

Main research projects

Information, culture and knowledge: New citizens' practices, new public policies. A case comparison of Spain and United States (Sinde Law versus SOPA Law).

Developed in collaboration with Berkman center for Internet & Society (Harvard University), MIT and Open University of Catalonia. Funding entity: Call 2012 of the National Program of Fundamental Research of the VI National Plan I+D+i. Spain. From January 2013.

Emerging models of sustainability of audiovisual content in the digital age: New forms of advertising and other sources of sustainability. Funding entity: Audio-visual Council of Catalonia. Regional Government of Catalonia. From October 2011 to September 2012.

Internet is not a hammer. Changes in the access and management of information, culture and knowledge and its effects in the interaction between citizens-Institutions. Towards a new policy-making?. Funding entity: School of Public Administration of Catalonia. From January to September 2011.

Networked Politics. Developed in collaboration with Transnational Institute (The Netherlands), Euromovements (Barcelona) and Transform! Italy. From 2005 to 2009.

Publications

Peer review articles

The Unethics of Sharing: Wikiwashing. By Fuster Morell, M. (2011). International Review of Information Ethics.

The season of revolutions: the Arab Spring and European mobilizations. Special issue. Interface: a journal for and about social movements. Issue 4/1.

Composition of 15M Mobilization in Spain: Free Culture Movement a layer of 15M ecosystem movement. By Fuster Morell, M. (2012). 'Occupy' special edition. Social Movement Studies.

Rethinking government in the light of the emerging organisational principles of online collective action. Fuster Morell, M. (2011, October). In E. Aibar (Ed.) European Journal of ePractice. No 12.

Advantages, Challenges and New Frontiers in Using Information Communication Technologies in Societal and Social Movement Research. Fuster Morell, M. (2011). Journal tripleC i(i): Cognition, communication, co-operation. Special Issue: ICTs and Society - A New Transdiscipline?.

Events organization

International forum on digital commons, Barcelona, October 2011. Organized together with Amical Viquipedia (Wikimedia Cat). www.digital-commons.net

Books

Beyond the Internet as a tool "hammer" - tool of the old politics: Towards a New Policy Making?. Cases the Free Culture Movement and the digital commons and 15M in Catalonia. (In catalan). Fuster Morell, M. & Subirats, J. (2012). Research report for the School of Public Administration of Catalonia.

Other society, another politics?. From "they do not representan" to the democracy of the commons. (Spanish). By Subirats, J. (2011). Barcelona, Icaria Asaco.

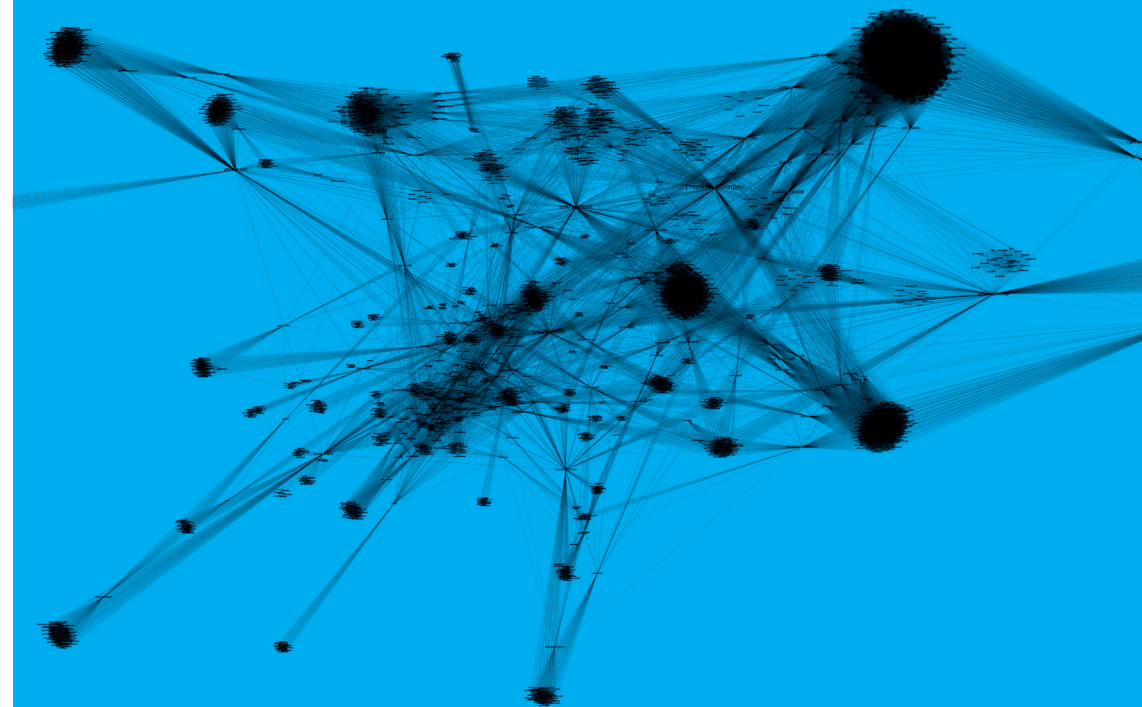
Governance of online creation communities. Provision of infrastructure for the building of digital commons. By Fuster Morell, M. (2010). Thesis doctoral. Social and Political Science Department. European University Institute (Florence).

