

FOURTH ANNUAL GIGANET SYMPOSIUM

14 November 2009
Sharm-El-Sheik, Egypt

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Global Internet Governance Academic Network (GIGANET) is a scholarly community that promotes the development of Internet Governance as a recognized, interdisciplinary field of study and facilitates informed dialogue on policy issues and related matters between scholars and governments, international organizations, the private sector and civil society.

Since 2006, GigaNet has organized an Annual Symposium held jointly with the United Nations Internet Governance Forum (IGF). Prior successful symposia in Greece (2006), Brazil (2007) and India (2008) lead us to the Fourth GigaNet Symposium to be held in Sharm-El-Sheik, Egypt, on November 14th, 2009 - one day before the IGF official opening.

The GigaNet Annual Symposium is free of charge, although a registration process will be required close to the event. We are planning to present this year a keynote speaker, who shall be announced in proper time, if confirmed.

Deadline

Interested scholars should submit abstracts of research papers by **June 30, 2009**.

Themes

Papers should be strictly related to Internet Governance themes. Innovative approaches and/or emerging research areas will be considered favorably during the evaluation process. Full descriptions of the proposed themes can be found below, which are not exhaustive to papers submissions.

- 1. What counts as Internet Governance?**
- 2. Internet Governance, International Law and Multistakeholderism**
- 3. Cyber-security and the Internet.**
- 4. New Approaches to Internet Governance and Social and Economic Development**

Requirements

Paper proposals should be submitted following these requirements:

- An abstract of 800-1000 words, in English, where it is mandatory to describe the main research goal(s) and the methodological background of the paper.
- A one page curriculum vitae focused on institutional affiliations, advanced degrees, scholarly publications and work in the field of Internet Governance and related issues (for example ICTs).

Submission

Submission material should be e-mailed directly to Raquel Gatto, Chair of the GigaNet Program Committee, at raquelgatto@uol.com.br until June 30 . She will send a confirmation that the material has been received. If no confirmation is sent until the deadline, we recommend to e-mail again.

Evaluation Process

The Program Committee members will evaluate the abstracts submitted and decisions will be sent to applicants by e-mail on August 11.

Accepted papers for oral presentations should be followed by a full research paper by September 15.

Some quality papers submitted that are not accepted for oral presentations will be recommended for poster presentation . Full papers of these should also be sent by September 15. Full papers and posters will be published on the GigaNet website.

Financial Assistance

Two accepted papers will be awarded GigaNet Fellowships by the Internet Governance Project, a grant of up to US\$ 2.000,00 to facilitate the attendance of younger scholars who otherwise would not be able to attend. Other financial assistance might be available for accepted emerging scholars who would be unable to attend without support. If available, the scholarship options and evaluation process will be notified after the acceptance notifications.

Program Committee

The 2009 GigaNet Program Committee who will be responsible for evaluating the papers and organizing the Fourth Annual Symposium and the members are:

Raquel Gatto, Catholic University of São Paulo - PUC/SP, Brazil (Chair)

Lamees El Baghdady, Modern Sciences and Arts University, Egypt (Symposium Coordinator)

Milton Mueller, Syracuse University, USA

Nanette Levinson, American University, USA

Konstantinos Komaitis, University of Strathclyde, UK

Ana Abreu, University of São Carlos – UFSCAR, Brazil

Olga Cavalli, ITBA, Argentina

Becky Lentz, McGill University, Canada

Carolina Aguerre, Universidad San Andres, Argentina

Short Schedule:

