Draft Agenda

Global Network of Interdisciplinary Internet & Society Research Centers

Events Series on the Future of Internet Governance

Moving towards a Collaborative Internet Governance Ecosystem: Contributions by the Academic Community and Next Steps

Host:
ICT Law Institute, Bilgi University, Istanbul, Turkey

May 22, 2014

Istanbul Bilgi University
Kuştepe Campus
34387 Şişli/İstanbul
Turkey
Introduction

The event “Moving towards a Collaborative Internet Governance Ecosystem: Contributions by the Academic Community and Next Steps” is part of an ongoing Network of Centers (NoC) events series on the future of Internet governance.

In addition to hosting an events series, the NoC is partnering with the Governance Lab at NYU and individual researchers from around the globe to engage in a coordinated and sustained research effort aimed at informing the debate about the future of Internet governance. Building upon the NETmundial Roadmap and the work of various panels and committees, including the Panel on Global Internet Cooperation and Governance Mechanisms, the NoC effort will pursue research that aims to identify, assess, and test innovative approaches to distributed and collaborative Internet governance.

About the Network of Centers

The NoC is a collaborative initiative among academic institutions with a focus on interdisciplinary research on the development, social impact, policy implications, and legal issues concerning the Internet. This collective aims to increase interoperability between participating centers in order to stimulate the creation of new cross-national, cross-disciplinary conversation, debate, teaching, learning, and engagement regarding the most pressing questions around new technologies, social change, and related policy and regulatory developments. For more information, including announcements of events on the future of Internet governance, please visit this site.

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1 Please share statements of interest with the NoC coordinator, Dr. Mayte Peters, at mayte.peters@hiig.de
Agenda | Thursday, May 22

PART 1 - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

09:00 - 09:15 Introduction
Leyla Keser, Director, ICT Law Institute, Bilgi University

09:15 - 10:00 Keynote
Larry Strickling, Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information, Department of Commerce, USA

10:00 - 11:30 Panel Discussion: Multi-Stakeholder Internet Governance
Moderator: Wolfgang Schulz, Director, Alexander von Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society, Berlin
Markus Kummer, Vice President, Public Policy, Internet Society (ISOC)
Khaled Koubaa, Public Policy & Government Relations Manager, North Africa, Google, Tunisia
Marília Maciel, Director, Institute for Technology & Society at FGV School of Law, Brazil
Mehmet Bedii Kaya, Lecturer, ICT Law Institute, Bilgi University, Turkey
David Olive, Vice President, Policy Development, ICANN, Turkey
Turkish Government Representative (tbd)
Turkish Civil Society Representative (tbd)

11:30 - 12:00 Coffee Break & Transfer to Afternoon Venue
PART II - NoC WORKING MEETING - INVITATION ONLY
(See additional background information in the Annex)

12:00 - 13:15 Working Session I: Presentation and Brainstorming of Case Study Proposals
This first closed door working meeting will provide an opportunity to recap the framing of the collaborative research effort, and to enter an open brainstorming process around possible case studies. In thinking about approaches to and the tools of governance (both in the Internet space and beyond – which might include areas such as aviation, energy, or the like), what local, national, regional, or international experiences, experiments, mechanisms, processes, or “governance models” might teach us valuable and interesting lessons?

13:15 - 14:45 Lunch

14:45 - 16:00 Working Session II: Refinement and Selection of Case Studies
During this session, we hope to enter into the refinement and selection phase regarding the submitted case studies. Which case studies submitted before the meeting or during the first working session might be best suited to inform the questions and issues raised in the NetMundial roadmap and the other committees/panels that are commenting on the evolution of the Internet governance ecosystem? How can the nominated case studies be categorized (issue-to-solution mapping, enablers etc.), ensuring we have a diversity of topics among the nominated and selected case studies?

16:00 - 16:15 Coffee Break

16:15 - 17:30 Working Session III: Developing a Methodology
Drawing on the previous working sessions’ input, this session will aim to develop a methodology for mapping and evaluating the case studies. What are possible criteria for evaluation and how can we derive input that may best inform the current debate about the future of the broader Internet governance ecosystem?

