

# PROGRAM

CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP

## « CIVIC POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT AND SOCIAL CHANGE IN NEW 2.0 DIGITAL WAVE »

du 24 au 27 juin 2014 à Paris



**SciencesCom**



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# *Civic political engagement and public spheres in the new digital era*

## Introduction



Democratic participation, though a highly contested concept, may be understood as the extended involvement of individuals in a collective political decision-free and/or decision-making process. The potential that the Internet may offer for increasing participation has been a subject of some debate for almost two decades, with the emergence of new Web 2.0 communication technologies further challenging the view that a participatory or semi-deliberative democracy remains a much an utopian ideal. Equally the notion of political participation, once viewed as a range of formal activities such as voting or contacting officials, has broadened to include 'non-traditional forms of participation' facilitated within online environments such as commenting and sharing within communities of interest. There is, therefore, potential for the Internet to have a positive impact upon democratic participation, through drawing new participants to political engagement, facilitating greater knowledge, and lowering the barriers to participation and facilitating communication among citizens but also between citizens and elected officials. The debates rage on. Some researchers argue that those with a psychological involvement with politics will seek like-minded individuals that reinforce their existing prejudices. Others find online civic engagement involving information seeking can lead to participation in political discussion and active participation. Importantly the findings that all three activities are correlated, and that one active citizenship. There remains insufficient research on the role and effects of new tools offered by Web 2.0, such as the social networks, purely online media, the blogosphere, the rise of an online commentariat using forums and participatory spaces as well as 'viewer-created' content utilizing sharing sites (YouTube, Flickr). It is these gaps that the workshop seeks to fill.

# Organizers

## Karolina Koc-Michalska



PhD, Assistant Professor at SciencesCom – Audencia School of Management is an associated researcher with the Centre for Political Research CEVIPOF at Sciences-Po, Paris, France. Her research focuses on electoral studies and political communication, especially the role of social networks in Western politics and their impact on political engagement. She is also interested in original methods, like webcartography or large non-representative samples of specifically targeted groups. She publishes articles on the campaigning effects and media influence on election outcomes.

## Darren Lilleker



PhD, Bournemouth University UK, is Director of the Centre for Public Communication and Associate Professor in The Media School, Bournemouth University. Dr Lilleker's expertise is in the professionalization and marketization of politics, in which he has published widely including the textbook *Key Concepts in Political Communication* (Sage, 2006), and *Political Campaigning, Elections and the Internet* (Routledge, 2011) and has co-edited *The Marketing of Political Parties* (MUP, 2006), *Voters or Consumers* (CSP, 2008) and *Political Marketing in Comparative Perspective* (MUP, 2005).

## Thierry Vedel



PhD, CEVIPOF SciencesPo Paris. He works on the public policies of the new media and focuses on three research themes: changes in political communication in industrialised countries; relations between the internet and politics, notably during electoral campaigns; the regulation of the media in the context of globalisation. He coordinates the Mediapolis project entitled « Information politique et citoyenneté à l'ère numérique » which is supported by the French Agence nationale de la recherche. He is a member of the editorial committees of several journals including: *Information, Communication and Society*, *Réseaux, Communications and Strategies*, *Policy and Internet*. He has contributed to several international projects the most recent of which includes the Network of Excellence « E-participation » supported by the EU. He is an associate researcher at the Oxford Internet Institute where he was a Visiting Researcher in 2005.

# Volunteers

## Liliana Galindo



Associated researcher in Group Latin America CLACSO « Juventud y prácticas políticas en América Latina ». PhD Candidate in Political Sciences at the Université de Grenoble, invited student at CEVIPOF, Sciences Po Paris.

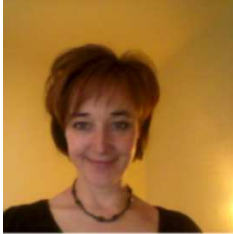
## Veronika Gauto



She is currently pursuing a Master in Communication at Sciences Po Paris. She is a graduate in Political Sciences and Journalism from the Catholic University of Asunción, Paraguay and has been working as a consultant in different social organizations in Paraguay. She has also worked in different media organizations in the areas of printed and digital journalism. She has experience in social sciences research, media management and was a contributor editor in journalism publications in Paraguay.

# Keynote speakers

## Prof. Rachel Gibson



Rachel Gibson is Professor of Political Science at the Institute for Social Change (ISC), University of Manchester. She obtained her PhD from Texas A&M in the USA and has held visiting positions at Universities Australia, Germany, and Spain. She has published several books and articles on the use of digital media in political communication, particularly by parties, and for election campaigning and participation. She is interested in the development of new methodologies to study the web and particularly social media, as it is used by political actors. She has recently concluded a 3year ESRC Professorial Fellowship to examine online election campaigns and participation and is working on a book on this topic for Oxford University Press.

## Prof. Bruce Bimber



Bruce Bimber is Professor of Political Science at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He studies political communication, with a focus on digital media as context for patterns in human behavior, especially in the domains of political organization and collective action. His most recent book is *Collective Action in Organizations*, with Andrew Flanagin and Cynthia Stohl. He is author of *Information and American Democracy*, which won the Price Award for Best Book on Science, Technology and Politics from the American Political Science Association, and which is available in Chinese, Arabic, and Korean. His book *Campaigning Online*, with Richard Davis, won the McGannon Communication Policy Award for social and ethical relevance. He is also author of *The Politics of Expertise in Congress*. Professor Bimber is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a past Fellow of the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences. He has a doctorate in political science from MIT, and a bachelor of science in electrical engineering from Stanford.

