

Digital Democracy Summer School 2022: The Power of Platforms and the Power of the People

11.-13. 5. 2022.

Center for Advanced Studies – South East Europe, University of Rijeka

Keynote speakers:

Paolo Gerbaudo (King's College London)

Walter Quattrociocchi (Sapienza University of Rome)

Michele Sorice (LUISS University of Rome)

Mislav Žitko (University of Zagreb)

The first phase of the Internet was characterized by a “horizontal” and “anarchic” situation: everyone could post ideas on websites and blogs, everyone could surf without filters. Websites, forums and blogs produced a continuous flow of communication, and the old mass media intermediaries seemed to be overcome. The second phase of the Internet, which we are currently experiencing, is characterized by a “vertical” environment. A few platforms (the GAFAM – Google, Amazon, Facebook, Apple, Microsoft) host, filter, intermediate and govern the communications of billions of individual users. These platforms, however, appear to have serious design flaws. Data commodification for purposes of algorithmic personalization invite significant ethical, political and epistemological questions. They appear to incentivize polarization, gamify public discourse and amplify far-right content and fake news. On the other hand, regulating their content is no easy task, and at times leads to silencing of the debate or legitimate political activism. Another way to meet the challenges of digital democracy has been by designing new civic and party participation platforms – however, the research is required to assess whether they succeed in realizing the ideals of involving citizens or party activists in reliable deliberation, or is their impact insufficient?

The current crisis of democracy will not be overcome by a return to old institutional designs and traditional public spheres, but by designing and developing systemic upgrades. This Summer School intends to explore the risks and potentials of web politics, investigating how the viability of democratic ideals (freedom, autonomy, pluralism, truth, participation, etc.) can change in the digital media ecosystem, and how can we build decision-making environments and institutions capable of defending and promoting the power, autonomy and knowledge of the citizens in our democracies.

Digital Democracy Summer School 2022 / Program

Wednesday, 11 May 2022

Moderated by Marko-Luka Zubčić (University of Rijeka)

Time	Talk
9.00	<u>Opening Words</u> Snježana Prijic-Samaržija, Rector of University of Rijeka and Professor at Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Rijeka
9.30 11.00	<u>Keynote lecture</u> Mislav Žitko (University of Zagreb) <i>The political effects of digital monopolies</i>
11.15 12.00	Matteo Michelini (Technical University of Eindhoven) <i>Can Epistemic Vigilance Establish Truthful Communication? An Agent-based Modeling Approach</i>
12.15 13.00	Dragana Mrvoš (University of South Florida) <i>Work and New Modes of Collectivism behind the Digital Curtain</i>
13.15 14.00	Jessica de Jesus de Pinho Pinhal (Technical University Berlin) <i>Tech Governance and Anglocentrism</i>

Thursday, 12 May 2022

Moderated by Gabriele Giacomini (University of Udine)

Time	Talk
9.30	<u>Keynote lecture</u>

11.00	Paolo Gerbaudo (King's College London) <i>The indignant citizen. From digital activism to populism</i>
11.15 12.00	Srđan Prodanović (University of Belgrade) <i>Reclaiming our Attention: Some ambivalences of (Social) Engagement in Surveillance Capitalism</i>
12.00 16.00	Lunch break
16.00 17.30	<u>Keynote</u> Michele Sorice (LUISS University of Rome) <i>Democratic innovation and digital illusion in times of neoliberalism</i>

Friday, 13 May 2022

Moderated by Meos Holger Kiik (Tallinn University)

Time	Talk
9.30 10.15	Lucie Chateau (Tilburg University) <i>The Dark Forest: Communication and Aesthetics outside of Social Media Platforms</i>
10.30 11.15	Emilia Marra (University of Rijeka) <i>The Spectre of Pure Immanence in the Era of Algorithmic Governmentality</i>
11.30 12.15	Sebastián Moreno Barreneche (Universidad ORT Uruguay) <i>Mediatization and hypermediatization of politics: contributions from Latin American semiotics and discourse analysis.</i>
12.30 13.15	Basem Atieh (Ural Federal University) <i>Political Participation in Today's Syria: Patterns and Driving Forces</i>

13.15 16.00	Lunch break
16.00 17.30	<u>Keynote lecture</u> Walter Quattrociochi (Sapienza University of Rome) <i>How to enhance the public sphere. Challenges and perspectives</i>
17.30 17.45	<u>Closing Words</u> Marko-Luka Zubčić (University of Rijeka) and Gabriele Giacomini (University of Udine)

Summer School will take place at the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86882011793?pwd=YzZFMkNxd0tzSkITNDI1d0wrNXVrQT09>

Meeting ID: 868 8201 1793

Passcode: 602686

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