

Special Issue

Social Media Effects on Political Participation

Message from the Guest Editors

Democracies thrive on robust public participation, and the rise of new media technology, particularly social media (SM), has transformed citizen communication. Social Network Sites (SNSs) enable direct interactions between citizens and policymakers, empowering the public to voice opinions and influence policies. Platforms like Change.org enhance civic engagement, but extensive SM use raises critical questions: Is more communication leading to a better democracy? Does it cause voter polarization? How does SM affect voter turnout and the formation of political alliances? Additionally, the reliance on technology and the internet may exclude those without access or who aren't proficient in English. This Special Issue seeks to explore these questions from an international and interdisciplinary perspective, inviting scholars from fields like communication studies, sociology, political science, and economics. Topics of interest include the impact of SM on citizen participation in various political contexts, the political economy of social media, issues of anonymity and polarization, the rise of citizen journalism, and challenges such as disinformation and hate speech.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Social Sciences is an international open access peer-reviewed journal publishing the latest research across all disciplines of the social sciences including anthropology, criminology, economics, education, geography, history, law, linguistics, political science, psychology, social policy, social work, sociology and related areas. The journal is especially interested in interdisciplinary research, and aims to facilitate the interaction and communication between different social scientific disciplines. The journal welcomes conventional length articles as well as shorter Research Notes or short articles, as long as they meet the journal's standards of quality and originality.

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