30 June: abstract submission deadline (to be sent to: raquelgatto@uol.com.br).

11 August: decisions notification of acceptance or rejection.

15 September: submission of full papers or poster.

14 November: Fourth GigaNet Annual Symposium.

ANNEX I – LIST OF THEMES

1. What counts as Internet Governance?

We seek papers that try to improve the definition of Internet governance by providing a clear conceptual basis for establishing its boundaries. Current definitions tend to either default to ICANN and IGF as known focal points of Internet governance, or else refer to specific 'issues' in which transnational collective institutions are not central. The Symposium seeks to foster a panel discussion of papers of a theoretical/definitional type that probe the concept of Internet governance and its varying institutional manifestations and boundaries. As examples, we would be interested in analyses of questions such as: a) how is Internet governance related to the governance of other forms of communication-information technology? B) do broader agreements not specific to the Internet constitute Internet governance, e.g. trade agreements, traditional telecommunications regulations, human rights agreements; c) is Internet Governance inherently transnational, or does it take place at the national and local levels? d) do efforts to support "green computing" constitute internet governance or are they more accurately characterized as elements of environmental governance?

2. Internet Governance, International Law and Multistakeholderism

This theme covers 3 areas: 1) The institutionalization of multistakeholder participation as a new means of promoting direct democracy ideals; 2) Network Neutrality and multistakeholderism; 3) Legality, Legitimacy and private sector governance. Paper proposals in this area might include discussions of the new EU telecoms directive and the influence of AT&T on its treatment of network neutrality and infrastructure; how ICANN has legitimized the participation of the private sector in global rulemaking, without having clearly defined its scope of action which clearly reflects on Internet law and regulation at a national level, posing a threat to legality. This area also includes debates about the "Future of IGF", since the IGF mandate has been issued for 5 years and after 3 meetings will be evaluate to continue or not before 2010. Some of the questions surrounding the issue are: (i) do the IGF accomplished the mandate? (ii) who should evaluate that? (iii) should the IGF continue? Why? (iv) which are the benefits and disadvantages of having a decision-making process for IGF?

3. Cyber-security and the Internet.

A body of international relations theory defines "securitization" as the process and effects of actively constructing something as a security problem or existential threat. Securitization analysis has been applied to military relations, human rights, immigration policy and banking, among others. It explains how invoking "security" justifies extraordinary measures, such as pre-emptive attacks, centralization of power or the suspensions of liberties. It is clear that the Internet is currently engaged in a process of securitization. The Internet is being defined as a "critical infrastructure" and a mini-Cold War developing over the use and vulnerabilities of the Internet, as the U.S. accuses Russia and China of cyber-spying and cyber-disruptions. We seek papers analyzing the way global Internet governance is being changed by the securitization of the Internet. Papers could analyze the implications of current and proposed legislation

such as the US Cyber security Act of 2009; analyze the relationship between state and nonstate actors in Distributed Denial of Service attacks such as those in Estonia and Georgia; assess the scope and nature of the actual threats posed; analyze the interdependency of Internet infrastructure with other critical infrastructures such as energy and financial networks.

4. New Approaches to Internet Governance and Social and Economic Development

This is a broad theme that studies the implications of Internet governance for third world countries; especially for the legislative future of those countries. We encourage papers focused on: 1) Between Local and Global Regulations: exploring ways for local regulations to meet the global requirements for Internet Governance 2) The Effect of Regulation on Local Social Milieu: researching the effects of regulations on the micro individual level. For example: how have individuals' lives been affected by Internet governance? do they feel secure with issuance of these types of regulations? what are their expectations in respect to Internet regulatory frameworks? Can their governments meet these expectations? 3) Comparative evaluative studies for current regulatory actions at the national level. Comparative analytical studies for the Internet regulatory actions taking place in an attempt to evaluate current legislative frameworks and to propose a more refined frameworks if required. 4) Developing Countries and the Global Regulatory Actions Taking Place: Is there a Path Forward?": within many of developing countries there is a kind of authoritarian political system that monitors the practice of media and its content. The question is: can Internet finds an adequate a tmosphere to progress forward in respect to applying regulatory actions at these authoritarian political systems? 5) "The interrelation between Internet Governance and Cultural Diversity": aiming to research the interrelation between Internet governance and the preservation of cultural rights integrated at the 'cultural exception debate' with GATT agreement and the position of UNESCO at the declared Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. What is the position of Internet governance toward this issue?