EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES AND THE FUTURE OF CITIZENSHIP
An International Workshop

June 12-13, 2018
Migration and Diversity Research Area
WZB Berlin Social Science Center, Berlin

Keynote Address by-
Professor Lawrence Lessig
Harvard Law School

March 28-29, 2019
Berkman-Klein Center for Internet & Society
Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Keynote Address by-
Professor Beth Simone Noveck
NYU Tandon School of Engineering

The last century has been characterized by fierce debates on national citizenship regimes—whether the rules to gain or lose the status of citizenship are just, whether the status of citizenship should be central in securing human rights, and whether the possession of citizenship requires a confirmation of identity. Existing citizenship regimes were evolved in a different era—when human mobility, legal structure, and technological development were all of a different character.

OBJECTIVE

National citizenships are neither humanity's first conception of political membership, nor will they be the last. We are inviting submissions to an international workshop on the challenges and opportunities that emerging technologies pose to existing theories and practices of citizenship. Our goal is to support the front-line research in this nascent field and establish a community of interdisciplinary researchers interested in a new approach to think about citizenship regimes. How can emerging technologies remodel the meaning and essence of citizenship (in all four dimensions—rights, duties, identity, status), bring about new forms of governance, and redefine state sovereignty and the nation-state system?

CONTENT

The workshop seeks to focus on three main topics (submission on other cutting edge topics is encouraged):

[1] **Blockchain Technology and Global Citizenship**: current attempts to create blockchain communities and government services (Bitnation, E-Estonia) already offer non-territorial forms of political membership and challenge the definition of the "state" as we know it—as a legal entity that must have a permanent population, a physical territory, and a centralized government. Can blockchain technologies set the grounds for new forms of political membership beyond the nation-state? What conceptions of "citizenship" and "sovereignty" can emerge out of it? What should be the functions of global citizenship? What ethical challenges does it bring?

[2] "**Algorithmic Citizenship**": computer algorithms use data such as digital activity to decide "who we are" in the digital world. Governments and private firms use this data in order to determine questions relating to

one's status, identity, and rights (e.g., NSA's PRISM Surveillance Program of targeting "algorithmically foreigners," or the U.S. Homeland Security Department's plan to collect data on immigrants based on search result, social media handles, and mobile phone information). How can "algorithmic identity" redefine the status and meaning of citizenship? Should algorithmic citizenship matter for law enforcement decisions?

[3] **Matching Systems**: matching algorithms have been proven effective in many fields, often more effective and accurate than human selection. Can matching theories help allocating individual migrants to states and selecting citizens by-demand ("vacancies for citizenship"), taking into account changing preferences and interests of both immigrants and states? How can the EU profit from a matching system for responsibility-sharing (both burden and benefit)? What can be the justifications for selection by matching, and what ethical dilemmas are involved in this scheme? Can big data and machine learning methods reveal collective dynamics and areas where integration work well, helping policy-makers and migrants to make data-based decisions?

Confirmed participants include: *Alexander Aleinikoff* (The New School), *Itai Ashlagi* (Stanford University), *Rainer Bauböck* (European University Institute), *Yasodara Córdova* (Harvard; FGV Rio), *Wolfgang Drechsler* (Tallinn University of Technology), *John Edge* (MIT; Founder, ID2020), *Lawrence Lessig* (Harvard University), *John Cheney-Lippold* (University of Michigan), *Beth Simone Noveck* (NYU), *Alison Powell* (LSE), *Ariel Procaccia* (Carnegie Mellon University), *Pia Mancini* and *Siri Santiago* (Founders, Democracy Earth), *Ehud Shapiro* (Weizmann Institute of Science).

ELIGIBILITY

The workshop is open to all people who have a proven academic or practical experience in technology and citizenship, broadly defined. We particularly welcome contributions in the fields of law, ethics, social science, and data science. In cases of financial need, awards can be made by the organizers to authors who clearly specify that in their application.

PROCEDURE

Please submit an abstract (up to 500 words) and CV (up to 3 pages) to citizenship.workshop2018@wzb.eu, as one PDF file, no later than January 30, 2018. Notifications of acceptance will be sent by February 15, 2018. Selected participants are expected to submit a 8-10 "think piece" two weeks before the first meeting in Berlin (June 12-13, 2018) and an advanced paper (25-30 pages) before the second meeting in Cambridge, MA (March 28-29, 2019). We require a firm commitment to attending the *two* meetings. For more information, please contact citizenship.workshop2018@wzb.eu.

ORGANIZERS

The workshop is organized by the Berkman-Klein Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University and the Global Citizenship Governance Research Group, co-hosted by the WZB Berlin Social Science Center and the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies at the European University Institute.

STEERING COMMITTEE

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