

**Conference on:**

**”Democratic Governance and ICT”**

**January 30<sup>th</sup> to February 1<sup>st</sup> 2003**

**Department of Political Science, University of Copenhagen**

**Rosenborggade 15, 1130 Copenhagen K., Denmark**

### **Introduction**

The 1990s was a period where very big expectations were attached to the spread of ICT, especially the Internet, not only economically but also in terms of politics and democracy. The Internet was assumed to enable a more 'direct' democracy through for example electronic voting, citizen panels, etc., but also a more thoughtful, deliberative and empowering democracy through virtual debates, self-organised virtual communities, etc. Thus, concepts like 'electronic democracy' or 'cyberdemocracy' were widely discussed. However, their content as well as the impact of ICTs in political processes remained largely a matter of speculation till the latter part of the -90s, where serious empirical studies reflecting the reality of the 'networked society' began to emerge.

Even though this work has, mainly through case studies, shed some light on the use of ICTs in political processes and its possible democratic consequences, knowledge in the field is still very patchy, and many areas are under-researched, if researched at all. Furthermore, empirical results in this area tend to age very quickly as technologies and adaptations are changing at great speed. For these reasons there is a need to: a) create an international overview of the areas in which research in this area has been undertaken, and is going on at the moment, b) in order to map the 'black holes' in our knowledge, thus pointing towards new areas in which research is needed.

Apart from these more empirically oriented exercises there is also a great need for theoretical work that tries to create new categories and thus contribute to our understanding of current changes in politics, democracy and power. In our view ICT is part and parcel of these changes, and the specific role ICT plays as an 'enabler' of or a 'barrier' to different types of changes needs to be spelled out.

The aim of this conference is to try to make a contribution in all of the three areas mentioned. Through presentations from a comparative European project on 'The use of ICT by MP's', and keynote speeches by Stephen Coleman, Professor in E-democracy at Oxford Internet Institute and Steve Frantzich, Professor at US Naval Academy, and one of the first to do empirical research on the use of computers in politics, an overview of the areas in which empirical research on ICT and politics has been undertaken is created. Furthermore, the keynote speeches will put existing empirical knowledge in a theoretical perspective, and point towards the areas in which we need to develop both theory and empirical analysis.

The conference is organised as a joint venture between The Nordic Governance Network; a network consisting of senior researchers and Ph.D. students in the field of governance and democracy, 'Politologisk Forskerskole'; the Danish Ph.D. school in political science and Associate Professor Jens Hoff, Department of Political Science, Copenhagen University. The conference is financially supported by the mentioned organizations as well as the Danish Social Science Research Council (SSF) and the EU Commission's COST Programme.

The deadline for registration for the conference is December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2002. Registrations should be send to [jh@ifs.ku.dk](mailto:jh@ifs.ku.dk)

Papers, which can also be research or Ph.D. proposals, are invited. Maximum length is 15 pages, and deadline is January 17<sup>th</sup>. Papers should be send to [jh@ifs.ku.dk](mailto:jh@ifs.ku.dk) (Associate Professor Jens Hoff), and will be available at: [www.polforsk.dk/demoICT](http://www.polforsk.dk/demoICT) from January 22nd. Due to the limited amount of time set aside for presentations and discussions of papers, priority is given to papers/proposals from Ph.D. students.

For Ph.D. students participation with paper or proposal will be credited with 2 ECTS = 56 work hours.

**PROGRAMME:**

Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup>

13-14      *Keynote: "What can ICT do for democracy? Opportunities and barriers"*

Professor Stephen Coleman, Oxford Internet Institute, UK.

14-15      Discussion

15-15.30   Coffee break

15.30-18   PhD Workshops lead by Stephen Coleman and Steve Frantzich

Conference dinner

Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup>

9-10        *Keynote: "Cyber age Politics and the US Congress"*

Professor Steve Frantzich, US Naval Academy, Maryland, USA.

10-11      Discussion

11-11.30   Coffee break

11.30-12.30 Presentation of a European research project on: "The use of ICT by MP's"

Dr. Peter Filzmaier, University of Innsbruck, Austria

Dr. Gustavo Cardoso, ISCTE, Lisbon, Portugal

Dr. Jens Hoff, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

12.30-13.30 Lunch seminar. "ICT and Democratic Governance in Asia".

Assistant Professor, Ph.D. Indrajit Banerjee, Nanyang Technical  
University, Singapore.

13.30-17    PhD workshops lead by Stephen Coleman and Steve Frantzich.

Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup>

9-13 Panel discussion on "The use of ICT by MP's and in Parliament"

Short presentations by:

Professor, Dr. Ignace Snellen, Erasmus University, Rotterdam, the Netherlands: "The use of ICT by MP's. The Dutch case"

Dr. Beate Elvebakk, University of Oslo, Norway: "The use of ICT by MP's. The Norwegian Case."

Dr. William Webster, University of Stirling, Scotland: "The use of ICT by MP's. The Scottish Case"

Dr. Meike Fries, University of Hamburg, Germany: "The use of ICT by MP's. The German Case".

Professor, Dr. Alain Sermat, IDHEAP, Switzerland: "The use of ICT by MP's. The Swiss Case."

13-14 Lunch

14-17 Workshop concerning special issue of 'Parliamentary Affairs'.

12.30-13.30 Lunch

13.30-17 PhD workshops lead by Stephen Coleman and Steve Frantzich.