## Prof. Pascal Perrineau



Pascal Perrineau was Director of the Centre for Political Research at Sciences Po (CEVIPOF) (1991 – 2014). His main fields of research are the analysis of electoral behaviour and the study of extreme-right wing forces in France and in Europe. He also works on developments and changes in the ways in which ordinary citizens participate in democracy – political activism, voting patterns, forms of protest, etc.- and on the development of new political cleavages beyond the traditional Left/Right cleavage at work in European societies. Pascal Perrineau is also a full Professor at Sciences Po where he lectures on political behaviour and attitudes, political forces in France and in Europe, etc.



# Participants

- Ljubisa Bojic (Sciences PO Lyon, Triangle Lab)
- Shelley Boulianne (MacEwan University)
- Bob Boynton (University of Iowa)
- Marta Cantijoch (University of Manchester)
- Emiliana De Blasio (LUISS University)
- Tomás Durán-Becerra (Autonomous University of Barcelona)
- Homero Gil de Zúñiga (University of Vienna)
- Santiago Giraldo-Luque (Autonomous University of Barcelona)
- Marc Hooghe (University of Leuven)
- Henrik Bang (ANZSOG Institute for Governance, University of Canberra)
- Chen-Yu Kao (Arizona State University)
- Ulrike Klinger (University of Zurich)
- Fani Kountouri (Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences)
- Benjamin Loveluck (Télécom ParisTech)
- Karen Mossberger (Arizona State University)
- Joyce Neys (Erasmus University Rotterdam)
- Suay Ozkula (University of Kent)
- Glenn Richardson (Kutztown University of Pennsylvania)
- Andrea Römmele (Hertie School of Governance)
- Mauro Santaniello (Salerno University)
- Dirk Schneidemesser (Hertie School of Governance)
- Karoline Schultz (University of Technology Ilmenau)
- Cristian Vaccari (Royal Holloway, University of London and University of Bologna)
- Pavlos Vasilopoulos (CEVIPOF, SciencesPo)
- Maurice Vergeer (Radboud University)
- Dina Vozab (University of Zagreb)
- Jeffrey Wimmer (University of Technology Ilmenau)

# Organizational Information

## Conference sessions

24th June and 25th June, 2014

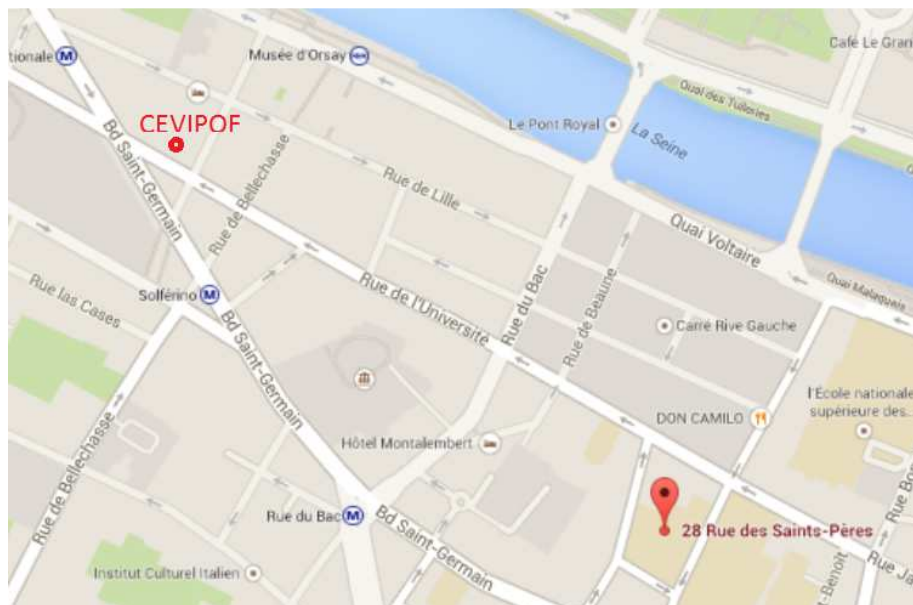
Cevipof Sciences-Po  
98, rue de l'Université  
75007 Paris



Network : SciencesPo  
Username : cevipof.wifi  
Passward : 5n2zb4F5

## General session

Auditorium Caquot Sciences-Po  
28 rue des Saints-Pères  
75007 Paris



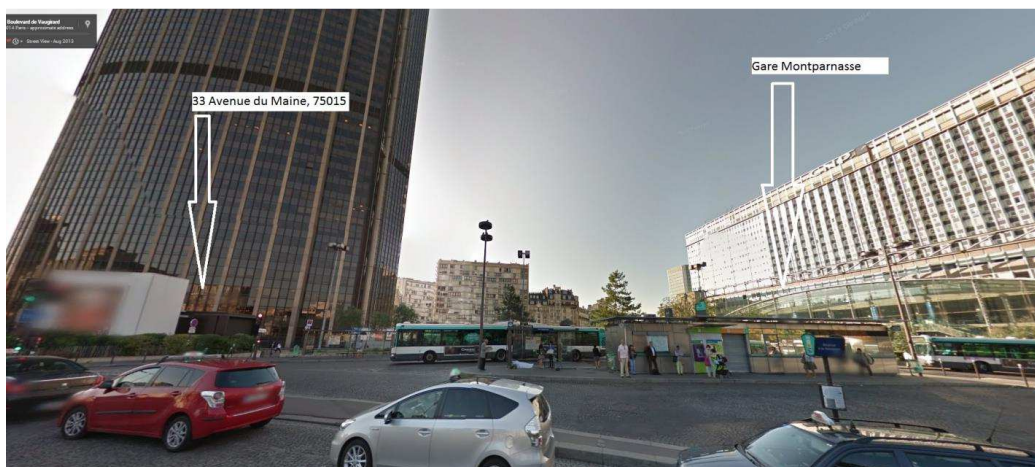
26<sup>th</sup> June and 27<sup>th</sup> June 2014

**PLEASE DO NOT FORGET YOUR ID CARD**

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**Tour Montparnasse**  
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**33 Avenue du Maine**  
**75015 Paris**



