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DEMOCRACY IN A DIGITAL SOCIETY
Programme

Trust, Evidence and Public Discourse in a Changing Media Environment

24 January 2019
Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities

#DigitalDemocracy

In the digital society the critical matter for liberty and democracy is not the ownership of means of production but the control of means of communication

MANUEL CASTELLS

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This full day conference aims to address some of the most pressing questions around the impact of digital transformations on democratic institutions in Europe and beyond. Considering recent events and the urgency to understand this complex relationship, renowned speakers from policy, academia, journalism and civil society will reflect on different aspects of political legitimation, societal trust, scientific evidence and public discourse in a rapidly changing media environment under the scientific leadership of Professor Manuel Castells.

The communication ecosystem is central to a well-functioning society. Its influence in shaping minds - and thus reality - has been emphasised by its enormous impact on recent political events, underlining the fact that the control and ownership of the internet is one of the most important battles of our time.

Hosted by the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, the forum will bring together leading experts from academia, politics, industry, civil society organisations and media to come up with proposals of how a European model for a digital society could look like and which values should guide this process.

The discussions will build on the work developed by the ALLEA Working Group Truth, Trust and Expertise and act as the starting point for Re-Imagine Europa's task force on "Democracy in a Digital Society". Questions addressed will include: How can we maintain a healthy media ecosystem in a digital world? How does disinformation spread on social media? What is the role of narratives in creating shared world views? What is the value of societal trust in scientific evidence? How can we deal with big data in an ethical way?

The outcomes of the discussion will form the backbone of the **"Roadmap for a New Model of the Digital Information Ecosystem"** that can promote concrete actions on what should be done at a European level in the coming 5 years.

PROGRAMME.

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9:00-9:30 ● **REGISTRATION**

9:30-9:45 ● **OPENING REMARKS**

Professor Martin Grötschel
President of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities
Professor Antonio Loprieno
President of ALLEA, the European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities
President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing
President of Re-Imagine Europa, former President of France

9:45-10:10 ● **KEYNOTE: Issues of Democracy in a Digital Society**

Professor Manuel Castells
Chairman of the Re-Imagine Europa Taskforce on Democracy in a Digital Society, Wallis Annenberg Chair Professor of Communication Technology and Society at the Annenberg School of Communication, University of Southern California

10:10-10:30 ● **KEYNOTE: Disinformation - A European Approach**

Ms Mariya Gabriel
European Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society

10:30-11:10 ● **PLENARY DISCUSSION**
In addition to the keynote speakers, the discussion will be animated by two expert commentators:

