



SAINT PETERSBURG  
STATE UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM  
& MASS COMMUNICATIONS



**CERTH**  
CENTRE FOR RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY HELLAS

## **INTERNET SCIENCE - 2018 (INSCI'2018)**

### **CALL FOR PAPERS**

Dates: **October 24 to 26, 2018**

Place: **St.Petersburg State University, St.Petersburg, Russia**

Language: **English**

Submission deadline: **June 10, 2018**

Proceedings: **Axel Springer Verlag, Lecture Notes in Computer Science (LNCS)**

### **CONFERENCE THEME**

#### **Internet in World Regions: Digital Freedoms and Citizen Empowerment**

With time, Internet has become a natural communicative space in many regions of the world, while in others it still passes through the first stages of penetration into citizenry and policing. As a discussion milieu, Internet has been both praised for its involvement potential, growth of local initiatives, and provision of voice to those disempowered - and also criticized for excessive deregulation, dark web formation, and inefficiency in bringing on public consensus. Today, universality of approaches to Internet freedoms, as well as of experiences of their empowerment impact, is questioned and needs reassessment.

This year, **the Internet Science conference focuses on the Internet as a tool and space for (dis)empowerment of individuals and social groups in local and regional contexts**, thus forming a comparative perspective in looking at the power of Internet in communities all around the world. For instance, the EU has been attentive to cultivating local online initiatives, but even within the EU, the speed of modernization differs from state to state, with Estonia being a global leader in e-governance. In the post-Soviet space, countries have adopted highly varying policies in developing both digital freedoms and restrictive Internet regulation. The USA has had a more liberal approach to empowerment strategies but used online information to aggregate data for citizen, voter, and consumer profiling, while in China, economic logic has boosted online businesses within a non-competitive political environment. Also, Middle-Eastern, Latin American, or African perspectives on online freedoms and empowerment experiences remain heavily under-researched.

Moreover, digital technologies make us rethink what (dis)empowerment might mean beyond political life. Tech corporations like Google or Facebook have created new forms of labour expropriation bypassing national lawmaking, at the same time advocating for free access to information as public commodity and providing new chances for charity, education, and collaborative change. Cultural, educational, and even bodily divides re-emerge today on highly competitive digitech markets of connection, communication, monitoring, learning, and consumption, providing both new freedoms and new handicaps for the world societies. In the near future, being rich would mean having tech-prolonged and tech-enhanced life; new, more severe divides may form, and the question rises, how the Internet of today may contribute to harmonizing social relations in our future reliant on human-computer coexistence.

Thus, INSCI'2018 welcomes submissions to a wide range of topics (not limited to) in the following **six tracks**:

#### **Internet and Societal Structures**

- The concepts of citizen empowerment via Internet in local and regional contexts
- Social stratification and inequalities of group representation online
- Internet communities, social polarization, and dialogue potential
- Socially harmful practices and content in online communication

#### **Internet and Digital Politics**

- Online political freedoms in policing and in effect: regional and local perspectives
- Citizen involvement into decision-making: platforms, actors, and experiences
- Political discussions online: issues and groups behind them
- E-governance practices of today's authorities
- Internet regulation: security vs. openness

#### **Internet and Free Communication Patterns**

- Freedom of speech online: a contested area of policing
- Algorithms as new total communicative power
- Extremist and radical talk online and policies against it
- Universal Internet freedoms vs. dark web
- Post-truth practices online

#### **Internet and New Political Economy**

- Economic power of online platforms: expropriation of digital labour
- Digital corporations: world leaders and regional alternatives
- Analogous elites, technological precariat
- Enhancement of body and the new poor
- Digital professions and reshaping of online labour markets

#### **Internet and Global Access Opportunities**

- Global and local faces of today's digital divide
- Internet and life-long learning practices around the world
- Global media online: translation and language divide
- Empowerment of disabled with new body extensions
- Post-human and tech-human individuals and societies

#### **Internet and Data Protection**

- Data openness vs. user protection
- Limits of privacy and anonymization
- Clouds and data protection regulation
- Global tech powers and alternative solutions
- Blockchain technologies as promise and threat

### **PARTICIPATION FORMATS**

The conference accepts submissions of **full papers** (up to 15 pages of standard Springer format) and **short papers** (up to 8 pages of standard Springer format). Panel submissions (up to 4 papers with a reduced price per paper) are also welcome.

The conference also welcomes **half-day workshop and tutorial proposals**. The themes for them should be oriented to discussing issues and developing skills important for Internet projects and Internet research. A 2-3-page paper describing the academic and/or industrial rationale for the workshop/tutorial may be included into the conference proceedings (subject to peer-review). A range of workshops and tutorials will also be offered by the conference organizers, including the ones on webometrics and big textual data research.