Wifi code will be provided on arrival

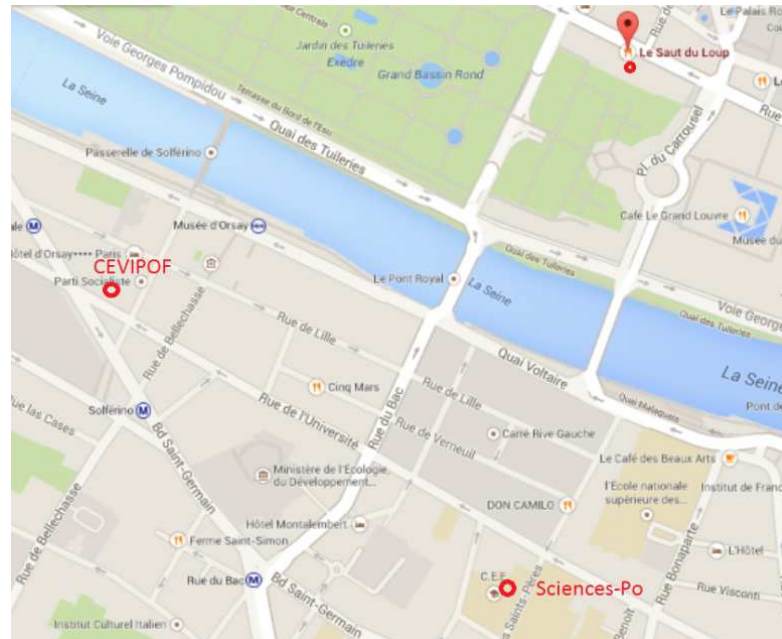




## Dinner and lunches

## Dinner 24<sup>th</sup> June 2014

**Le Saut de Loup**  
**107 RUE DE RIVOLI,**  
**75001 PARIS**  
[www.lesautduloup.fr](http://www.lesautduloup.fr)



**Lunch 26<sup>th</sup> June**

**Crêperie TY BILLIG**

**16, rue Odessa**

**75014 Paris**

<http://www.creperie-montparnasse.com/TY%20BILLIG/Crepes%20de%20ble%20Noir.php>

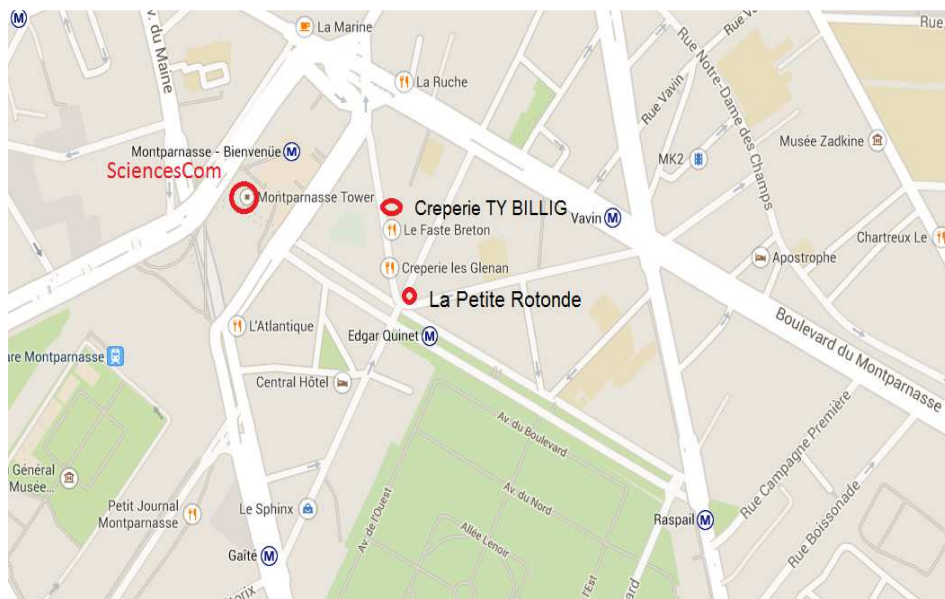
**Lunch 27<sup>th</sup> June**

**La Petite Rotonde**

**64, rue Montparnasse**

**75014 PARIS**

<http://www.lapetiterotonde.com/>



# Keynote Speakers

Tuesday 24th June 2014

**Rachel Gibson (University of Manchester)**

## **Conceptualizing Online Participation: Something Old and Something New....?**

This talk will focus on conceptually mapping the relationship between online and offline forms of participation and pose the key question of whether the former really introduces anything new and different to repertoires of political activity within a representative context? Particular attention is given to so-called e-expressive modes of engagement and also new mixed or hybrid kinds of participation emerging in the digital age which involve the linkage of online and offline activities. We conclude by speculating on the impact and future growth of the various types of online participation identified.

**Bruce Bimber (University of California, Santa Barbara)**

## **Ubiquitous Digital Media and the Organization of Collective Action**

This presentation considers the dynamics of self-directed and organization-directed behavior in the realm of politics and civic affairs. Understanding these dynamics is one of the original and enduring problems in the study of digital media and politics. The origins of scholarship on this issue lie as far back as the 1990s, when social scientists first began analyzing the Internet. This lecture makes the case that the dynamics of self-directed versus organization-directed behavior inform a great deal of contemporary thought about digital media and politics – a point I illustrate with findings from several of my own studies as well as the work of others. I suggest that two challenges lie ahead for improving our understanding of collective action in the digital media age. The first is achieving better convergence in language and concepts at a time when many competing constructs and terms are available to describe some common phenomena. The second is thinking about digital media as the context in which people act – in either self-directed or organization-directed ways – rather than as a set of variables that can be measured and used to predict outcomes.