17:30 - 18:00 Discussion: Possible Synthesis Papers and Next Steps
In this final session, participants will share ideas and suggestions how the lessons learned from the proposed case studies could be synthesized in cross-cutting papers and be mapped onto some of the core questions identified in the various roadmaps and the work of various panels and committees, including the Panel on Global Internet Cooperation and Governance Mechanisms. Potential “lenses” for synthesis
papers may include:

- Issue-to-solution mapping;
- Capacity development/the information backbone;
- Anchors in international law for governance models;
- Synchronizing national and regional (or regional and global) governance systems.

18:00 - 18:15 Wrap-up and Closing

20:00 Dinner
Annex | Additional Background on the Research Initiative

Leveraging the NoC’s diversity of disciplines, viewpoints, and regional experiences, the joint NoC research effort on the future of Internet governance is built upon a series of case studies, which will later be synthesized and mapped onto some of the core questions identified in the various roadmaps mentioned above (NetMundial etc.). The key activities of research and exploration for the NoC are:

1. A series of in-depth case studies about distributed and collaborative governance models;
2. A series of synthesis papers applying the lessons learned from the case studies

During this Istanbul meeting, we hope to select a set of case studies for further exploration. In order to select case studies that have the greatest potential to inform the current debates about the evolution of the distributed and collaborative Internet governance ecosystem, we are seeking case study nominations from each partner research center. The key question that should guide case study selection is this:

In thinking about approaches to and the tools of governance (both in the Internet space and beyond – which might include areas such as aviation, energy, or the like), what local, national, regional, or international experiences, experiments, mechanisms, processes, … (in short: “governance models”) might teach us valuable lessons that could be applicable to improving Internet governance in the three core areas further described below (Section II)?

This is an opportunity to leverage our geographic diversity to highlight unique and interesting examples of governance models that can bring new perspectives and insights to the important debate about the future of Internet governance. Thus, selecting case studies that are relevant and interesting will require creativity above all. We therefore encourage you to think expansively about governance models more generally when nominating potential candidates, and we will aim to continue the brainstorming and refine the ideas at this meeting in Istanbul on May 22.

I. Case Study Topics
We aim to identify a broad range of case studies whose analysis and evaluation might shed light on at least one of the following three categories:

1. **Issue-to-Solution Mapping**: models that teach us how to match governance problems with the organizations, experts, networks, and governing bodies/entities best able to help develop legitimate, effective, and efficient solutions.
2. **Enablers**: models that teach us about the “flow of information and knowledge” that is underlying successful governance, using for instance communities of experts, forums and dialogues, and toolkits to reach solutions.

3. **Cross-Sphere Synchronization**: models that teach us how governance efforts can be coordinated between regional and global (or national and regional) governance networks, in order to avoid conflicting directives.

In order to ensure that all categories are covered, we strongly encourage you to nominate case study proposals. The more nominations, the better!

**II. Example Case Study Nominations**

In order to help generate possible case study topic nominees, we have identified a few example topics to stimulate our collective brainstorming. It is our hope that these examples will be instructive as to breadth and depth that is most helpful at this early stage of the brainstorming process. The more creative the topic, the greater the chance that it will add a new insight to the debate about the Internet governance ecosystem.

A. **Swiss ComCom’s Round Tables**

Several private and public entities—including Swisscom, Switzerland's major telecommunications provider, but also municipal utilities—started to deploy "Fiber to the Home" (FTTH) in the mid-2000s. FTTH refers to next generation broadband networks that are fed into all business premises, and single and multiple occupancy dwellings using fiber optic cables. Until recently, fiber optic cables have not been fed into the houses of private individuals and small companies; instead fiber has been primarily used for connections in the backbone networks, for connections between the central office and the street cabinet, and for the provision of services to larger companies and business premises. FTTH is the final expansion stage of the fiber optic network.