Rethinking political organisation in an age of movements and networks. Fuster Morell, M, Wainwright, H. & Berlinguer, M. (2007). Rome: XL edizioni. (English, Spanish and Italian versions).



IGOPnet action research:

Internet, Politics & Commons



About UAB - Autonomous University of Barcelona

The Autonomous University of Barcelona also known as UAB is a public university mostly located in Cerdanyola del Vallès, near the city of Barcelona in Catalonia, Spain. The UAB is a pioneering institution in terms of fostering research. There are many research institutes in the campus, as well as other research centers, technical support services and service-providing laboratories. The UAB is considered to be the best University in Spain by the 2012 QS World University Rankings, which ranked the university 95th in Social Sciences in the world.

About IGOP - Institute of government and public policies

The Institute of Government and Public Policies (IGOP) is an interdisciplinary research institute. It draws together political scientists and sociologists, but also researchers coming from other disciplines within social sciences, such as geographers, economists, anthropologists, jurists and environmentalists. The IGOP has a remarkable record in projects of basic and applied research on government and public policies.

Point of departure

In a context characterized by a political and economic crisis, ecological and geopolitical restructuring, and technological innovation, approaches to the Internet which initially characterized the debate in the field of Internet and policies and saw the Internet as a “remedy” or new technological “instrument” that would strengthen the processes of public policies are extremely limited. Distancing ourselves from this vision, we consider that the changes linked to the adoption of ICTs are of such depth that they reconfigure the organization of collective action, as well as the equilibrium of power between agents (State, market and Civil society). The current situation cannot be characterized as a mere renewal of the same “instruments” (i.e. from voting to e-voting) or a regular conjunctural crisis of the system, but should instead be viewed as a transition between systems or a change of era that seems more visible when we expand our analysis from traditional political actors to civil society. It seems that the Internet has favored greater changes in the surroundings of political institutions “C in the composition of society and the organization and mobilization of civil society - than in the political institutions themselves. In this regard, civil society seems growing in importance as a mode of management and production of public resources in contrast to the state or market, thus breaking the traditional dichotomy of state or market as a mode of organization.

About IGOPnet action research: Internet, Politics & Commons

Keywords: Internet & politics; public policies; Common-based peer production; Social innovation; Online communities; Political participation; Commons; Online methods; Social movements (Global Justice Movement & Free culture movement; Indignados/15M mobilization in Spain).

Areas of research:

- i) Changes associated to the adoption of ICTs in public policy and the dynamic of interaction among political actors.
- ii) New areas of public policy, conflict and social mobilization: Regulation on ICTs and the conditions of access and reuse of information and knowledge.
- iii) Social change: New digital generations (from youth digital cultures to active aging and ICTs).
- iv) Emergence of the digital social economy and common-based peer production.
- v) Methodological Approach: Commitment to rigour, innovation & open access.
- vi) Quan(li)tative triangulation.
- vii) Experimenting with online/virtual methods.
- viii) Action-participation.

Mission

IGOPnet is the area of Internet, politics and commons of the Institute of government and public policies (IGOP) of the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB).

People

Mayo Fuster Morell

is currently a postdoctoral researcher at IGOP and member of IGOP since 2005. Additionally, she is fellow at the Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University. In 2010, she concluded her PhD thesis at the European University Institute in Florence on the governance of common-based peer production, and have numerous publications in the field. She is currently a member of the steering committee of the Internet and Politics Standing group of the European Consortium of Political Science (ECPR); a member of the Research Committee of the Wikimedia Foundation; Amical Viquipedia (linked to Catalan Viquipedia) and of Cosmos - Consortium of social movements studies at the European University Institute. She is advisory board of the Open Knowledge Festival 2012 of the Open Knowledge Foundation. She collaborates with the P2P Foundation. In 2011, she was visiting scholar at the Internet Interdisciplinary Institute (Open University of Catalonia). In 2008, she was visiting researcher at the School of Information of the University of California Berkeley (sponsored by Howard Rheingold) and provided teaching assistance at the Communication Department Stanford University.

Joan Subirats Humet

is Professor Joan Subirats is currently a Professor of Political Science and Researcher and Director of the PhD Program of the Institute of Government and Public Policy at the Autonomous University of Barcelona. His research fields include Policy Analysis, Democratic Innovation, Public Participation and local and regional government. Professor Subirats has been a visiting scholar at the University of California at Berkeley, at CIDE-México, at New York University, at the University of Rome, and Prince of Asturias Distinguished Visiting Professor at Georgetown University (2002-2003). He has published many books including Spanish Urban Policies (2011), Public Policy Analysis and Management (2008), Poverty and social exclusion in Spain (2004), Twenty years of Autonomies in Spain. Laws, Public Policies, Institutions and Public Opinion (2002), Territory and Governance (2001).

Ruben Martinez

is researcher and professor of public policy and culture and of innovation, culture and industry. He is developing his PhD thesis at the Institute of Government and Public Policy at the Autonomous University of Barcelona on the relations between social innovation and the commons. Member and co-founder of ZZZINC, a cultural innovation platform based on Barcelona, and of Metropolitan Observatory of Barcelona.

Marco Berlinguer

is researcher on new forms of economy particularly in the intersection between social economy and the knowledge and information economy. In this context, he contributed to the creation of the “Escuela de los commons”, an open platform of horizontal exchange and cooperation on the emerging paradigm of the commons.