Thomas Poell

University of Amsterdam

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Governing platforms and Value-Centric Design

Digital platforms enable user-driven forms of organization and collective action (Benkler 2006; Bennett and Segerberg 2013, Shirky 2008). Yet, platform-based activity is simultaneously centrally monitored and shaped through ubiquitous techno-commercial infrastructures (Couldry 2015; Fuchs 2017; van Dijck 2013). As platforms penetrate every sphere of life, this combination of distributed user participation and top-down techno-commercial steering undermines public institutions and destabilizes social relations, enhancing the precarity of labor, unsettling urban communities, and disrupting democratic public debate (van Dijck, Poell & de Waal 2018). In the light of these problems, this paper considers how the platformization of society can be governed in correspondence with vital public values. It argues that due to the nature of platform-based activity, effective governing arrangements need to be organized through a framework of ‘cooperative responsibility’, which revolves around the dynamic interaction between platforms, public institutions, and users, which include individual citizens, but also incumbent businesses, advertisers, NGOs, political parties, and other societal organizations (Helberger, Pierson & Poell 2018, 1). However, a major obstacle in developing such arrangements are the progressively entangled economic interests of the involved actors. In the name of optimization and cutting back public expenditure, governments actively contribute to platformization by deregulating markets and privatizing public infrastructures, while citizens increasingly dependent on asset-based welfare schemes revolving around platforms. Hence, future governing arrangements will need to be based on a new political pact informed by key public values and geared towards reducing dependence on corporate platforms. Reflecting on these challenges and drawing on proposals for value-centric design, this presentation will sketch the contours of such a pact.

Bio

Thomas Poell, Ph.D. is senior lecturer in New Media & Digital Culture and Program Director of the Research Master Media Studies at the University of Amsterdam (NL). He has published widely on digital platforms and popular protest in Canada, Egypt, Tunisia, India, and China, as well as on the role of these platforms in the reorganization of key economic sectors, including journalism, education, and health care. Poell is co-author of *The Platform Society* with José van Dijck and Martijn de Waal (Oxford University Press, 2018), offering a comprehensive analysis of how platforms disrupt markets and labor relations, circumvent institutions, transform social and civic practices and affect democratic processes. Furthermore, he co-edited *The Sage Handbook of Social Media* with Jean Burgess and Alice Marwick (Sage, 2018), *Social Media Materialities and Protest* with Mette Mortensen and Christina Neumayer (Routledge, 2018), and *Global Cultures of Contestation* with Esther Peeren, Robin Celikates, and Jeroen de Kloet (Palgrave/McMillan, 2017). Website: <http://www.uva.nl/profiel/p/o/t.poell/t.poell.html>.