Introduction to the HICSS-51 Open Data, Information Processing, and Datification in Government Minitrack

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Given the extensive range of papers and discussions published and held on the subject of open government and the various advantages of the concept promoted by scholars and practitioners, one could get the impression that there is no alternative to an opening of politics and public administration. The member states of the Open Government Partnership are increasing, states such as Germany are legally obligating their authorities to disclose their datasets and even the European Union is operating an open data portal. The adoption of open government is more and more no longer a question of "if" but "when" and "how".

Examples of questions are, what tools can be used to make data available to the public, how can providers and potential users of this data be brought together to create value, and how can political and administrative actors be mobilized to release their datasets? All of these and many other questions could be discussed in theory, and possible answers might be found. Nevertheless, there is still the necessity to conduct empirical research on open government and especially on open government data (OGD), either for the scientific examination of theory or for the cross-border exchange of experiences.

This minitrack features two papers on the initiatives of two cities: Edmonton in Canada and Chicago in the United States of America.

By means of an explorative case study by Edmonton, the authors Jacqueline Corbett, Mathieu Templier and Hirotoshi Takeda of the Université Laval aim to show the mechanisms for contributing to top-rated and successful open data initiatives. In their paper with the title "*The Making of a 'Top' Open Data City:*
A Case Study of Edmonton's Open Data Initiative" they reveal that current open data indexes emphasize publication of data sets over the measurement of impact. Moreover, they suggest that to be successful, cities should approach open data as a continuing journey and must actively engage other stakeholders, particularly intermediaries and citizens. Finally, they observe that common myths constructed around open data help promote open data at a strategic level, but should be viewed skeptically at the operational level.

The paper of the authors Keegan McBride, Gerli Aavik, Tarmo Kalvet and Robert Krimmer of the Ragnar Nurkse Department of Innovation and Governance with the title "*Co-creating an Open Government Data Driven Public Service: The Case of Chicago's Food Inspection Forecasting Model*" looks at the case of Chicago's use of OGD for a new predictive analytics model. This model allows the Chicago's Department of Public Health to forecast critical safety violations at food serving establishments. The authors identified six factors that seem to play a key role in allowing the co-creation of an OGD-driven public service to take place. These are external funding, motivated stakeholders, innovative leaders, proper communication channels, an existing OGD portal, and agile development practices.

I would like to congratulate the authors mentioned above for accepting their papers to HICSS-51. Even though not all the papers submitted could be accepted in this minitrack, my thanks also apply to all submissions. We particularly thank the reviewers who actively supported the authors and us with their help and support.

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