

# CONNECTED\_LIFE\_2016

MULTIDISCIPLINARY INTERNET RESEARCH CONFERENCE

FACULTY OF CLASSICS & BALLIOL COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

20 & 21 JUNE 2016

COLLECTIVE ACTION  
& THE INTERNET  
This year's theme explores how the Internet affects and effects different types of collective action.

## ORGANISING COMMITTEE 2016

Wybo Wiersma (Chair: Programme)  
Bertie Vidgen (Chair: Organisation)  
Ilinca Barsan (Chair: Media)  
Kate Sim (Secretary & Programme)  
Deniz Duru Aydin (Programme)  
Odysseas Slavounis (Organisation)  
Andrew Berkley (Design & Tech)  
Shira Naomi Bick (Submissions)  
Eli Rachovitsky (Speaker Liaison)

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## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

HELEN MARGETTS  
(OII OXFORD)

MARY FLANAGAN  
(DARTMOUTH)



MARY FLANAGAN

Mary Flanagan is a leading innovator, artist, educator and designer, whose works have included everything from game-inspired art, to commercial games that shift people's thinking about biases and stereotypes. Her interest in play and culture led to her acclaimed book, *Critical Play*, with MIT Press (2009). Her fifth academic book, *Values at Play in Digital Games*, with philosopher Helen Nissenbaum, was released in 2014. Flanagan established the internationally recognized game research laboratory Tiltfactor (<http://www.tiltfactor.org>) in 2003 to invent "humanist" games and take on social through games. At Tiltfactor, designers create and research catchy games that teach or transform "under the radar" using psychological principles.



HELEN MARGETTS

Helen Margetts is the Director of the OII, and Professor of Society and the Internet. She is a political scientist specialising in digital era governance and politics, investigating political behaviour, digital government and government-citizen interactions in the age of the internet, social media and big data. She has published over a hundred books, articles and major research reports in this area. Her most recent book is *Political Turbulence: How Social Media Shape Collective Action* (Princeton 2015).

## SPEAKERS

### KAJAL OEDRA, CHANGE.ORG

Kajal campaigns for Change.org, the world's largest petition platform supporting campaigns from women on banknotes to putting FGM on the Government's agenda. She has 9 years of experience organising national campaigns including protecting patient rights at Macmillan, tackling benefits cuts with homeless charity Crisis and supporting young people engage in politics at the UK Youth Parliament. Kajal co-founded the People of Colour in Campaigns network which now has over 300 members.

### ALISTAIR ALEXANDER, TACTICAL TECH

Alistair is Director of Publishing and Production at Tactical Tech and has worked with a range of NGOs in health, human rights and global justice to lead the development of websites, interactive tools and multimedia projects. He has also worked as a freelance journalist, being one of the first reporters to cover China's internet repression in 2002 as well as the first World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in 2003. Over the past 15 years Alistair has also been actively involved with as many activist groups and campaigns as will have him. He helped organise the Iraq anti-war march in London in 2003 of over 1 million people. He has worked with Climate Camp, the Campaign for John Charles de Menezes, UkUncut and the Open Rights Group.

### CHRISTIAN WULFF SØNDERGAARD, TELENOR

Mr. Christian Wulff Søndergaard serves as Vice President for Public Affairs at Telenor Group and is currently stationed at the Telenor representative office in Brussels. He has previously served as Head of Communications at Telenor Denmark from 2008 to 2012. Prior to that he worked in the Danish parliament and at the Danish Embassy in Washington D.C. Most recently, he was CEO of PR company Radius. Christian holds an MSc in Political Science from the University of Copenhagen and has studied at McGill University in Montreal, London Business School and Harvard Business School.

