

Call for Student Papers: “Internet Governance as an Arena of International Politics”

“20 years ago, the Internet was more or less a technical issue with some political implications but today, it’s a political issue with a technical component”

– Wolfgang Kleinwächter

Internet governance, i.e. the processes and structures through which rules and standards for the Internet are set, mirror the overall complexity of this infrastructure. Internet governance encompasses the global governmental and private sector cooperation needed to create Internet infrastructure. As the Internet grows rapidly in reach and scope, the issue of its regulation has become a complex task for its stakeholders. Major issues in Internet governance include governments’ levying taxes on e-commerce, and cyber security. The question: *Within whose domain the Internet falls?* is increasingly controversial as the Internet expands unrestrained.

In cooperation with Kompetenzzentrum Öffentliche IT (ÖFIT), Key Issues is releasing its first special issue on the topic of Internet Governance in preparation for the Internet Governance Forum 2019 in Berlin.

We take the hosting of the Internet Governance Forum 2019 in Berlin as an occasion to examine Internet Governance from the perspective of international politics.

We thus invite submissions on the following topics:

- How can the Internet be governed? Has the multi-stakeholder approach proven itself or would a multilateral approach be more appropriate? Do we need new international institutions? How do non-government organisations fill their role in Internet governance? How do governments exert influence? What is the role of the different organisations and fora such as IGF, ICANN, IANA, ITU, W3C etc.? What’s the role of private companies, especially as transnational actors?
- Which and whose rules should apply to the Internet? How does the struggle about how open, commercial or government-controlled the Internet should be play out? Which conflicts and coalitions form around topics like business models, net neutrality, censorship and government surveillance?
- What are the political questions behind technical decisions? What is the influence of encryption, development of DNS, the growth of mobile communications, and machine-to-machine communication on the development of the Internet? What does the fragmentation of the Internet in several technical ecosystems mean for its governance?
- How do national and international actors pursue their strategic goals in Internet governance? How does the dominance of the USA change? What repercussions does the rise of “national” Internets have? How are the topics of security governance and cyber warfare dealt with?
- What interests does Germany pursue in Internet governance, and how? How can Germany use the existing fora and organisations more strategically? Which goals should be pursued on an international, European or national level?

These questions are meant to serve as a first reference point. We also welcome submissions beyond the scope of these questions, as long as they are thematically related.

Papers can be submitted in two different options:

Option 1: Academic Article

A detailed, scientifically based article that examines a problem of Internet governance from the perspective of international relations. The article can be written only for this purpose or a rewritten paper.

Option 2: Policy paper

A compact, policy-oriented contribution that derives and formulates concrete policy recommendations for a problem of Internet governance. These contributions are no longer than 1000-2000 words, have a current relevance and are provided with three keywords.

Formal criteria

- 3000-5000 words (without references or appendix);
- Written in English;
- Includes an abstract of about 100-150 words and five keywords ;
- All citations and references should follow APA style;
- The text must be 1.5-spaced. Use Times New Roman font and 12 point font size. Leave 2,5 cm margin on each side. Long quotations, footnotes, and bibliography may be single-spaced, 11 point.

Submission

The submission should be made until **July 15th 2019** to keyissues.bremen@gmail.com. We will only accept student papers. Articles not in line with formal criteria cannot be considered. In case of questions of any nature, feel free to contact us!

We are looking forward to your submissions! – The Editors

About Key Issues



KEY ISSUES is Bremen's first and only peer-reviewed open access student-run academic journal. Founded in late 2014, it seeks to promote high-quality student research in the social sciences.

About ÖFIT



Kompetenzzentrum Öffentliche IT **Kompetenzzentrum Öffentliche IT (ÖFIT)** at the Fraunhofer Institute for Open Communication Systems

is a contact point and think tank for issues of digitalisation in the public sector. We follow a holistic approach that considers technical, social, legal, and economic aspects and factors. We highlight issues of the increasing digitalisation of society and provide policy recommendations for decision-makers in politics, administration and civil society. ÖFIT is funded by the German Federal Ministry of the Interior.