Professor Maria João Rodrigues
Member of the European Parliament, Vice-President of the S&D Group and President of FEPS - European Foundation of Progressive Studies
Krzysztof Szubert
Former Secretary of State / Deputy Minister of Digital Affairs, Poland. Visiting Fellow, University of Oxford, UK. Strategic Advisor of National Research Institute (NASK). Member of the Council of the National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR).
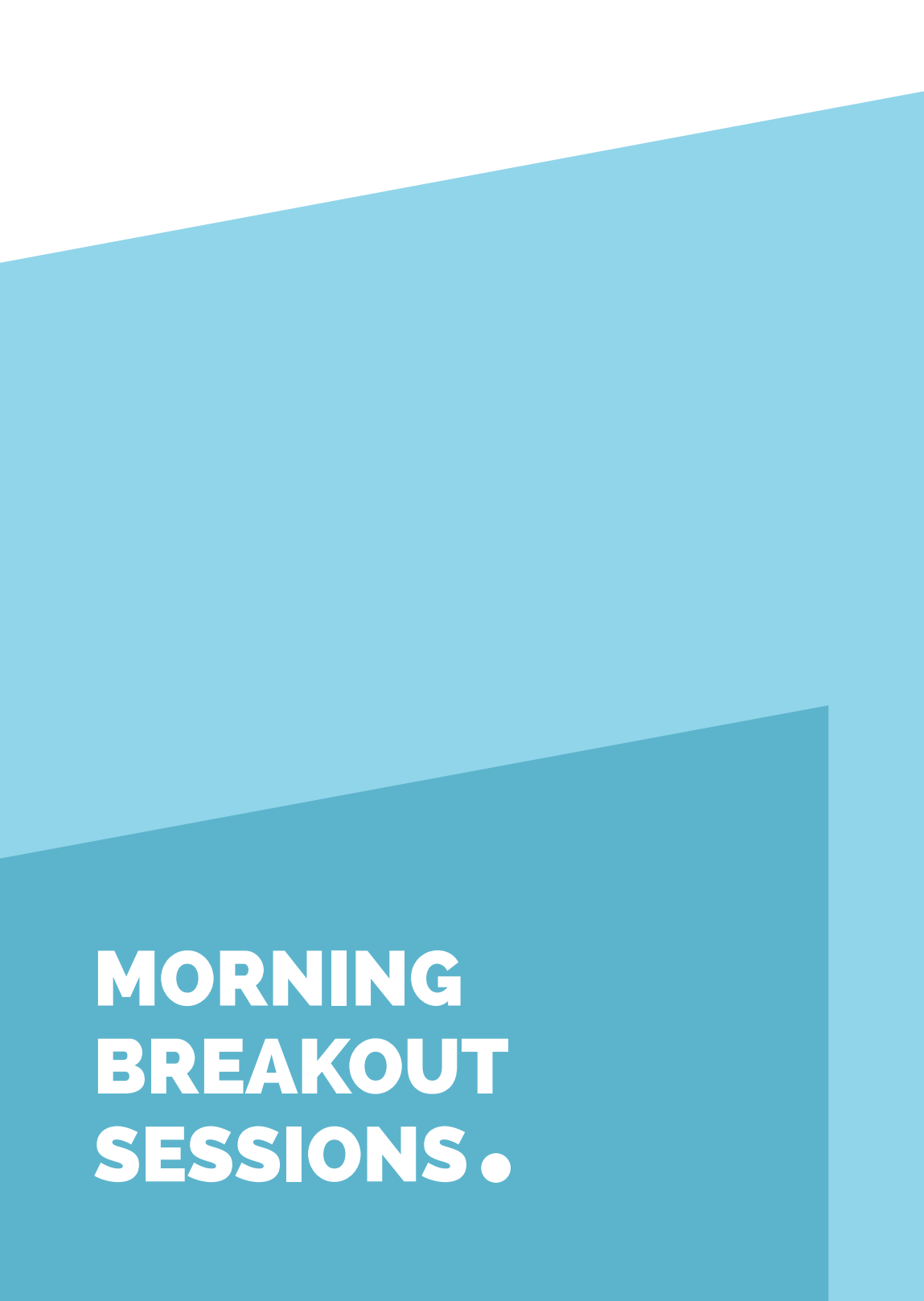**Sascha Lobo**
Author and speaker

Chaired by: **Anthony Gooch**
Director of Public Affairs & Communications at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

11:10-11:20 ● **Formation of breakout groups / room change**

11:20-12:20 ● **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**
Coffee and tea will be served in the room

MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS.

Participants will be grouped into four expert roundtables to discuss real solutions and options. The topic of each session will be introduced by two impulse statements that will portray different angles of the debate. A group discussion will follow, facilitated by a moderator, with the aim to come up with 1-2 concrete proposals on what could and should be done in the next five years to address the issue at hand.

CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT: DIGITAL SOLUTIONS IN A DISENCHANTED AGE ●DISINFORMATION: THE ROLE OF MEDIA IN THE DIGITAL INFORMATION ECOSYSTEM●REGULATION: THE ETHICS OF BALANCING THE INTERNET●NARRATIVES: DEFINING THE WORLD

CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT:
DIGITAL SOLUTIONS IN A DISENCHANTED AGE

The communication tools and structures available to society have always played a key role in how societies organise, mobilise and construct their reality. Digital technologies provide an enormous opportunity for engagement and horizontal collaboration. This session will explore the challenges and opportunities as well as possible steps to be implemented at a European level in order to ensure that meaningful networks and contributions can be mobilised in the future.

