Introduction to E-Policy, E-Governance, Ethics, and Law Minitrack

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This minitrack explores the creation and implementation of public policies and laws to support, facilitate, and promote e-Government, as well as how these technologies impact and influence governance systems and public institutions. It also explores challenges and solutions in emerging models of governance in relation to ICTs and ethical issues arising in egovernance in the public sector. Topics and research areas include, but are not limited to:

- The role of ICTs in public administration at the local, state, and national level
- Public policy/e-policy issues in relation to e-Government
- Legal and ethical implications of the expanding use of ICTs in the public sector
- Legal and policy implications of interorganizational and public/private sector systems for government service delivery
- Legal, policy, and ethical implications of government ICT regulation and management
- The impact of ICTs on broader ethical issues in public administration
- e-policy and e-governance challenges arising from public sector ICT deployment in developing countries

The first paper, by Chad Doran of the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory and the University of Maryland, entitled “Governing the Social Network: How U.S. Federal Department and Agency Records Management Policies Are Addressing Social Media Content,” applies thematic analysis to explore challenges presented by the growing number of records created using social media and the frequently underspecified and/or outdated policies governing their management. This paper makes important contributions to this ongoing problem, providing both theoretical insights and practical recommendations that can help government agencies to stay ahead of the social media records management curve.

The second paper, by Hun Myoung Park of the International University of Japan, entitled “The Web Accessibility Crisis of the Korean Electronic Government: Fatal Consequences of the Digital Signature Law and Public Key Certification,” addresses a fascinating and important contradiction: Korean egovernment has been highly ranked overall but has achieved much lower scores for Web accessibility. The paper illustrates that much of this apparent contradiction can be attributed to the use of Microsoft ActiveX. As such, this paper is of relevance to both egovernment scholars and practitioners.

The third paper, by Ralf Knackstedt, Mathias Eggert, and Stefan Fleischer of the University of Muenster, entitled “The Legal Perspective on Business to Government Reporting – A Conceptual Modeling Approach and Its Application to the Financial Sector,” applies a conceptual modeling approach to studying Business to Government (BtG) Reporting. This paper provides insights of relevance to lawyers and to legal scholars.