**Pascal Perineau (CEVIPOF, SciencesPo)**

## **The crisis of political engagement in France**

Like many other European countries, France exhibits the signs of a deep crisis of democracy, apparent in growing electoral abstention, declining membership of mainstream political parties (along with the growth of populist and extremist groups), the falling level of trust in politicians, and a mounting emphasis on individualism.

Supra-national political arenas are affected as well. Since the first European elections in 1979, the voter turnout has been continuously decreasing and the image of European institutions has deteriorated. Citizens' involvement in the European public sphere remains modest and one can witness a move back toward national, or even private, spheres.

My talk will be about how to measure the crisis of democracy in France, to identify its factors and its singular features. It will be also about how new forms of political engagement are emerging from a political system under threat.

# Session Programme

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June

9:00	Registration	
9:30	Welcome	
9:35/10:15	Social Media, Political Expression & Political Participation	Homero GIL DE ZÚÑIGA (University of Vienna)
10:30/11:10	The effects of online civic 'self-help' websites on civic and community engagement: a mixed methods study of overtime effects	Marta CANTIJOCH (University of Manchester)
11:20/12:00	Media addiction and political participation in Serbia	Ljubisa BOJIC (Sciences PO Lyon, Triangle Lab)
12:30/14:00	Lunch at CEVIPOF*	
14:00	Meeting Horizon 2020	
17:00	General conference: Keynote speakers	
19:00	Official dinner	

\*Due to the logistic problems we will not be able to provide water or any other drinks. Please be so kind and bring them with you.



Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June

PROTEST, SOCIAL CAPITAL AND THE PUBLIC SPHERE		
9:00/9:40	Taking the law into your own hands online: vigilante practices on the Internet and political engagement	Benjamin LOVELUCK (Télécom ParisTech)
9:50/ 10:30	Protest Politics and the Personal Sphere: An Analysis of the 2013 Turkish Demonstrations	Henrik Bang (ANZSOG Institute for Governance, University of Canberra)
10:40/11:20	Towards the formation of a new political agent in Greece. Forms of political participation during the 2000's and the debt crisis	Fani KOUNTOURI (Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences)
11:30/12:20	The relationship between online/offline information seeking and civic engagement	Jeffrey WIMMER (University of Technology Ilmenau) with Karoline Schultz
12:30/14:00	Lunch at CEVIPOF	
14:00/14:40	The Public Sphere and Policy Change in the Digital Era	Karen MOSSBERGER (Arizona State University) with Chen-Yu Kao
14:50/15:30	Digital Democracy for a new European Public Sphere?	Emiliana DE BLASIO (LUISS University) with Mauro Santaniello
15:40/16:20	Internet, media and social capital indicators: Bowling Alone in the digital age?	Marc HOOGHE (University of Leuven)
16:30/17:10	Media and political repertoires intertwined: impact of socio-demographic variables on media use and political participation	Dina VOZAB (University of Zagreb)

## Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June

ORCHESTRATED AND VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION		
9:15/ 9:55	Parliament 2.0. Internet use and political discussion promotion. The cases of France, United Kingdom, Sweden, Italy and Spain	Santiago GIRALDO-LUQUE (Autonomous University of Barcelona) with Tomás Durán-Becerra
10:05/ 10:45	Unusual Suspects: Sources of Web-Based Influence in Germany's Election	Andrea RÖMMELE (Hertie School of Governance) with Dirk Schneidemesser
11:00/ 11:40	Voting Advice Applications: Are We Asking the Right Questions	Pavlos VASILOPOULOS (CEVIPOF, SciencesPo) with Thomas Vitiello
12:00/14:00	Lunch at "TyBilling"	
14:00/ 14:40	Social Media, Civic Awareness and Political Engagement	Shelley Boulianne (MacEwan University)
14:50/ 15:30	Discursive networks on Facebook during the 2012 French presidential election	Karolina Koc-Michalska (SciencesCom - Audencia Business School; CEVIPOF SciencesPo), Darren Lilleker (Bournemouth University), Chris Wells (Wisconsin Madison)
15:40/ 16:10	Political Expression on Social Media as a Pathway to Engagement: Political Discussion among Twitter Users in Italy	Cristian Vaccari (Royal Holloway, University of London and University of Bologna)
16:20 /17:00	Converts seeking their preacher? A comparative analysis of citizens following candidates on Twitter in elections in five countries	Maurice Vergeer (Radboud University)

## Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June

ACTIVISM AND ACTIVITY		
9:15/09:55	Political Remix Videos and civic engagement: Creating and watching critical content to engage with political matters and civic issues	Joyce Neys (Erasmus University Rotterdam)
10:10/10:50	The Globalization of Outrage: Taking to Twitter in Response to the Snowden Revelations	Bob Boynton (University of Iowa) with Glenn Richardson
11:00/11:40	Analysing digital @ctivism: The use of multi-layered digital ethnography	Suay Ozkula (University of Kent)
11:50/12:30	Who deliberates online? Sociodemographics of Engaging in Online Public Spheres	Ulrike KLINGER (University of Zurich)
13:00	Lunch in "La Petite Rotonde"	

## Accepted papers (in alphabetical order)

<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Ljubisa Bojic (Sciences PO Lyon, Triangle Lab)</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Media addiction and political participation in Serbia</b>
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>Grounded in above written theoretical frameworks, this exploratory study seeks to expand previous research by addressing the main research hypothesis that increase in media addiction causes decrease in political participation. Further research hypotheses are that the bigger media addicts are people who have less confidence in future, who fear about present and future, who are not interested in politics, who have lower political knowledge, and who have lower participation in elections. In this research, these hypotheses are addressed by adequate research questions.</p> <p>Main research question of this study concerns relation of media addiction and political participation. Establishing this relation is goal of this study because of higher infiltration of media into people lives and appearance of new media, use of the Internet on the go, and new technology. This study examines possible dangers of new technology – media addiction and decline of political participation. If people use extensively media, they might not have time for voting or participating in activities of common interest.</p> <p>The next questions examine significant relations of media addiction and elements of political participation with main aim to determine if increases in media addiction cause decreases in political participation. Political participation may be basic pillar of democracy and lack of interest toward “common interest” participative activities may be dangerous for societies.</p>

