Institute for International Economic Policy

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY



Known-Knowns and Unknowns about the Internet: Measuring the Economic, Social, and Governance Impact of the Web

November 14-15, 2013, Elliott School of International Affairs, GWU

1957 E Street, NW.

Organizers: Dr. Susan Aaronson, GWU and Karin Alexander, Web Foundation

Conference Summary: Policymakers and netizens alike make broad claims about the effects of the internet upon economic growth, business, democracy, governance, and human rights. In recent years, economists have made significant progress in estimating the impact of the internet on areas such as economic growth, trade, fiscal policy, and education. But the progress made by economists has not been matched by scholars, activists, executives, and policymakers who seek to understand the internet's effects on governance, cyber security, and on human rights. We don't know if the Internet has stimulated development or whether the internet has led to measurable governance improvements. Moreover, scholars and activists don't yet know how to effectively measure Internet openness. We will also weigh the evidence that the Internet is splintering. With this conference, we hope to encourage greater understanding of metrics to assess our new digital age.

TO RSVP for this FREE conference, go to go.gwu.edu/internetecon2013

Thursday, November 14 (Times of Panels May Change)

9:30-10:30 Session I: What Economists Know and do not Know about the Internet and Its Impact on the Economy

Michael Mandel, PPI, Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania

Michael Kende, Internet Society

Scott Wallsten, Center on Technology and Policy

Moderator: James Foster, IIEP, GWU

10:30-10:45- Coffee Break

10:45- 12:15 Session II: World Bank Panel, ICT and Development –Research on Broadband (all to be invited.

Michael Minges, World Bank

Raul Katz, Columbia Business School

Phillippa Biggs, ITU / Broadband Commission, invited

John Garrity, CISCO

Proposed Moderator: Sonia Jorge, Alliance for Affordable Internet

Lunch and Keynote Speaker: 12:30-1:30 Aleem Walji, World Bank Institute,

Delivering on Development: How the Bank uses the Internet and Mobile to Improve Service Delivery

1:30-2:45 Session III: What We Know and do not Know about how the Web is Changing Development

Dr. Chris Albon, Director of Data Projects Ushahidi, accepted

Global Empowerment Network, Simon Schropp, Senior Economist, Sidley Austin, accepted

Jane Coffin, Director of Development, Internet Society

2:45-3:00 - Coffee break

3:45-5:15 Session IV: Has the Internet Helped Citizens and Policymakers Improve Governance? Are the effects measureable? What new innovations might be helpful?

Bhanupriya Rao, Open Data Barometer, India

Tim Davies, Web Foundation, Boston

Brian Bieron, Federal Affairs, eBay

Tiago Peixoto, World Bank

Daniel O'Connor, CCIA, Moderator

5:15-5:30 -Break

5:30-6:30 Keynote Steven Van Roeckel, Chief Information Officer of the US, invited

Wine and cheese

Friday, November 15

9:30-11:00 Session V: Can We Measure the Economic Harm of Cyber-attacks and Cyber-probing? Will the world of cyber-espionage, theft, and attacks remain opaque and unclear?

Phillipa Gill, SUNY Stony Brook

Allan Friedman, Governance Studies, Brookings

Mark Mateski, Watermark Institute

11:30-11:45 - Coffee break

11:45-12:45 Moderated Discussion: Is the Internet Fracturing? Evidence for or against this claim? Are the effects measurable?

Professor Laura deNardis, American University Rob Faris, Director of Research, Berkman Center

Laura and Rob will present evidence and then lead the audience in a discussion.

1:00-2:00 Keynote Presentation and Lunch: To be confirmed

2:00-3:30 Session VI: Can We Measure Internet Openness? If so, what does that allow us to do?

Joy Liddicoat, Association for Progressive Communications, New Zealand *Lee Hibbard*, Council of Europe, invited *Karin Alexander*, Web Index, World Wide Web Foundation Carolina Rossini, New America Foundation, invited

3:30-4:00 Concluding Remarks: Susan Aaronson, GWU