

Conference

Communication Power of Global Citizens and Politicians

February 15-16, 2021
Paris

In 2019-20, citizens across the globe participated in strikes related to climate change. Digital media was an important resource for citizens to follow news about these events, discuss a global solution to climate change, and mobilize citizens to participate. We see similar processes for national events. Global citizens are using digital media to follow news about the Hong Kong protests, the UK election and related Brexit outcome, and the US presidential election. Global citizens offer their opinions about the protesters, organizers, candidates, parties and organizations, engaging in local, national, and global political processes.

In this conference, we bring together international scholars to discuss how digital media is used to engage global citizens and used by political elites.

For citizens across the globe, digital media enable sharing information and connecting on a variety of political issues, such as elections or political protests. Social media can facilitate discussions of global problems and possible policy issues, e.g., climate change, war, and health risks.

For political elites, digital tools can be used by to consult citizens on political issues and used by organizations (e.g. parties, NGOs, activists) to mobilize citizens on a global scale (e.g., youth climate strike, boycott campaigns, petitions, EP election). They have greater control over setting a policy agenda and framing issues to support their policy agenda than before.

Yet, these same tools can be used in less virtuous ways. Digital tools can be employed to launch international campaigns against governments, organizations, citizens or to influence electoral processes. Citizens can use social media to harass government officials, political celebrities, and journalists. Digital media can spread misinformation, promote populist point of view and publish political manifestos of political extremists and white supremacists. We are interested in the range of ways in which digital media are used in the process of mobilizing global citizens for good causes and bad.

In general, we are looking at how digital media changes the conditions for representative, deliberative and participatory democracy.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Cristian Vaccari, Loughborough University

We propose the following research topics; however, we do not limit other submissions:

- What are global citizens posting about international events?
- How can BigData (traced data) be used to discover possible pressure or influence from social and political organizations towards citizens?
- How do digital media change the relative power of politicians as compared to citizens, journalists and the mass media?
- How are citizens participating in global, digitized public consultation efforts?
- How does the diaspora use digital media to follow and engage in politics in their homeland?
- How are youth using digital media in creative and political ways?
- What types of civic and political organizations are citizens connecting with through digital/social media?
- How are citizens using digital/social media to hold multinational corporations accountable for their environmental and ethical practices?
- What digital tactics and platforms are global citizens using in trying to influence international leaders and institutions?
- How are politicians using digital media to consult citizens and build their policy agendas?
- To what extent are digital media used for negative or dark forms of participation, such as hacktivism and other online forms of civil disobedience?
- To what extent are some citizens excluded from global digital politics, because of a lack of digital access or skills, or government surveillance and censorship?
- To what extent are trolls or bots using digital tools to target political actors?
- How are citizens using digital media to challenge state-owned media narrative, bypass censorship, and reduce surveillance efforts?
- To what extent are electoral campaigns influenced by external powers via digital media?

We invite submissions from a wide range of topics and methodological approaches.

Important Dates:

October 16, 2020 - submit 500-word abstract

November 16, 2020 - acceptance decision

Please send your abstract to: mobilizingcitizen2020@gmail.com

Additional information www.audencia.com/communicationpowerglobalcitizens