<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Shelley Boulianne (MacEwan University)</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Social Media, Civic Awareness and Political Engagement</b>
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>This research looks at how social media is used among youth and how this usage affects civic awareness and engagement in political life. I will present the results of a two-wave longitudinal study and 30 qualitative interviews about the civic and political uses of social media. Specifically, the research questions are:</p> <p>RQ1) How is social media being used among youth?</p> <p>RQ2) To what extent does social media use affect youth’s civic awareness?</p> <p>RQ3) To what extent do these effects translate into increased political engagement?</p>

<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Bob Boynton (University of Iowa) with Glenn Richardson</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>The Globalization of Outrage: Taking to Twitter in Response to the Snowden Revelations</b>
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>Communication on the internet is reconstructing the relationship between governments and citizens. This paper is about one of the episodes in reconstruction — government surveillance and citizen new media response. The report tracks the revelations about government surveillance beginning in June of 2013 and the changing citizen response on Twitter. This is one piece of a much larger project to compare new media based protest movements such as occupy wallstreet, the protests in Turkey, in the Ukraine, the Million Mask March by Anonymous, and others. The first step is an adequate characterization of the patterns of action and how they are the same and different. For example, the communication about NSA has lasted longer than the others listed, it is less a social movement than the others, and is different in a number of ways growing directly out of their use of Twitter. The task is to develop an adequate characterization of this stream of communication so it can be effectively compared with the others.</p>

<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Marta Cantijoch (University of Manchester)</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>The effects of online civic 'self-help' websites on civic and community engagement: a mixed methods study of overtime effects</b>
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>This paper will introduce a research project examining the extent to which the online environment and particularly civic 'self-help' websites are providing a new pathway into civic participation. Developed in the framework of the ESRC funded Knowledge Exchange initiative, the project is run in collaboration with MySociety, a British charity whose aim is to empower citizens by helping them to exercise their rights and responsibilities using online technologies. Through websites such as TheyWorkForYou, FixMyStreet or WriteToThem, MySociety provides an online platform in which people can undertake a range of important tasks that include contacting politicians, sending complaints to public bodies and making government more accountable by opening up information for public scrutiny. Existing evidence on visitors to these sites suggests a significant proportion are first-time users with particularised and non-collective aims who might not otherwise have taken this initiative. However, it is not clear whether this interaction stimulates them to become more active and engaged in their communities and local politics more generally. Do civic websites help less engaged citizens to feel more capable and competent in dealing with governing authorities? Do users of these sites become more engaged in other forms of communal and political activity? The paper will present preliminary results for this project and describe the work programme to be developed combining evidence collected among users from MySociety websites through surveys, focus groups and time diaries</p>

<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Emiliana De Blasio (LUISS University) with Mauro Santaniello</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Digital Democracy for a new European Public Sphere?</b>
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>This paper will present an Italian pilot research project (validated by Italian Minister for University and Research, in the frame of Europe 2020), which will start in March 2014. The aim of this project is to analyse the digital European policies and to provide intervention tools and evaluation methodologies for the development of an integrated strategy in this area. To be effective, the strategy needs to hold together two different perspectives: a) digital democracy, namely the impact of digital networks on the structures and processes of democratic governance of the European Union, b) the Internet governance, it means the impact of government institutions over European architecture of digital networks. Both perspectives are essential to ensure, on one hand, the consistency of Community and national investments in ICTs in the frame of the constitutional democracy of each country in relationship with the European governance and, on the other hand, their effectiveness in ensuring adequate degree of enforcement to the EU legislation.</p>

<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Homero Gil de Zúñiga (University of Vienna)</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Social Media, Political Expression &amp; Political Participation</b>
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>The study advances our understanding on the connection between social media use and political participatory activities. The paper also introduces the theoretical distinction between social media use for news, for social interactions, and for political expression. All of which are differently related to political engagement.</p>



<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Santiago Giraldo-Luque (Autonomous University of Barcelona) with Tomás Durán-Becerra</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Parliament 2.0. Internet use and political discussion promotion. The cases of France, United Kingdom, Sweden, Italy and Spain</b>
<b>Abstract</b>	Present paper tries to compare the use of Web 2.0 by the legislatures of 5 European countries (France, United Kingdom, Sweden, Italy and Spain) as an instrument to improve citizen's political participation process. The study focuses on the discussion axe (Macintosh, 2004; Hagen, 2000; Vedel, 2003 and 2007) and in the way that representative institutions promotes the creation of an online public sphere using the Web 2.0 tools.

<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Marc Hooghe (University of Leuven)</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Internet, media and social capital indicators: Bowling Alone in the digital age?</b>
<b>Abstract</b>	Social capital theory as it was developed in the 1990s assumes that face-to-face interaction is a crucial requirement for the development of generalized trust and other pro-social attitudes and behaviors. Television and other electronic media were therefore dismissed as having a potentially negative impact on social capital formation. Based on an analysis of the General Social Survey 2012 we assess the impact of internet and television on both attitudinal and behavioral components of social capital. The results show that while watching television is not, or negatively related to social capital indicators, there is usually a positive relation between internet use (in various forms) and social capital indicators. These findings suggest that face-to-face interaction should not necessarily be seen as a privileged source of social capital: internet-based forms of communication clearly also play a role in the development of social capital.