Speakers:
Paula Peters, Vice President of Change.org
Elisabeth Ardaillon-Poirier, Senior Policy Adviser of the European Political Strategy Centre of the EC

Moderator: Anthony Gooch, Director of Public Affairs & Communications at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Chair: Brando Benifei, Member of the European Parliament

DISINFORMATION:
THE ROLE OF MEDIA IN THE DIGITAL INFORMATION ECOSYSTEM

Recent events underline the urgency to come up with creative new solutions on how to ensure a safe and transparent digital information ecosystem. The communication ecosystem is a key tenant of our democratic system ensuring freedom of speech, access to reliable and multi-faceted information and the development of a socially shared narrative that guides key decision making. This session will explore what could be done at a European level to safeguard a healthy digital information ecosystem.

Speakers:
Joe Lynam, Disinformation Specialist at the EU Commission former, BBC Broadcaster
Nicola Frank, Head of European Affairs of the European Broadcasting Union

Chair: Christophe Leclercq, Executive Chairman, Fondation EURACTIV

REGULATION:
THE ETHICS OF BALANCING THE INTERNET

There are few things that polarise society more than the issue of whether the internet should be regulated more. With staunch supporters on both sides this question often retreats to the barricades of basic ethical values such as freedom of speech, privacy and control. This session aims to look at these issues in a different way by starting from the evidence of current practices and incentive systems in order to develop concrete proposals for the next European Commission and Parliament.

Speakers:
Peter Scherrer, Deputy Secretary General of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)
Professor Martin van Hees, ALLEA Working Group Science and Ethics

Chair: Professor Alain Strowel, ALLEA Working Group Intellectual Property Rights

NARRATIVES:
DEFINING THE WORLD

An increasingly influential stream of research demonstrates the integration of cognition, emotion and values in political decision-making. Political cognition is emotionally shaped. This session will explore the role of narratives and values in shaping people's political decisions, in particular in recent years when entire societies have made choices that seem "rationally" counterintuitive.

Speakers:
Professor Andrzej Nowak, University of Warsaw
Giovanni La Placa, Joint Research Centre of the European Commission

Chair: Professor Gloria Origgi, ALLEA Working Group Truth, Trust and Expertise

PROGRAMME.

12:20-13:00 ● **STANDING LUNCH**

13:00-13:20 ● **KEYNOTE: Public Reason in a Digital Age**
Baroness O'Neill of Bengarve, Co-chair of the ALLEA Working Group Truth, Trust and Expertise and former President of the British Academy

13:20-13:40 ● **KEYNOTE: Values as a Dwindling Source of Democracy in a Digitally Flooded Society?**
Professor Christiane Woopen, Chair of the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies; Exec. Director of the Center for Ethics, Rights, Economics, and Social Sciences of Health (CERES), University of Cologne

13:40-14:20 ● **PLENARY DISCUSSION**
In addition to the keynote speakers, the discussion will be animated by two expert commentators:

Lambert van Nistelrooij, Member of the European Parliament and Member of the European Internet Forum
Professor Žiga Turk, University of Ljubljana

Chaired by: Professor Ed Noort, Co-Chair of the ALLEA Working Group Truth, Trust and Expertise

14:20-14:30 ● **Formation of breakout groups / room change**

14:30-15:30 ● **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**
Coffee and tea will be served in the room
(see below)

15:30-16:20 ● **PLENARY SESSION**
Presentation of main conclusions of each group and discussion

Chairs of Breakout Sessions:
Brando Benifei, Member of the European Parliament and Member of the European Internet Forum
Christophe Leclercq, Executive Chairman, Fondation EURACTIV
Professor Gloria Origgi, ALLEA Working Group Truth, Trust and Expertisei
Professor Alain Strowel, ALLEA Working Group Intellectual Property Rights

Chaired by: Erika Widegren, Chief Executive of Re-Imagine Europa

16:20-16:30 ● **CONCLUDING REMARKS AND NEXT STEPS**
Professor Manuel Castells, Chairman of the Re-Imagine Europa Taskforce on Democracy in a Digital Society
Professor Antonio Loprieno, President of ALLEA

AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS .

