

Special Issue

Democratic Innovations for a Polarized Digital Society

Message from the Guest Editor

Digital technologies and social media platforms are reshaping how people communicate, share opinions, and engage with public issues. Every day, millions of users click, comment, like, and share content across multiple platforms. These tools offer new opportunities for civic engagement, but also expose people to like-minded views curated by algorithms, reinforcing bias and opinion polarization. Risks such as misinformation, deepfakes, cyberbullying, and digital divides further complicate inclusive participation. However, focusing on technology risk overlooks deeper structural issues in society, politics, and governance. In response, democratic innovations such as citizens' assemblies, deliberative mini-publics, referenda, and participatory budgeting are being redesigned to address the challenges of a fragmented and polarized society. This Special Issue seeks contributions exploring how democratic innovations are adapted, tested, and reimaged in different contexts. Submissions may be theoretical, practical, or methodological, and may address either digital or offline environments. Studies examining conflict, division, or social fragmentation are also welcome.

Guest Editor

Dr. Bokyong Shin
Research Units of the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Helsinki,
00100 Helsinki, Finland

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Societies
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
societies@mdpi.com

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Societies (ISSN 2075-4698) is an interdisciplinary journal that brings together different scientific approaches to engage with societal questions to enhance our understanding of the social realm throughout history. The journal publishes original empirical research papers, literature reviews, and conceptual papers. Our aim is to publish papers that have a significant impact on addressing present and emerging societal questions. Therefore, we encourage researchers to publish their results in as much detail as possible. For empirical research papers and literature reviews, all experimental details must be provided, so that the results are reproducible. We also encourage the publication of timely theoretical pieces on topics of interest to existing and emerging societal questions. Papers are either published in the open journal or in Special Issues devoted to specific topics of interest to the field.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Gregor Wolbring

Community Rehabilitation and Disability Studies, Cumming School of
Medicine, University of Calgary, Calgary, AB T2N 4N1, Canada

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