<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Henrik Bang (ANZSOG Institute for Governance, University of Canberra)</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Protest Politics and the Personal Sphere: An Analysis of the 2013 Turkish Demonstrations</b>
<b>Abstract</b>	The project concerns a protest which originated in Istanbul at the end of May 2013 but spread to other cities. The analysis stems from two data sources: a large tweet corpus compiled during the first week and a half of June 2013 and a survey of 3400 respondents collected between June and July 2013. Though the tweets are global, over 80% are in Turkish and come from accounts that appear located in Turkey.

<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Ulrike Klinger (University of Zurich)</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Who deliberates online? Sociodemographics of Engaging in Online Public Spheres</b>
<b>Abstract</b>	Administrations increasingly use the internet to improve citizens' participation in deliberation processes. Yet, research studies have pointed out that deliberation outcomes vary due to (sociodemographic) differences among participants. In this paper we address this debate by quantitatively measuring the quality of deliberation of different sociodemographic participant groups.

Presenter	Karolina Koc-Michalska (SciencesCom - Audencia Business School; CEVIPOF SciencesPo), Darren Lilleker (Bournemouth University), Chris Wells (Wisconsin Madison)
Title	<b>Discursive networks on Facebook during the 2012 French presidential election</b>
Abstract	<p>Around the world, parties and candidates have turned to social media as exciting new spaces in which to encounter and interact with publics, and generate support. However, we still have quite limited knowledge of how these platforms are used, by whom, and how they intersect with larger discussions of political issues. To develop our understanding of political communication in this area, we draw on data collected during the 2012 French presidential election. Between March 16 and April 20, 2012, we gathered all 1244 Facebook posts created by the nine principal candidates for the presidency, and some 600,000 comments responding to those posts. Because our data include both posted content and relationships between content creators—in terms of which commenters responded to each politicians' posts, and appeared alongside other commenters in threads—they offer a unique opportunity to combine discourse and network analyses to engage some of the most important questions in contemporary political communication. Especially: to what extent are Facebook pages used as partisan echo chambers, and to what extent do they foster inter-party deliberation? That is, do we see evidence that individuals are moving across candidates' pages, spreading information and arguments from one to the next? Also, can we detect the emergence of issue publics—comprising sets of individuals who raise similar concerns across different pages? And what is the relationship between candidates' posts and their publics' responses? Do commenters respond more strongly to some kinds of posts than others? Are they more energetic in their response to posts on certain topics?</p>

Presenter	Fani Kountouri (Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences)
Title	<b>Towards the formation of a new political agent in Greece. Forms of political participation during the 2000's and the debt crisis</b>
Abstract	<p>Aim of this communication is to question two major political shifts occurring in Greece in the middle of political, economic and social crisis. The first is related to the decline levels of political trust, political interest, political participation and party affiliation considered as the pillars of democracy. The second is associated with the emergence of a new pole of information winning the young audiences, yet considered as the least active public on traditional modes of political participation and the most politically disaffected public. We question whether the economic crisis contributed to the emergence of a new political agent that acts in a more collective and participatory way, or whether the economic crisis reinforced the existing high levels of political disaffection and disengagement.</p> <p>Our main interest research is the parallel dynamic of forms of political participation and of political usages of media in Greece during the 2000's and the debt crisis. The question therefore remains whether the political use of media could lead to increase the political interest of citizens and consequently to motivate citizens to engage politically. More specifically the question is if the internet could be a political commitment tool for those who are already interested in politics or could it lead to the motivation of young audiences to engage in politics.</p> <p>Our theoretical concern is connected to the discussion about declining levels of civic engagement, eroding confidence in political institutions, and other signs of political disaffection. Furthermore we will question two hermeneutical schemes questioning the ability of new media to broaden the scope of political participation: on the one hand, those who argue that the internet has a negative effect on the variables political efficacy, knowledge and political participation and those who argue that the use of the internet increases the indicators of these three variables. In this context the theoretical aim of this paper is to enhance our understanding of the changes in citizen's participation and engagement in politics by focusing on the dynamic of political participation in parallel with the political use of media and the emergence of alternative forms of political engagement in times of crisis. Studying changes on political attitudes and practices before and during the times of crisis is particularly important. Alternative forms of collective action (e.g. the "indignados movement") that were observed in Greece in 2011 in the middle of economic crisis will be estimated in comparison with traditional forms of political participation during the 2000's and with the reinforcement of the use of internet among young citizens.</p> <p>We will address the above question using two axes-filters: the first is related to the fluctuations of the levels of political participation in Greece during the 2000's by the juxtaposition of old and new forms of political participation specially under the light of debt crisis and the emergence of alternative forms of political participation. The second is associated to the juxtaposition of new and traditional media (television and print media) in the research of different sociodemographic profiles of the users but also different political profiles of users of different media.</p>

<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Benjamin LOVELUCK (Télécom ParisTech)</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Taking the law into your own hands online: vigilante practices on the Internet and political engagement</b>
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>This paper seeks to address instances of direct political action over the Internet which could be characterized as vigilante practices, by drawing on a series of specific cases taken from both the US and the French context: Anonymous Ops, the Copwatch website in France, crowdsourced “investigations” e.g. after the Boston marathon bombing etc. By drawing out the similarities and differences between the events under scrutiny, I will seek to outline these forms of political engagement. The comparison between the French and the US contexts, which present very different traditions and attitudes towards such practices, will also be analysed.</p> <p>A central question will be to interrogate any predispositions for taking the law into one’s own hands, which could be found within “internet culture” and specifically the libertarian vein which is central to many actors (such as hackers). A series of further questions will be outlined and addressed: When does collective cognition become “herd behaviour”? When and in what sense can it qualify as political engagement? Does it signal a failure of institutionalised forms of conflict-resolution? Or, on the contrary, can it be understood as a welcome alternative to traditional forms of politics, insofar as citizens are concerned enough to take direct action? The theoretical implications will then be discussed, particularly assessing the legitimacy of such actions as forms of political engagement.</p>