As several companies started investing in the deployment of highly expensive FTTH infrastructure, the Swiss Federal Communications Commission (ComCom) hosted and organized a series of round-tables—including various stakeholders, including regulators, consumer organizations, public and private providers of broadband infrastructure, etc.—between 2008 and 2011. The purpose of these round tables was to develop solutions for cooperation in terms of network construction and standardization of network access. Led by the Swiss Federal Office of Communications (OFCOM), four working groups drafted solutions to improve the coordination expansion of FTTH to residences. The first working group ("L1") dealt with the specification of internal domestic cabling; the second ("L2") with standardization of network access at the transport network level. A third working group ("L1B") dealt with defining the transfer points—those points where the
operators’ and alternative providers’ networks are connected up—and the fourth group ("AG3") dealt with recommendations on drafting the contracts between house owners and fiber-optic network operators.

Further information at:

B. Enquete Commission

Some parliaments have special means at their disposal to tackle structural knowledge problems. One is the so-called “enquete commission” used by parliaments in Germany. The German Bundestag, for instance, can establish such a commission under Article 56 of the rules of internal procedure, to gain assistance in addressing complex fields of decision-making. The idea is to institutionalize a learning process that bridges the gap between decisionmakers in parliament and those outside of parliament who may have better specialized expertise.

Such an enquete commission was established by the German parliament in May 2010 on the area of “Internet and digital society.” For its final report, the commission came up with suggestions addressing issues such as data protection, copyrights, media literacy, public sphere and culture, science and technology and others (Bundestag 2013). The impact of the suggestions have so far been limited; some of the suggestions, however, have made it into the coalition treaty of the new German government in fall of 2013. One commission suggestion was to create a permanent parliamentary committee on issues of the digital society, which was set up in February 2014.

The enquete commission on “Internet and digital society” in Germany is worth studying because it represents a specific set of different perspectives within the formal framework of a parliamentary commission. The commission’s work itself is a kind of test case for inclusive participation (Große, 2013).

Further information at:
C. Horizon Scanning in Singapore

After a number of strategic surprises in the early 2000s, Singapore decided that it would benefit from an improved and innovative approach to risk assessments and horizon scanning. Thus, between 2004 and 2007, the government of Singapore instituted a new organization called the Risk Assessment and Horizon Scanning (RAHS) system. The RAHS, which is primarily focused on national security concerns, was located under the National Security Coordination Secretariat in the office of the Prime Minister.

In its current incarnation, RAHS has three branches: a think tank, a solutions center, and an experimentation center. The role of the think tank is to coordinate a government-wide information network spanning over 20 agencies including those responsible for energy security, counter-terrorism, and cyber-surveillance. This information network is designed to be interoperable set of web services that enable metadata tagging and detailed analyses. Thus, it fuses together information with advanced technologies in order to make better use of that information. In order to improve the available technologies, the experimentation center develops and tests new tools for horizon scanning and data analysis.

This is an interesting topic for a potential case study because it involves coordination of diverse actors and applying innovative technologies to help bridge the gaps between those actors.

Further information at:

IV. Synthesis Papers

Following the selection and preparation of the case studies, we seek to draft a series of synthesis papers that will collect and build upon the lessons learned from the case studies. These synthesis papers will seek apply those lessons to collaborative Internet governance models. During the course of selecting, researching, and drafting the case studies, we urge you to think about potential synthesis paper topics. We have tentatively identified four potential topics, but these are fluid until the case studies are underway.

Synthesis papers may address the following dimensions, among others:

- Lessons learned regarding issue-to-solution mapping
• Capacity development and toolkits, with an emphasis on the “information backbone” of the proposed Internet governance framework; this paper will include discussion of identifying and supporting the correct expert communities and networks, as well as developing and sustaining appropriate forums and dialogues. If necessary, these latter issues may be developed into separate synthesis papers.

• Possible anchors of a collaborative governance model in international law.

• Cross-Sphere Synchronization and how some governance models coordinate between regional and global (or national and regional) governance networks, in order to avoid conflicting directives.