Participants will be grouped into four expert roundtables to discuss real solutions and options. The topic of each session will be introduced by two impulse statements that will portray different angles of the debate. A group discussion will follow, facilitated by a moderator, with the aim to come up with 1-2 concrete proposals on what could and should be done in the next five years to address the issue at hand.

CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT: EMPOWERING CITIZENS IN THE DIGITAL AGE●DISINFORMATION: IMPACT ON ELECTIONS AND THE DIGITAL INFORMATION ECOSYSTEM●REGULATION: DATA AND AI – LEGAL AND ETHICAL IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR SOCIETIES●NARRATIVES: TRUST IN GOVERNANCE, SCIENCE AND EXPERTISE

CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT:
EMPOWERING CITIZENS IN THE DIGITAL AGE

This session will explore the impact of digital on society, both in creating social movements as well has how societies relate to the digital. Social networks have had a dramatic effect on political agency and can be both a tool of empowerment as well as manipulation as recent events have shown. What can concrete examples from across Europe teach us about these issues?

Speakers:
Dr Arnau Monterde, Open University of Catalunya
Maria Grazia Mattei, Founder and President at MEET – Fondazione Cariplo

Chair: Brando Benifei, Member of the European Parliament and Member of the European Internet Forum

DISINFORMATION:
IMPACT ON ELECTIONS AND THE DIGITAL INFORMATION ECOSYSTEM

Complex network approaches are a powerful method to describe a variety of systems spanning across the digital and physical domains with a particular interest for social systems. This session will explore what complex systems teach us about how disinformation spreads on the web and what we can learn from the emerging patterns of behaviour to address the broader issue of disinformation.

Speakers:
Professor Žiga Turk, University of Ljubljana
Bret Schafer, Alliance for Securing Democracy of the German Marshall Fund of the United States
Moderated by: Paul-Jasper Dittrich, Policy Fellow at the Jacques Delors Institute Berlin
Chair: Christophe Leclercq, Executive Chairman, Fondation EURACTIV

REGULATION:
DATA AND AI: LEGAL AND ETHICAL IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR SOCIETIES

The signs of digitisation are everywhere, from smart phones, the mobile internet, ecommerce, to cloud-based services. Big data, advanced analytics, and the Internet of Things are transforming the way we work and organise. This session will explore the challenges and opportunities of AI and data with particular focus on the ethical and legal implications.

Speakers:
Gianluca Misuraca, Senior Scientist, Digital Government Transformation, Joint Research Centre of the European Commission
Jo Pierson, Associate Professor, Department of Media and Communication Studies, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB)
Chair: Professor Alain Strowel, ALLEA Working Group Intellectual Property Rights

NARRATIVES:
TRUST IN GOVERNANCE, SCIENCE AND EXPERTISE

Trust is the glue that holds societies together. It is what allows us to share information, collaborate and co-create joint visions and projects. Today however, this vital component of society is being challenged as trust in institutions, experts and media are being challenged. This session will look at concrete projects and proposals to strengthen evidence and foster trust-building.

Speakers:
Volker Stollorz, Chief Editor and Managing Director of the German Science Media Centre
Dr. Christoph Glauser, Director of the Institute IFAAR, Institute for Applied Argumentation Research
Chair: Professor Gloria Origgi, ALLEA Working Group Truth, Trust and Expertise

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