



**2nd Interdisciplinary Innovation Conference**

# **Participating in innovation, innovating in participation**

A conference organized by the Interdisciplinary Institute on Innovation

(i3: <http://www.i-3.fr/>)

**Mines ParisTech, Paris, 3-4 December 2015**

## **Co-chairs**

Michael Baker (Télécom ParisTech)

Brice Laurent (Mines ParisTech)

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## Conference theme

The call for new forms of participation has become common in the public sphere, promising renewed forms of public engagement, more efficient industrial processes, and more democratic decision-making processes. Technological innovation is a particular case when considering current discourses of participation. It is both problematised as needing more developed or open forms of participation, and proposed as a mean for experimenting with original participatory formats, for example, in: crowdfunding, citizen science, amateur reviewing/rating, online communities for public debates, consumer participation in (participatory) product design.

- How should the call for new forms of participation in technological innovation be understood, in terms of both public policy and the private sector?
- How are social and economic organisations thereby shaped?
- What does this mean for new processes of innovation?

The second i3 conference “**Participating in innovation, innovating in participation**” aims to launch and deepen interdisciplinary discussion on the forms and effects of modes of participation in technological innovation. The principal issues that the conference will address are as follows:

### 1. Practices and sociotechnical devices

Sociotechnical devices are crucial resources for supporting involvement and participation as interactional accomplishments. These devices comprise participatory instruments such as public dialogue mechanisms, web platforms through which users interact with the content they are interested in, or user-oriented experiments undertaken by private companies.

- On what bases can these sociotechnical devices be analysed?
- What kinds of infrastructures do they rely on?
- How do these infrastructures become stabilised?

Sociotechnical devices are inscribed in networks of professionals as well as in institutional landscapes: how can the ecologies they are embedded in, and partly shape, be accounted for? For example, how can one analyse the situations where devices of participation are economic entities circulating in markets, or emerge as topics of public or private expertise?

Analysis of sociotechnical devices can focus on the micro-processes whereby participants make sense of their engagement, possibly in relation with other multiple activities.

- How can we provide a fine-grained description of the activities whereby individuals are made participants, and act as such?

### 2. Economic value of contributions

The outcomes of participatory initiatives may create economic value. For example, the contributions of users on travel, art or food-related websites have economic value for the companies being commented upon, as well as for the web-platform that gathers the users' opinions.

Case studies of ways for creating value from the voluntary or involuntary contributions of users, including in the forms of digital marks they leave, are especially encouraged.

- What economic or business models sustain these initiatives?
- How do these models shape particular modes of user participation?

Analysis of examples could aim at understanding the political and economic dimensions of contemporary practices such as digital labour, crowdfunding, the use of lay expertise or citizen science by private companies or public bodies.

### **3. Participation as social ordering**

Participation can be analysed as a social ordering process, since it allocates roles and responsibilities, makes it possible for some to have their voices heard but not others, and stabilises particular public problems at the expense of others.

- How can the inequalities shaped by participatory mechanisms in technological innovation be accounted for?
- How can we characterise, at micro or macro levels, the hierarchical constructs that participation results in?

These questions may be examined through the analysis of governance practices within emerging communities of practice, and also through the description of the gradual stabilisation of dominant forms of participation.

### **Keynote speakers**

Liam Bannon, UFRJ / University of Limerick / University of Aarhus

Trevor Pinch, Department of Science & Technology Studies, Cornell University

### **Scientific committee**

Romain Badouard (Université de Cergy-Pontoise), Flore Barcellini (CNAM), Jean-Samuel Beuscart (Orange), Anni Borzeix (Ecole Polytechnique), Pierre-Jean Benghozi (Ecole Polytechnique), Eva Boxenbaum (Mines ParisTech), Dominique Cardon (EHESS), Jason Chilvers (U. of East Anglia), Françoise Détienne (Télécom ParisTech), Christian Licoppe (Telecom ParisTech), Dominique Pasquier (Telecom ParisTech), Cécile Méadel (Mines ParisTech), Sezin Topçu (EHESS), Jan-Peter Voß (T.U. Berlin).

### **Important dates**

- The conference will take place on **3-4 December 2015** at Mines ParisTech (60 bd Saint-Michel, 75006 Paris, France).
- For paper proposals, please submit a title and an extended abstracts (max. 1000 words) by **21 June 2015**. Authors are invited to submit their title and abstract to the address: [i3conference2015@mines-telecom.fr](mailto:i3conference2015@mines-telecom.fr).
- Notifications of acceptance will be sent by **15 September 2015**
- Full papers corresponding to selected communications presented at the conference will be solicited for publication after the conference itself.

### **About i3**

The Interdisciplinary Institute on Innovation (i3) is a research and teaching centre dedicated to economic, human and social sciences. Created in 2012, by Mines ParisTech and Telecom ParisTech, two engineering schools of the Institut Mines-Télécom, with the additional involvement of the École Polytechnique i3 became a research laboratory funded by the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS). I3 conducts a broad range of interdisciplinary research relating to innovation, and has 180 permanent members of staff

working in economics, management science, sociology, psychology, ergonomics and information and communication sciences.

**Contact and further information**

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