### ANDREW PUDEPHATT, GLOBAL PARTNERS DIGITAL

Andrew Puddephatt leads Global Partners Digital's work on human rights, communications policy and transparency. This includes support for civil society groups in Africa, Latin America and South and South East Asia; leading the Secretariat for the inter-governmental freedom Online Coalition and leading GPD's major policy work. He has published widely on different aspects of freedom of expression, written guides on assessing the impact of development programmes on human rights policy for UNDP and UNESCO, and made strategic assessments of future trends for European governments. He was previously director of Article 19, an international human rights organisation; is currently chair of International Media Support in Denmark; is Deputy Chair of the Sigrid Rausing Trust; and a management board member of the European Council on Foreign Relations. He was awarded an OBE for services to human rights in January 2003.

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ECONOMIC  
& SOCIAL  
RESEARCH  
COUNCIL

# DAY 1 - 20 JUNE CLASSICS FACULTY, ST GILES

9.00 - 10.00 REGISTRATION

10.00 - 11.00 WELCOME ADDRESS FROM HELEN MARGETTS  
(PROFESSOR OF SOCIETY AND THE INTERNET, OXFORD INTERNET INSTITUTE)

RESISTANCE

ACCESS & PARTICIPATION

STRATEGIES

**Rodrigo Hernandez Gallegos (University of Warwick)** Are social media tools of democratization in Authoritarian Regimes? A critical assessment of the evidence from the Arab Spring.

**Philip Pond (RMIT, Melbourne)** Meaning and the digital maze: augmenting digital structural analysis with critical theory during the 2011 UK riots

**Georg Wolfart (University of Mannheim)** Civil Disobedience in the Digital Age – How Sina Weibo is empowering the Chinese citizens

ROOM 1

**Ansgar Koene (University of Nottingham) and Ayten El Kashef (Gada)** Online habits, attitudes, and needs of civic engaged young people

**Aline Menezes (University of Essex)** Internet Availability, Political Information, and Voting: Evidence from Brazil

**Taskeen Adam** The potential for the propagation of MOOCs in SubSaharan Africa

**Andrew Bulovsky (University of Oxford)** Re-examining Putnam: Collective Action, Social Capital, and Citizenship in the 21st Century

ROOM 2

**Rikke Amundsen (University of Cambridge)** On Silencing as a Collective Speech Act

**Ilan Manor (University of Oxford)** Towards Networks of Diplomacy: Collective Diplomatic Action on Social Networking Sites

**Daniel Lundgaard (Copenhagen Business School)** Connective versus Collective Action in Social Movements  
**Verity Trott (University of Melbourne)** Feminist Critique of Connective Action

ROOM 3

## 12.30-14.00: LUNCH AND VISUALIZATION FAIR

IRL AND URL

MAPPING THE TERRAIN

COMMUNITY & SOLIDARITY

**Christoph Besel (University of Passau)** Inferring Semantic Interest Profiles from Twitter Followers: Does Twitter know better than your Friends?

**James Williams, Joshua Melville and Julianne Williams (University of Oxford)** Virtual Reality for Real Life: The Data Experience Lab Project

**Carl Ohman (University of Oxford)** The political economy of death in the age of information

**Benjamin Abrams (University of Cambridge)** Offline Movements' Online Infrastructures: Contrasting Cairo and New York (2011)

ROOM 1

**Tamar Ashuri and Yaniv Bar-Ilan (University of Tel Aviv)** Collective action recruitment in a digital age: A typology of organizations and their filtering behavior

**Lex Gill and Dennis Redeker (University of Bremen)** Towards Digital Constitutionalism? Mapping Attempts to Craft an Internet Bill of Rights  
**Josh Cowsils and Federico Nanni (MIT)** The Potential and Perils of Election Prediction using Social Media Sources

**Meredydd Williams, Helena Webb, Marina Jirotko, William Housley, Peter Burnap, Rob Procter, Adam Edwards, Bernd Carsten Stahl, Matthew Williams and Omer Rana (University of Oxford)** An interactional analysis of Twitter collective action

ROOM 2

**Marcin Waniek, Tomasz Michalak and Talal Rahwan (University of Warsaw)** Hiding Communities in Social Networks

**Jun Yu (LSE)** Connecting the social and the civic: a qualitative study of solidarity on Facebook

**David Martin, Mark Hartswood, Ognjen Scekcic and Marina Jirotko (Xerox)** Socio-digital practices of collective action in online labour platforms

