



PLATFORM FOR RESPONSIBLE INNOVATION
Platform voor Maatschappelijk verantwoord innoveren

INVITATION ONLINE MEETING

Monday 19 april 2021 | 13.00 - 15.00 hrs | Webex

We cordially invite you to a community meeting of the research program Designing for Public Values in a Digital World.

Trust in digital innovations, and trust via digital innovations

What knowledge and policy do we need for trustworthy technological infrastructures in the digital society?

While trust is a fundamental building block of our society, the erosion of trust in the digital society has become one of the major challenges of our time. Right at this moment, individuals, businesses, nation-states, as well as the European Union are facing urgent questions such as: How can citizens be helped to trust trustworthy sources of information, such as news sources, but distrust unreliable ones? How do we build trust in the COVID vaccine? Can we trust the digital tracing apps, and immunization passports? How can we deal with growing mistrust in military allies, government, in science, in journalism, in online communications? How can the trustworthiness of various public and private institutions be reinforced? How can trust in new digital innovations be established? *Trust seems to be in crisis, and we don't seem to have reassuring answers to these urgent and complex questions with wide-ranging social, political, and economic consequences.*

The trust in, and trustworthiness of digital technologies play a key role in this crisis. Digital technologies permeate almost every aspects of our lives, and every segment of our public and private institutions, but we know little of their trustworthiness, and there are good reasons not to trust many of them: the services and the firms are often intransparent, unaccountable, profit-driven, heavily automated and lightly regulated foreign private entities with their own economic, political, social and cultural agendas. But certain digital technologies, such as reputation systems or blockchains can also help us addressing the trust crisis.

The government plays a central role in a trustworthy digital society. Through good policies it can ensure the trustworthiness of digital innovation, and help citizens better distinguish what can and should not be trusted. Since the government is also the user of digital technologies, its trustworthiness is also on the line, if, for example, its algorithms detecting welfare fraud misfire. This meeting is intended to identify the policy issues and dilemmas, which an integrated multidisciplinary research on trust can help to answer. What challenges do policy makers in the public sector see when it comes to trust in digital technology?

The outcomes of this meeting will be used to formulate a national research agenda on trust and trustworthiness in the digital society.

Registration

You can register for this meeting by sending an e-mail mvi@nwo.nl.

Programme

Introduced by Jeroen van den Hoven (Professor of Ethics and Technology at Delft University of Technology), three researchers give a substantive kick-off to the discussion. These are Esther Keymolen, philosopher and Associate Professor at the Tilburg Institute for Law, Technology, and Society (Tilburg University) and Balázs Bodó, economist, Associate Professor at the Institute for Information Law (IViR) at the University of Amsterdam, and Michael Nagenborg, Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Behavioural, Management and Social sciences of the University of Twente.

- 13.00 hrs | Welcome by moderator Ymkje de Boer (knowledge sharing advisor)
Brief introduction to the theme by Jeroen van den Hoven
- 13.15 hrs | Presentations
 - ↳ *Esther Keymolen elaborates on the concept of trust in relation to digital innovations*
 - ↳ *Michael Nagenborg will get into the relationship between humanitarian principles and trust*
 - ↳ *Balázs Bodó addresses the question of what consequences the use of (un)trustworthy technology by the government has for this government; and what role can the government play when it comes to issues of trust?*
- 14.00 hrs | Short break
- 14.10 hrs | Discussion in small subgroups
- 14.40 hrs | Retrieved knowledge questions are shared in plenary
- 15.00 hrs | Closing



The research program Designing for public values in a digital society is an initiative of the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO), the Municipality of The Hague and the Ministries of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, Defense, Foreign Affairs and Security & Justice. Within this program, five research projects have been launched that focus on the interaction between public values and digital technology. The key question is how these values can be safeguarded in digital projects.

Visit <https://www.nwo-mvi.nl/node/5874> for more information. Would you like to be kept informed of the activities of the community and the progress of the research program? Send an email to mvi@nwo.nl