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## Editorial Note

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**Biographical notes:** Dimitris Gouscos is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication and Media Studies at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and a Research Fellow at the Laboratory of New Technologies in Communication, Education and the Mass Media. His research interests include digital communication, electronic governance, social media and digital games.



We welcome our readers to this concluding issue of the *International Journal of Electronic Governance* Volume 15 for 2023, a year that has seen many ongoing crises around the world, of which the peace, climate, energy, health and food crises are not missing. In this context, our current issue continues from the previous ones with featuring a set of research papers from the journal's topical and international coverage, which represent efforts of the electronic governance community all over the world to explore the potential of e-governance as an instrument for alleviating problems, through government-to-government, government-to-business, government-to-citizens as well as government-to-all of society digital transformations of processes and new services.

In the opening paper of our current issue, 'The impact of using e-government on achieving justice in obtaining governmental services: reducing the nepotism as a mediating variable', Nawafleh and Al-Riyashi study the attainment of justice in accessing governmental services and the mitigation of nepotism within the public sector. Via a Structural Equation Modelling approach, the authors provide and validate some theoretical constructs and examine a set of hypotheses to reveal a strong and positive connection between increased use of e-government services and the attainment of justice

when accessing these services, thus showing that individuals who actively utilise e-government services are more likely to experience fairness in procedures and receive equitable service delivery. Consequently, the potential of e-government to mitigate nepotism and help merit-based decisions is argued for.

Opening up this discussion from e-government to the broader quest for digital transformation of the public sector, AlShehhi and Tipu, in 'The context, antecedents, processes and outcomes of digital transformation in the public sector: a systematic literature review', embark on a review of more than 150 academic papers on the external factors, organisational antecedents, processes, and outcomes of digital transformation in the public sector. A major finding of this work is the importance of developing theory-building research, given that most of the works reviewed are found to employ a case study approach.

The papers that follow move on to interactions of users with digital technology, for different cases of institutionalised and non-institutionalised participation. In 'Does digital technology impact user participation? A case study of Sports Authority of India (SAI)', Supriya, Das and Raina take the case of an Indian public agency to collect data from a rich range of external stakeholders including sports coaches, athletes, and administrative officers. By means of a qualitative research design and Actor-Network Theory the authors are able to show willingness among stakeholders to take stock of participation mechanisms, and so much so with a view to improve the performance of athletes. Still, barriers such as the ones found in the relevant literature are also identified, regarding lack of technical knowledge and poor social perception of e-participation in the sports domain.

At the same time, in 'Influence of Tik Tok among the Malaysian first time voters and Undi-18 voters in the 15th general election (GE-15)', Veerappan, Maraya and Dass investigate the influence of TikTok on young voters, in the case of Malaysian General Elections, across dimensions of information quality, primary information source prevalence and impact on voting behaviour. The authors' findings highlight TikTok's substantial influence on political engagement and decision-making among younger voters in Malaysia, in line with relevant literature for other cases of contemporary electoral processes.

Then, in the concluding research paper of our current issue, 'Republican networks vs. democratic networks for COVID-19', Yum takes an SNA approach for the X (formerly Twitter) social network on the case of USA political parties diffusing information for the COVID-19 pandemic. As this study finds, there is a number of interesting differences between the stances taken by citizens in the Republican and Democratic Party X networks on COVID-19, be it in terms of party network preference for this topic, prominence of party politics and news sources within each network, as well as criticism/support opinions expressed for key political figures of the party running each network.

During the months that follow, IJEG will continue with alternating regular and special issues, with respective calls for papers to be announced. In this respect, we invite our readers and contributors to check our call for papers page at <http://www.inderscience.com/info/ingeneral/cfplist.php?jcode=ijeg> for upcoming calls for submissions to IJEG.

Alongside these developments, in our ongoing quest to expand the subject coverage of the *International Journal of Electronic Governance*, and especially so across boundary-spanning interdisciplinary topics that reach out to bridge electronic governance with public value innovation and innovation for the sustainable development goals

agenda, be it through digital government, open government, public, playful and gamified participation, social solidarity, humanitarian technology and public sector innovation, we are constantly looking out for regular contributions and special issues on such topics. Research submissions touching upon the open recovery of governments worldwide from the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as to providing responses to emerging global polycrises, are especially welcome in this respect. The same applies to contributions at the crossroads of e-governance and open government with climate change and energy justice effects, e-governance efforts for the emerging climate-health-society-democracy nexus, as well as for the broader agenda of sustainable development, with a special focus on cities, territories and mobilities.

At the same time, we continue to provide our readership with coverage of news and upcoming conferences of interest to the broader electronic governance constituency, in our News in Brief and Conference Calendar columns, respectively.

With our best wishes for a peaceful, healthy and prosperous New Year 2024, we welcome you to read on and peruse the research papers, news in brief and conference calendar that follow.