

Analyse & Kritik. Journal of Philosophy and Social Theory

Call for papers on *Local Digital Democracy* (issue 1/2018)

Political processes and democracy are currently undergoing a substantial 'digital transformation'. With the advent of the digital era in the 1990s hopes for a more comprehensive and more inclusive democratic participation were raised by the new technologies. In the meantime, experience has shown that the relationship between digitalization and democracy is more complex and ambivalent: new technologies also provide antidemocratic opportunities (e.g. spread of hate speech, terrorist propaganda), the digital divide undermines the value of democratic equality, and new participatory opportunities frequently fail to account for the citizens' lack of interest.

The utilization of new technologies to extend and strengthen participatory democracy depends on designing and establishing robust institutions and practices of digital democratic participation. In this context local democracy, i.e. decentralized democratic institutions within a multilevel system of decision making, plays an extraordinary role. Local democracy functions as a laboratory for experiments and innovations. New institutions and practices of digital democratic participation can be introduced, tested and evaluated (e.g. web-based participatory budgeting, urban planning).

Our issue *Local Digital Democracy* examines the social, economic and political conditions under which digital media can invigorate citizen participation and involvement. In detail, the questions to be addressed include but are not limited to:

- In which way does local digital democracy contribute to 'better' decisions, for instance because by allowing for a greater consideration of local knowledge and experience in the democratic decision process?
- In which way does local digital democracy, regardless of its output, contribute to a more comprehensive realization of democratic values such as self-governance, inclusive participation, etc.?
- In which way does local digital democracy contribute to the social and political integration of communities, i.e. by strengthening civic culture, cultivating social capital, and fostering trust in democratic institutions as well as in fellow citizens?

Contributions are welcome and should be submitted by 30th November 2017. For manuscript details please check our website: <http://www.degruyter.com/view/j/auk>

Contact:

Michael Baurmann (baurmann@phil.uni-duesseldorf.de)

Ulf Tranow (tranow@phil.uni-duesseldorf.de)