

Juries: Acting Out Digital Dilemmas to Promote Digital Reflections

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This paper presents an innovative format to bring people together and facilitate reflection among digital rights. WebSci 2015 delegates will be invited to become part of a jury that will reflect on and offer advice relating to:

- potential and possible digital rights
- the relevance and effectiveness of digital rights
- the ways in which digital rights (or their absence) can affect us
- techniques for sharing and disseminating digital rights
- ways of further engaging with the general population in thinking about and acting upon digital rights

What we are calling juries are similar to focus groups, but unlike many focus groups they will have an explicit objective of arriving at specific recommendations regarding digital rights. By calling the groups 'juries', it is to be hoped that delegates will feel a sense of responsibility as decision-makers and facilitate participation and discussion.

The aim of our juries is not only to find out what delegates think and feel about the experiences of the digital world, but to discover what shapes their thinking and whether they are open to changing their minds in the light of discussion with peers or exposure to new information. In order to explore such questions, we are interested in discussing i) the reasons that jury members give for adopting particular perspectives and positions; and ii) the extent to which delegates' perspectives and positions change (individually and collectively) between their arrival in the jury session and their departure. The jury session will be led by a trained facilitator whose task will be to provide a safe space for delegates to express themselves freely and critically. Data will not be collected or recorded at any time.

The exploration of delegates' rationales for accepting and rejecting accounts of social reality or proposals for policy will be conducted by presenting a short movie that reflects young people's concerns about their digital rights. The short movies are a descriptive sketch of an incident or dilemma presented with a view to eliciting thoughtful resolutions from delegates. They will be encouraged to discuss each of the scenarios and decide how they think the dramatised situation should be resolved..

This method of deliberation – space for participants to express, compare and make sense of their views and experiences is expected to generate thoughts among delegates for critical and reflective thinking among digital rights.

The presence of short movies professionally co-produced with young people will add an exciting dimension to the deliberative process. They will serve to highlight key themes and issues by bringing them to life and punctuate discussions so that delegates can take a break from talking.

This jury will illustrate the 'drama' element of a piece of collaborative research similar to the one currently being developed between iRights, the SHM Foundation, The University of Leeds and The University of Nottingham to explore five predefined digital rights and their implications with juries of young people. The five digital rights include: the right to remove; the right to know; the right to safety and support; the right to make informed and conscious choices; the right to digital literacy.

We believe that these 'juries' presented in a Pecha Kucha style will bring an engaging element to WebSci 2015 and become an effective tool to facilitate discussion and reflection on digital rights.