

## E- Democracy

Autumn 2018  
Sciences Po Bordeaux

Instructor: Muneo Kaigo, Ph.D.  
Professor of Media Communication, University of Tsukuba (Japan)  
Email: [mkaigo@japan.tsukuba.ac.jp](mailto:mkaigo@japan.tsukuba.ac.jp)  
Website: <http://japan.tsukuba.ac.jp/mkaigo>

Language of Instruction: English

Course description: E-Democracy is a relatively new construct, that combines information and communications technology to promote democracy. The Internet has been a proponent of this idea, and is the main technology to reinforce the political processes in the various democratic government models. Due to still being in its early stages, debates over e-Democracy have been continuing. This course will cover topics related to how dynamics of cyberspace can contribute to democracy. Readings will provide some essential ideas for interpreting the dynamics of cyberspace and insight into the possibilities and problems of E-Democracy. Examples will provide students opportunities to discuss the various problems involved in ideas encompassing E-Democracy and become familiar with related concepts.

Reading Materials that will be referred in class

Lessig, Lawrence (2005). Code V2  
<http://codev2.cc>  
(available online in pdf)

Lessig, Lawrence (2008). Remix  
<http://remix.lessig.org>  
(available online and also available through the Internet Archive)

Freeman, Julie & Quirke, Sharna (2013). Understanding E-Democracy. JeDEM 5(2)  
Available online:  
<https://jedem.org/index.php/jedem/article/download/221/182>

Paulin, Alois (2014). Through Liquid Democracy to Sustainable Non-Bureaucratic Government. JeDEM 6(2).  
Available online:  
<https://jedem.org/index.php/jedem/article/download/307/282>

(There will be other select readings from the eJournal of E-Democracy and Open Government.)

The course will cover the following topics:

1. Cyberspace: computer codes, legal code. (see Lessig *Code*)
2. Cyberspace: architecture, regulation, fair use.
3. Problems and possibilities of technology, culture and economies (see Lessig *Remix*).
4. Problems and possibilities of technology and the relation to E-Democracy.
5. Ideas related to E-Democracy and digital citizenship
6. Problems and possibilities of liquid democracy
7. Social media and civil society

Attendance: Students will be expected to be present for all classes.

Format: Seminar/Discussions based on readings and other material.

Evaluation: Examination during the last period of class. Details TBA.