

## **IGF 2017 Reporting Template**

- **Session Title:** Datafication and Social Justice: What challenges for Internet Governance? (WS245)

- **Date:** 21 December 2017

- **Time:** 9am-10:30am

- **Session Organizer:** Stefania Milan (University of Amsterdam), Arne Hintz (Cardiff University)

- **Chair/Moderator:** Stefania Milan (University of Amsterdam)

- **Rapporteur/Notetaker:** Vidushi Marda (CIS, India)

### **- List of Speakers and their institutional affiliations:**

Eva Blum-Dumontet (Privacy International)

Malavika Jayaram (Asian Digital Hub, Hong Kong)

Sunil Abraham (Center for Internet and Society, India)

Joana Varon (Coding Rights, Brazil)

Sebastián Becker (Datos Protegidos, Chile)

Lisa Vermeer (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands)

Madeline Carr (University College London, UK)

### **- Key Issues raised:**

The consequences of 'big data' collection and analysis for social justice: The session served to discuss the implications of data-based governance (and the resulting profiling and categorization of populations) for democracy, social justice, and internet governance.

Privacy and surveillance: The use of 'big data' for governance inevitably leads to the massive collection and analysis of user data. Participants discussed challenges and potential remedies.

### **- Summary of each presentation:**

Arne Hintz (Cardiff University, UK) introduced the topic of the session by presenting an overview of the trends of datafication and of data-based governance.

Eva Blum-Dumontet (Privacy International) discussed the concerns of digital rights and civil liberties organizations regarding datafication. She focused on recent developments of mass data collection in smart cities and by smart devices, and critiqued a lack of regulation, and she presented several examples of data-based inequalities.

Malavika Jayaram (Asian Digital Hub, Hong Kong) analyzed a particular case of data-based governance – the Chinese social credit score. She explained its workings of the planned 'citizen score' system and critiqued it as 'gamification of obedience and normalization of surveillance'. However, she also discussed people's active participation in, and relative acceptance of it, and well as practices of circumvention.

Sunil Abraham (Center for Internet and Society, India) explored modes of self-regulation for data governance. Proposing a system of consent brokers, he elaborated on possibilities 'to re-invent privacy' and 'engineer justice into the system'.

Joana Varon (Coding Rights, Brazil) and Sebastián Becker (Datos Protegidos, Chile) presented ways in which data collection has been expanded in Latin America through, for example, the connection of datasets about

citizens to their identification numbers, and they raise the problem of how data collection can lead to diverse and unjust interpretations of data, with serious implications for social justice.

Lisa Vermeer (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands) highlighted the challenges faced by governments and policymakers in developing adequate policy solutions to the problems raised by the other speakers, and the difficulties in reviewing the consequences of datafication. In addition, she suggested forward-looking ways in which the Dutch government has tried to tackle such issues.

Finally, Madeline Carr (University College London, UK) connected the various strands of the discussion back to contemporary questions of internet governance, particularly regarding necessary policies for IoT regulation and the privacy implications of the change to IPv6.

#### **- Discussions that took place during the workshop session:**

Participants to the workshop could directly question the presenters in two moments: after the first four speakers, and at the end of the presentations.

Participants had a range of questions to the presenters to clarify policy suggestions and the challenges of datafication. Several shared further experiences regarding the consequences of datafication and the need to regulate it adequately. With the wide range of presentations, the limited time available, and with the topic being relatively new within the IGF framework, concrete policy solutions were not investigated in depth, but suggestions were raised.

#### **- Participants' suggestions regarding the way forward/ potential next steps /key takeaways:**

The session served to connect the debate on datafication with the IGF agenda. It was an exploratory session, which most room reserved for setting the agenda, which is the debate did not explicitly concentrated on offering concrete solutions. On the contrary, the emphasis was on bringing different actors and approaches together to address a key challenge of IG for the near future, with special attention for the role of multistakeholder dialogue and the IGF in particular.

Two out of our stated goals—namely, a better understanding of datafication and its implications for Internet Governance, and a transnational, multistakeholder dialogue on the implications of datafication—were amply fulfilled. The third expected goal—a multistakeholder commitment to contribute to draft policy recommendations for data management—was not quite fulfilled due to the need to first explore the issue properly in an IGF context. Participants and audience members alike, however, express interest in continuing the debate at next year's IGF, working towards more specific outcomes, also in interaction to existing Dynamic Coalitions.

#### **Gender Reporting**

- Estimate the overall number of the participants present at the session:

60

- Estimate the overall number of women present at the session:

35.

Five out of seven speakers were women; a sixth was invited (Jessica Matus from the Chilean NGO Datos Protegidos) but for personal reasons preferred to be replaced by her colleague Sebastián Becker.

- To what extent did the session discuss gender equality and/or women's empowerment?

The session did not address gender equality explicitly and on its own, but its focus on social justice included such a perspective, and several examples raised by speakers included gender concerns.