<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Karen Mossberger (Arizona State University)</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>The Public Sphere and Policy Change in the Digital Era</b>
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>This is a theoretical essay, doing a comparison of the literature and setting forth a research agenda. The policy theory used will policy change as punctuated equilibria. While the focus will be on the US literature, some non-US literature and examples are used.</p>



Presenter	Joyce Neys (Erasmus University Rotterdam)
Title	<b>Political Remix Videos and civic engagement: Creating and watching critical content to engage with political matters and civic issues</b>
Abstract	<p>This paper focuses on individual citizens who are independently engaging with political and social material in such a way that fellow citizens might also feel encouraged to engage with said material. In line with Rojas et al. (2005), Shah et al. (2007) and Gil de Zuniga et al. (2009) we aim to investigate if, and if so how, new media and internet might encourage different forms of engagement among citizens and how this might impact their sense of empowerment in a democratic society.</p> <p>Following this reasoning, rather than focusing on the arguably forced dichotomy of being either a creator or an audience member, we aim to capture the entire process of communication. We argue that, in order gain insight in the way new media and internet might facilitate new forms of civic engagement, all elements of the communication process should be taken into account. We therefore focus on creators, audience and the media text itself.</p> <p>The current study builds on this and as such is also guided by the notion that people tend to have a rather dynamic use of the different forms of citizenship (i.e. dutiful and actualizing) depending on many contextual factors (Bennett, Wells &amp; Freelon, 2011). While earlier focusing on online political video games (De Grove et al, 2012; Neys &amp; Jansz, 2010; Neys &amp; Jansz, under review) , this paper addresses the usage and transformation of video footage from popular culture into critical audio-visual collage. Also referred to as political remix videos (PRV) these videos are regarded as a form of political and or social protest that provide citizens not only with a tool for political advocacy but also facilitates a platform for interaction and discussion, thereby converging popular culture and politics (Edwards &amp; Tryon, 2009). Following Van Zoonen's (2007) earlier argument we aim to further explore if the accessible context created by this particular use of new media is indeed enabling citizens to produce critical readings of their political and social environment. This in turn is expected to stimulate and facilitate engagement among peers (Neys &amp; Jansz, 2010).</p>

<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Suay Ozkula (University of Kent)</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Analysing digital @ctivism: The use of multi-layered digital ethnography</b>
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>Digital activism is en vogue. There is a constant stream of new literature on the topic of digital activism which includes literature on contemporary activism, literature on the new global revolutions such as the works by Mason and Castells, and works specifically on digital or online activism such as works by Hands, Joyce and Lievrouw.</p> <p>However, existing studies are still insufficient, for various reasons: For one, the field of digital activism is not mature. There are many studies but they are fragmented and there is no one theory that has become standard in citing. Furthermore there are few social science studies among them. In addition, most studies have a very narrow focus. They are either based on a particular campaign, a specific medium – such as Twitter or Facebook, or on an event such as the revolution in Iran and the use of digital media in that.</p> <p>Furthermore, existing studies do not use comprehensive and longer term methodologies, and by comprehensive I mean the use and combination of various methods both in online and offline space. Essentially there are few studies on NGOs' working practices of digital activism, or the roles NGOs inhabit in digital activist space.</p> <p>Typically studies look at digital activism in terms of governmental repression or individual networks and empowerment, or they look at NGOs' use of digital media from business and public relations studies point of views. So they'd typically look at new opportunities for gaining members or donations, but not at organisational digital cultures – so, digital activist practices and the struggle of implementing those practices. Also, they tend to use surveys and are therefore not analysing a cultural change.</p>

<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Andrea Römmele (Hertie School of Governance) with Dirk Schneidmesser</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Unusual Suspects: Sources of Web-Based Influence in Germany's Election</b>
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>This paper looks at internet-based approaches to influencing and/or engaging voters in Germany. Specifically, we look at social networks and how political parties' lack of use of these as a campaigning and engagement medium. This correlates with a de-diversification of the social network landscape among German users, as well as rather passive usage of especially social networks for political communication. Interestingly, the internet is still gaining in importance in other ways for political communication; mainly as a source of political information, some non-party actors have emerged with great potential.</p>

<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Cristian Vaccari (Royal Holloway, University of London and University of Bologna)</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Political Expression on Social Media as a Pathway to Engagement: Political Discussion among Twitter Users in Italy</b>
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>Scholars and critics have been divided over whether political discussion on the internet and social media should be treated as a meaningful and consequential form of political participation or it should be merely considered as a precondition for or even a diversion from it. We empirically test the implications of these competing claims through a survey of a representative sample of Italians who talked about the 2013 general election on Twitter.</p> <p>Our hypotheses are that (1) use of digital media for political information will be positively correlated with the use of internet tools for visiting official political websites, addressing politicians, campaigning, and getting relevant information for offline political action, and these correlations will be stronger than those involving mass media use; and (2) both exposure and active engagement of citizens with political content on social media will be positively correlated with the use of internet tools for visiting official political websites, addressing politicians, campaigning, and getting relevant information for offline political action, and the correlation will be stronger for engagement in personal self-expression than for exposure to others' expressive acts.</p>

