

IPSA  **AISP**
International Conference

POLITICAL SCIENCE IN THE DIGITAL AGE: MAPPING OPPORTUNITIES, PERILS AND UNCERTAINTIES



**4-6 DECEMBER 2017
HANNOVER, GERMANY**

PROGRAM CHAIRS: MARIANNE KNEUER & HELEN MILNER

The International Political Science Association (IPSA) is organizing an international conference that will be held in Hannover's spectacular Palace of Herrenhausen, surrounded by gardens that date back to the Baroque period.

The conference, entitled "Political Science in the Digital Age: Mapping Opportunities, Perils and Uncertainties", provides the opportunity for a reflection on the discipline and one of its most relevant challenges, namely digitalization. The conference aims to bring together officials and members of political science associations and members of the IPSA Research Committees in order to further develop networks and cooperation among these groups. The conference will also be a platform for addressing challenges as well as developing ideas for future research within IPSA.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 15 APRIL 2017

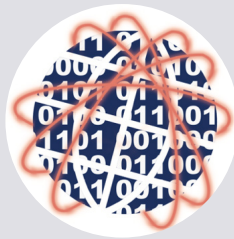
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Conference Theme

Digitalization – or the integration of digital technologies into all aspects of everyday life – is the most dominant signature of the 21st century so far. Society, economy and politics are all affected by a multitude of implications that digitalization embodies. The Internet and social media have not only multiplied the communications channels in an unprecedented way but also have had a substantial impact on the interaction between politicians and citizens as well as all societal actors. Formerly more or less institutionalized channels of communication between on one side politicians and media, on the other side media and citizens have been replaced by a myriad of decentralized networks. While actors in politics and media formerly steered communications flows, digital-based networks now tend to have unpredictable effects in their scope, scale, and therefore in their impact. Opinion-building and decision-making processes are increasingly influenced by the functional logic of digital media; factors like the acceleration and synchronicity of information, the multimodality of the messages, and the interactivity and connectedness of providers and users all are reshaping social, economic, and political life. This is true for domestic as well as for international politics. The dissolution of communicative boundaries creates a new transnational space of connectedness on all levels of agency. In consequence, ideas, norms and values spread more easily and rapidly; in the same way the diffusion of policies, institutional elements, and governance techniques are facilitated.

For the discipline of Political Science the digital revolution implies at least two challenges: On one side, the subjects of research are concerned: national as well as international actors, communication between government and societal actors, the relation between politicians and citizens, aspects of political economy, aspects of regulation, e-governance and net politics, diplomacy cybercrimes and cyberwar, etc. On the other side, digitalization influences the academic sphere not only in terms of research but also in terms of teaching, learning and publishing. This latter challenge includes the more practical dimension involving political consulting and policy recommendations.

It is important that political scientists reflect on the current and future implications that the digital age holds for the discipline. The aim of the conference is to examine these challenges adopting a broad approach. Such a broad perspective will enable examining how digital media transforms the relations and communications between international, governmental and societal actors. The conference will comprehend five thematic sessions:

1. Political Theory
2. Comparative Politics
3. International Relations and World Economy
4. Methods
5. Teaching and Learning

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