Call for Papers
"Digital Fragmentations and Digital Sovereignty"

Digital Fragmentations and Digital Sovereignty

In the past years, a growing prominence of the idea of "digital sovereignty" as well as multiple data localization regulations have called the vision of a global, open Internet into question. Data localization requirements could splinter the current global internet into many regional systems and shape innovation dynamics in a wider variety of data-utilizing sectors. Accordingly, the idea of the fragmentation or Balkanization of the Internet began to play a bigger role in debates on global Internet governance. This debate covers the Internet as an infrastructure as such and increasingly blurs the boundaries between geopolitics, national jurisdictions, and a power struggle for the future of global governance. The resulting discursive and policy fragmentations are likely going to be with us for a long time and many of the underlying tensions could intensify.

Against this background, this project advances theorizations and conceptual understandings of digital sovereignty and fragmentations in cyberspace. To take up the challenge of understanding the problem of digital fragmentation and its interplay with the notion of "digital sovereignty", we aim to theorize the degree to which the Internet is becoming or fragmented and the understand the diver's modes of fragmentation to which parts of the Internet are subjected, and which actors and processes are driving forces for fragmentation.

Call for Papers

TRA 4 and CASSIS invite contributions for an edited volume about "Digital Fragmentations and Digital Sovereignty" as contribution to the international online-conference on "Digital Fragmentations and Digital Sovereignty" (**17-18 September 2021**) with the goal to advance interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research cooperation on the topic of digital sovereignty, data regulation, cyber security and internet governance.

We welcome submissions from disciplines such as political science, sociology, international relations, security studies, philosophy, public administration, law, information science, etc. Suggested topics for analyses include, *inter alia*:

- Theoretical, empirical, or comparative analysis of digital sovereignty
- The conceptualization and taxonomies of Internet fragmentation
- Tensions between national Cybersecurity/digital sovereignty and free and open Internet
- Theoretical, empirical, or comparative analysis of data protection regulations
- Global Internet Governance and the power struggle between great powers
- International tech competition and digital fragmentation

Submission Guidelines

Draft papers will be considered for inclusion in the publication only if they have not been previously published. The length of the abstract submissions should be between 1 500 and 2 000

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TRANSDISPLINARY RESEARCH AREA
Individuals, Institutions and
Societies (TRA 4)

words. The length of the final submissions should be between 8 000 and 10 000 words. To facilitate the reviewing process, papers should not include author names or other information that would help identify the authors. All submission shall be in English language. Authors shall use footnotes rather than endnotes and submission should be in Microsoft Word Text format (.docx).

Abstract submissions are due on **28 April 2021**. They should include the following elements:

(1) Title

(2) Extended abstract (1 500-2 000 words)

(3) Author's name, affiliation and short bibliographical note (in the body of the email)

Authors will be notified of the status of their contributions within approximately 3 weeks of the abstract submission deadline. Authors will also be invited to the conference on **17-18 September 2021**. All submitted papers will be subject to peer review and will be judged based on the novelty of the contribution, the theoretical soundness, and the quality of presentation.

Authors of the selected submissions will be invited to submit the **first drafts** of their paper proposals (8 000-10 000 words) by **18 July 2021**. Authors will be given the opportunity to improve their contributions based on peer comments. **Final drafts** are due on **12 September 2021**.

All submissions shall be sent to Dr. Ying Huang (yhuang@uni-bonn.de).

Connecting research activities

The Center for Advanced Security, Strategic and Integration Studies (CASSIS) is an interdisciplinary research center of the University of Bonn that focuses on the interdisciplinary examination of traditional foreign and security issues and non-traditional security challenges such as cyber and energy security, terrorism and human security. Its research group "Infrastructures of China's Modernity and Their Global Constitutive Effects", funded by the Ministry of Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, investigates the worldwide structural effects of China's rapid modernization. The subproject "Infrastructures of Data" concentrates on the influence of Chinese data infrastructures. China's vision of cyber sovereignty and the Global Governance of cyberspace are considered as challenge to a global, open internet and could accelerate the process of digital fragmentation and complicate interactions among states and non-state actors in the global internet governance.

The six Transdisciplinary Research Areas (TRAs) identified as innovative structures at the University of Bonn change the focus from individual disciplines towards scientific networks and transdisciplinary research. TRA4 "Individuals, Institutions and Societies" investigates how institutions (markets, law, culture) mediate complex relationships between the individual and societies and develops a new view of micro-phenomena (development of personality, agency, individualization) as well as macro-phenomena (world society, globalization). Having a common research focus on the digitalization and cyber space, TRA 4 and CASSIS initiate this project to strengthen corporation and expand academic networks with colleagues from around the world in the research fields of "Cybersecurity" and "Global Cyberspace Governance" with the ultimate goal to develop a new research Cluster of Excellence of the University of Bonn.