GIG-ARTS 2017 – 30-31 March 2017, Paris

"Global Internet Governance as a Diplomacy Issue"

Organized by the GIG-ARTS Project (www.gig-arts.eu)

Co-Sponsored by the ECPR Standing Group on Internet and Politics, The Global Internet Governance Academic Network (GigaNet), Rowman & Littlefield Publishers

Supported by The French National Research Agency (ANR), The French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), UPMC-Sorbonne Universités, The Paris Institute for Advanced Study (Paris IAS)

Call for Papers

About the GIG-ARTS Conference

The GIG-ARTS (**Global Internet Governance Actors, Regulations, Transactions and Strategies**) conference is a European annual multidisciplinary academic venue to present and discuss developments in Global Internet Governance (GIG) and their implications in and beyond this field of research. It is one of the outcomes of the GIG-ARTS project (www.gig-arts.eu).

The GIG-ARTS conference aims to complement and bridge between existing venues, such as established International or European disciplinary conferences in the social sciences (e.g. IAMCR, ICA, ISA, IPSA, ECPR, EISA, … general conferences), where GIG scholars sometimes find their interdisciplinary research marginalized in terms of issues, areas and disciplines; or such as in the only venue specialized in GIG so far (the Annual GigaNet Symposium), organized as a pre-event of the UN annual Internet Governance Forum (IGF) since 2006, making it difficult to both focus on European developments and to accommodate a larger academic community than the one that is used to participating in IGF proceedings. The GIG-ARTS conference objectives are threefold: to foster the enlargement and diversification of this academic community in order to increase its visibility; to open more opportunities to young scholars, particularly from Europe and its neighbourhood; and to anchor its discussions in the European context, providing a space where the scholarly community can address regional challenges and contribute to regional discussions.

Each year, the GIG-ARTS conference will highlight a main theme. In addition to keynote speeches and academic presentations and discussions, at least one roundtable will feature a debate with practitioners around that theme. The theme of the first GIG-ARTS conference edition in 2017 is: "**Global Internet Governance as a Diplomacy Issue**".

Rationale

"Digital diplomacy" has recently been the subject of significant debates, events and activities at a variety of governance sites. The concept is often used without having been clearly defined and delimited. For some, it is restricted to the use of digital means, especially social networks, by diplomats to practice a kind of "Public Diplomacy 2.0". In others' views, it extends to foreign affairs and international relations with regard to all matters related to the digital environment, including internet governance.

There is undoubtedly a need to better understand recent transformations of diplomacy in the digital era, their drivers and their nature, whether and how they might change European and transnational power relations and, ultimately, which values they carry and channel on the global scene.

Moreover, in the global internet governance field specifically, where the technical, social and market innovations are quickly developing, there is a particular difficulty to keep pace with numerous internet innovations in order to make informed choices and decisions on issues that may appear mainly technical. Most significantly, still unresolved, highly sensitive issues challenge national, regional and global policymaking, in terms of sovereignty and other political, legal, economic, social, cultural and societal choices.

Finally, this important issue must be put in the context of the history of institutions building regarding the internet. The United Nations decision, ten years ago at the World Summit on Information Society, that internet governance processes should be institutionalized in an open and inclusive manner through multistakeholder participation, constituted in this regard an important mutation in diplomatic practices.

This first edition of the European Multidisciplinary Conference on Global Internet Governance Actors, Regulations, Transactions and Strategies (GIG-ARTS 2017) is therefore dedicated to the formalization, understanding and discussion of global internet governance, in all its dimensions, as a diplomacy issue and terrain. A special emphasis will be given to the role of the European Union, its member states and its neighbourhood in a field historically dominated by US interests, especially those of private sector internet giants.

Main Topics

Scholars from different backgrounds and disciplines are encouraged to contribute through their theoretical and empirical research works to this definition and to analysis of global internet governance as a diplomacy issue. In addition to general global internet governance issues, topics of particular interest include:

- **Europe as a global actor in internet governance diplomacy**: A symphony or cacophony of voices? Europe's role and position in both the negotiation of internet related Treaties and discussion of soft law instruments; Economy, trade, taxation and labour: the European model challenged by US internet giants and the so-called sharing economy? Europe and its neighbourhood: challenges and opportunities in internet governance diplomacy;
- **Human rights, rule of law and democratic values anchoring and channelling**: drivers and obstacles in a digital era; National, regional and global norms diffusion; The role of major European Court rulings on internet related

norms; The role of international organizations in hard and soft law instruments design and implementation;

- **New diplomacy actors, instruments and practices in internet governance**: Non state actors; Multistakeholder processes: coalitions, transactions and strategies; New forms of lobbying and new power relations?
- **Multiple digital disruptions faced by diplomacy and their consequences**: Intercultural relations in internet governance diplomacy and their institutional and regulatory impact; New forms of coordination, institutions building and rule making; New forms of threats and opportunities for sovereignty, peace and security;
- **Diplomacy transformations in a digital era**: Nature and perimeter; Commonalities and specificities across different fields; Assessment of diplomatic studies and trainings with regard to such transformations.

Submission Information and Publication Opportunities

Authors are invited to submit their extended abstracts (no longer than 500 words), describing their research question(s), theoretical framework, approach and methodology, expected findings or empirical outcome. Submitted abstracts will be evaluated through a peer-review process. Abstracts and authors' information should be submitted through the Easychair conference management system at: **https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=gigarts2017**

Authors of selected submissions will have the opportunity to submit their full manuscript for publication as part of an edited volume published by Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

Key dates

Deadline for abstract submissions: **31 October 2016**
Notification to authors: **15 December 2016**
Authors registration (at least one author must register for a selected presentation to appear on the programme): **From 15 December 2016 to 13 January 2017**
Programme publication: **15 January 2017**
Online registration: **From 15 January to 15 March 2017**
Conference dates: **30 & 31 March 2017**

Venue

The conference will be held at the *Hôtel de Lauzun*, a 17th Century building located in the heart of Paris, on Ile Saint-Louis.

Conference Registration and Fees

Registration fees are 100€ for regular participants and 50€ for students showing proof of status. The conference fees include a participant kit with conference documents as well as coffee breaks and meals.

GIG-ARTS 2017 Scientific Programme Committee

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- Wolfgang Benedek, University of Graz, Austria
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- Katharine Sarikakis, University of Vienna, Austria
- Joris Van Hoboken, IVIR, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

GIG-ARTS 2017 Communication Details

- Website: http://events.gig-arts.eu
- Email for information: events@gig-arts.eu
- Email for submissions: **https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=gigarts2017**
- Twitter: @GigArtsEU
- Hashtag: #GIGARTS17