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Track: Electronic Government

Minitrack: Open Government, Transparency, and Citizen Engagement

This minitrack focuses on the interactions between citizens and government and their dynamics. More specifically, this minitrack focuses on open and transparent government, citizen engagement, and the direct involvement of citizens in the development, use, and evaluation of e-Government and Digital Democracy initiatives and systems. As e-Government becomes more ubiquitous, many questions arise about what it means to develop and maintain an open and transparent government, to be an “e-Citizen,” how the concept of citizenship might be changing, and how participation in the democratic process and democratic/governmental institutions might be influenced through open government and transparency efforts.

Open government is an approach, which purposefully emphasizes and re-invigorates the basic principle of a “government of the people, for the people, and by the people.” Despite such principles have existed for more than two centuries, government bureaucracies at all levels have tended to establish and ever increase secrecy with regard to the business of government. Both, information technology and committed administrative leadership have now made possible to enter an era of unprecedented transparency of government operations and decision making intended to lead to more responsibility, accountability, and integrity of public officials. These trends may create new and strengthens old gaps and challenges between interests of security, privacy, freedom of information, efficiency and transparency. Understanding how to balance these challenges, or what are the boundaries of open government will become crucial in the coming years. In this minitrack, we welcome theoretical papers as well as quantitative and qualitative studies on the topics. Good practices will also be accepted with strong implications for theory and practice.

Topics and research areas include, but are not limited to:

- Theories, quantitative and qualitative studies on open government
- Open/transparent government initiatives around the world
- Freedom of information and transparency
- Studies of citizens and democratic processes in virtual worlds
- Gov 2.0
- Impact on society, communities, companies and government
- e-citizen, e-democracy and e-participation

- Technologies enabling / inhibiting open/transparent government
- Good practices and pitfalls in open government, citizen engagement, collaboration
- Experience and involvement of the “e-Citizen”
- Technology-based approaches to making available government information
- Studies of the universal access requirements of e-Government
- National ID card, smart card, biometric data and their implications on citizens
- Impact of policy on transparency and openness

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