<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Pavlos Vasilopoulos (CEVIPOF, SciencesPo) with Thomas Vitiello</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Voting Advice Applications: Are We Asking the Right Questions</b>
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>The fact that mass publics lack rudimentary political information is one of the most consistent findings in political behavior research. A large number of studies has shown that this has important consequences for democratic representation, especially among low income and lower education groups who fall short of translating their political predispositions into informed voting choices (Bartels 1996, 2008; Arnold 2012) and become demotivated from participating in elections (Delli Carpini and Keeter 1996). Yet the spread of the Internet carries the potential to ameliorate this trend due to the unlimited amount of information made available to its users. During electoral campaigns, citizens can navigate the web and gather useful information over parties and candidates that allows them to make informed electoral choices. However, due to the existence of a fragmented and heterogeneous online public sphere, this process may appear as a daunting task to the single user who has limited time and motivation to participate in politics. Online Voting Advice Applications (VAAs) have emerged as an answer to this challenge and are becoming increasingly popular in a large number of countries (Garzia and Marschall, 2012; Walgrave et al., 2009). These sites offer to match users' positions on political issues with those of the political parties and/or candidates running for office. The outcome of this comparison results in a voting recommendation unique to each user. The goal of these applications is to provide citizens with a platform that centralizes information on salient political issues (extracted from political manifestos) and which promotes an enlighten understanding of the public sphere and its well-informed citizens. Empirical evidence has shown that the usage of a VAA increases information-seeking behaviour, motivates people to participate in elections and helps citizens make informed political judgments. (Dumont and Kies, 2012; Hirzalla et al., 2010; Ladner et al., 2010; Marschall and Schmidt, 2010; Wall et al., 2012). These effects have been observed not only among politically interested users but also amid apolitical milieu (Marschall and Schultze, 2012).</p>

<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Maurice Vergeer (Radboud University)</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Converts seeking their preacher? A comparative analysis of citizens following candidates on Twitter in elections in five countries</b>
<b>Abstract</b>	To what extent do citizens track candidates online (following relations on Twitter) to what extent are these follower relations reciprocated in different countries and for different parties? are there indications for country specific characteristics (voting and elections system, cultural values, #parties and candidates) for differences found in follower-following relations?

<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Dina Vozab (University of Zagreb)</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Media repertoires and political engagement in social space in Croatia</b>
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>Media environments are changing in the course of technological developments, media convergence and transformations of media systems. Most media environments could now be described as highly saturated and technologically diverse with fragmented audiences. As Prior (2007) states, media environments in post-broadcast era could be described as “high choice” media environments. Not only media is changing, but politics as well- voter turnout is steadily in decline, while new forms of politics emerge.</p> <p>Authors show how media systems and media environments influence political knowledge (Curran et al, 2010; Prior, 2007) and therefore political participation. Although new media technologies were first meant to increase information and knowledge, authors such as Prior (2007) and Shehata (2010) show that audience fragmentation and high media choice have different effect- they deepen the gap between the politically active and not active. But as Prior suggests, this political inequality could not be predicted from the lack of resources as other forms of inequality – „Unlike most other forms of inequality, however, this one arises due to voluntary consumption decisions.“(Prior, 2007: 266). This is a completely different framework that shows how media choice or „taste“ interconnects with political activity.</p> <p>The aim of this paper is to describe the composition of media and political repertoires of Croatian media audiences and analyze structural gaps in terms of gender, age, education, occupational status and size of residence. Media repertoires are a concept proposed by Hasebrink and Popp (2006) to adjust media use research which was usually based on single media use to a cross-media environment: „the media repertoire of a person consists of the entirety of media he or she regularly uses“ (Hasebrink &amp; Domeyer, 2012). Drawing on Bourdieu’s theory of taste, I expect that certain media and political repertoires are more common in certain social groups (primarily in terms of education and occupational status). The analysis will enable me to explain the distinctions of different socio-demographic groups defined by their media and political repertoires and thus describe their habitus as “a set of schemes of perception, appreciation, and action” (Bourdieu, 1979, in van Rees &amp; van Eijck, 2003: 467). National media and political systems are important factors in explaining differences in media consumption and political engagement between countries. Research in Croatia will serve as a case study of how a changing media environment interacts with media consumption and political participation in a post-socialist political culture and media system.</p>



Presenter	Jeffrey Wimmer (University of Technology Ilmenau) with Karoline Schultz
Title	<b>The relationship between online/offline information seeking and civic engagement</b>
Abstract	<p>With the advent of a new communication medium, theorizing and hypothesizing with regard to its impact on political engagement/disengagement and on democracy is mushrooming. Assumptions about the democratic potentials and pitfalls of online-communication so far have resulted in the formulation of the mobilization hypothesis, as well as the concepts of digital divide and fragmentation.</p> <p>Besides these high level questions, more fine grained questions can be detected: Authors ask whether many of the new forms of online engagement can be labeled as mere clicktivism, without an actual effect on politics and policy. Furthermore some authors coin online- discourses as echo chambers where people do not come into contact with opinions that differ from their own (Wojcieszak &amp; Mutz, 2009).</p> <p>After a rapid phase of diffusion of internet access and usage over the course of the last 15 years, at least in Western countries, one can almost speak of saturation. This situation and the theoretical developments lead to some propositions for further research activities: (a) The distinction between “onliner” and “offliner” has lost a great deal of analytical precision: Research should detect more precisely where the “interesting” distinctions are. Here, the concept of public connection (Couldry, Livingstone &amp; Markham, 2007) is helpful: In general public connection means an individual orientation towards collective concerns. For the legitimacy of democratic politics a specific level of individual public connection is necessary, meaning that citizens need to seek information about current developments and events. Public connection helps to overcome the online/offline separation by transforming it. Instead of comparing people with or without connection to the internet, it might be useful to compare those who use the internet for information seeking and those who do not use it for that purpose (b) Although political online-engagement has become a focus of many studies, traditional and new forms of engagement should both be subjects of research. So far there is no clear sign that traditional forms of engagement have lost impact on politics and policy. If they are now perceived as more or less effective compared to the new forms of online engagement has not yet been examined.</p> <p>Based on these propositions we have formulated the following research questions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) How do different groups of information seekers (online and offline) differ in terms of demographics?</li> <li>(2) Are there differences in the amount and the types of political engagement between different groups of information seekers (online and offline)?</li> <li>(3) Are there differences in the estimation of the efficacy of different forms of engagement between different groups of information seekers (online and offline)?</li> </ol>