**Richard Heeks (University of Manchester)** Institutional Logics, Collective Action and the Patterns of Digital Development

ROOM 3

## 15.30-16.30: THUNDER TALKS

Martin Dittus – Building Large-Scale Crowdsourcing Communities with the Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team

Maria Bada and Jason Nurse – The Cybercrime Ecosystem: How the Internet Supports Criminal Behaviour Online

James Williams – Why It's OK to Block Ads

Lauren McKarus – Hashtag Networks: Following the Insta-fit Lives of #KaylasArmy

Wybo Wiersma – The Internet as a Catalyst for Social Movements: How Small Causes can Have Big Consequences

16.30-17.00: COFFEE/TEA

17.00-18.00: KEYNOTE ADDRESS FROM MARY FLANAGAN  
(SHERMAN FAIRCHILD DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR IN DIGITAL HUMANITIES, DARTMOUTH COLLEGE)

18.00-19.00: DRINKS RECEPTION

19.00-LATE: DINNER AND SOCIAL

# DAY 2 - 21 JUNE Balliol College

9.00 - 10.00: Registration

## 10.00-11.30: Internet Revolutions: Information, Politics and Policy:

Panel discussion with Kajal Odedra from Change.org UK, Alistair Alexander from Tactical Technology Collective, Andrew Puddephatt of Global Partners Digital and Christian Wulff Søndergaard of Telenor.

## 11.30-12.30: Technology and Civic Action

Presentations from activists and tech start-ups, including Paul and Gemma from mySociety, Amy from Oxfam and Agne from Cycle.Land in Oxford.

12.30-13.30: Lunch at Balliol College

13.30 - 16.00: Workshops and Unconference session

During the afternoon we are hosting a range of workshops in the Oxford Internet Institute (1 St Giles). Sign up is on the day (Tuesday 21st June) at registration. In parallel to the organised workshops, a continuous informal unconference session will take place in the Balliol Lecture Theatre 23.

13.30-14.30: Workshops Session One

## Workshop 1.1 Crypto Party (Oil Seminar Room)

CryptoParties are a global movement of events where people from beginners to experts can come together to talk about, learn about, and implement personal digital privacy tools online. Find out more here: <https://www.cryptoparty.in/> During the workshop, our cryptography educators will give you the complete overview of major privacy tools – especially why they're important – and we'll get you set up with a few. The aim is to create a social, cooperative, fun environment where everyone can get hands-on experience installing and using privacy tools on their laptops, mobile phones and other devices. Requirements: Bring whatever devices – such as laptops and phones – that you would like to secure.

## Workshop 1.2 Tactical Technology Collective (Balliol Bajpaj Room)

Tactical Tech is an International Organisation dedicated to the use of Information in Activism. See their website: <https://tacticaltech.org> Requirements: None.

14.30-15.00: Tea and Coffee break

15.00-16.00: Workshops Session 2

## Workshop 2.1 Small Media (Oil Seminar Room)

Small Media is a London-based action lab, providing digital research, training and advocacy solutions to support the work of civil society actors that provides assistance to at-risk communities globally. See their website: <https://smallmedia.org.uk> Requirements: None.

## Workshop 2.2 Introduction to LaTeX (Balliol Bajpaj Room)

LaTeX is the de facto standard typesetting system for publishing in both the natural and social sciences. It is incredibly useful, enabling the easy creation and formatting of extremely long documents and the inclusion of complex details, such as mathematical formulae. LaTeX is written in plain text rather than formatted text (as in a word processor like Microsoft Word). In this workshop, OII Research Fellow in Computational Social Science Taha Yasseri gives an introduction to using LaTeX. Requirements: all workshop attendees MUST bring their own computer. You will need a sharelatex account – this is free and can be easily created at [www.sharelatex.com](http://www.sharelatex.com). You will also need Wi-Fi access on your computer. Login info for the free guest Wi-Fi is available at the registration desk.

16.00: END OF CONFERENCE