## **SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

All **submitted** papers must:

- Be written in English and be submitted in PDF format;
- Be fully anonymized (no detectable author information, including author names, affiliations, and works mentioned in the text);
- Be formatted according to the Springer's LNCS format Proceedings template. Information about the Springer LNCS format can be found at <http://www.springer.de/comp/lncs/authors.html>;
- Three to five keywords characterizing the paper should be indicated at the end of the abstract;
- Full paper submissions should not exceed 15 pages and short paper should not exceed 8 pages (including all text, figures, references and appendices). We encourage a length of 12 pages for full papers and 6 for short papers;
- Submissions not conforming to the LNCS format, exceeding the submission page limits or being obviously out of the scope of the conference will be rejected without review.

Submissions should be made electronically in PDF via the electronic submission system of the INSCI2018 Conference Management system at EasyChair ([easychair.org/conferences/?conf=insci2018](http://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=insci2018) – please start submitting starting from May 15, 2018).

All **camera-ready** papers should be corrected by following the remarks of the referees and submitted in zip format including (1) the camera-ready version of the authors' work in pdf format, (2) the camera-ready version of the authors' work in editable sources format as well as (3) the Consent to Publish signed in ink and scanned to image file. The results described must be unpublished and must not be under review elsewhere. Submissions must conform to Springer's LNCS format.

## **STEERING COMMITTEE**

Thanassis Tiropanis, University of Southampton, UK  
Anna Satsiou, Centre for Research and Technology Hellas, Greece  
Jonathan Cave, University of Warwick, UK  
Olessia Koltsova, National Research University - Higher School of Economics, Russia  
Fabrizio Sestini, European Commission DG CONNECT, Belgium  
Franco Bagnoli, University of Florence, Italy

## **ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

Svetlana Bodrunova, St.Petersburg State University, Russia - General Conference Chair  
Heiko Niedermayer, Technische Universität München, Germany - TCP Co-Chair  
Anna Smoliarova, St.Petersburg State University, Russia - TCP Co-Chair  
Ivan Blekanov, St.Petersburg State University, Russia - Workshops Chair  
Alexander Marchenko, St.Petersburg State University, Russia - Visas and fees  
Tamara Gromova, St.Petersburg State University, Russia - Venue and accommodation

## **KEY DATES**

June 10, 2018 - submission of full and short papers  
June 15, 2018 - submission of workshop/tutorial proposals (in free form, 2 to 3 pages)  
June 30, 2018 - notification of acceptance  
July 15, 2018 - deadline for camera-ready papers  
August 15, 2018 - early-bird online registration closes  
October 1, 2018 - regular online registration closes  
October 24-26, 2016 - conferencing days

## CONFERENCE VENUE

Being one of the richest cities of Europe in terms of cultural and historic heritage and the recipient of World Travel Awards for three years in a row, St.Petersburg is a natural attraction for any traveller. For all the conference participants, excursions will be offered.

Moreover, in the recent years, St.Petersburg has been hosting a vibrant and efficient academic community interested in Internet & society research. With Laboratory of Internet Studies at Higher School of Economics, Steklov Mathematical Institute of Russian Academy of Sciences, Center for International media research, Cognitive Studies Lab, and IT Clinic at SPbU, labs on quantum computing to e-governance at IFMO University, St.Petersburg is a Russian hub for Internet & society studies.

For over 70 years, School of Journalism and Mass Communications at St.Petersburg State University has been a leading educational and research entity for communication in Russia. It is home for international conferences, including CMSTW and STRATCOM. The venue is located at: 26, 1 line of Vasilievsky island, St.Petersburg 199004 Russia.

## CONFERENCE FEES

The conference fees (subject to slight change) remain similar to the previous years and differ according to the country of residence. UN country tiers may be found [here](#).

Conference presenter: 250 euro (early-bird), 300 euro (regular) - Tier 1

200 euro (early-bird), 250 euro (regular) - Tier 2

170 euro (early-bird), 200 euro (regular) - Tier 3

PhD student presenter: 150 euro (early-bird), 200 euro (regular) - all tiers

Panel participation (up to 4 presenters, all tiers): 400 euro

Workshop/tutorial panel (up to 4 participants): 400 euro

Workshop/tutorial and conference access: 40 euro (early-bird), 60 euro (regular)

## TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

For the majority of countries, traveling to Russian conferences requires having a humanitarian visa. St.Petersburg State University provides visa support; please note that obtaining a visa may require up to a month.

The conference partners include the Sokos 4\* hotels chain; the partner hotel is Sokos Vasilievsky which is within the walking distance from the School. Also, we advise on smaller hotels around the School and provide places in the dorms for PhD students.

## QUESTIONS?

Please contact us via [insci2018@spbu.ru](mailto:insci2018@spbu.ru) in case of any queries!