

Local Government Without Borders

curated publication of texts, articles and studies on innovation and local governance research

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[The Many Forms of Decentralization and Citizen Trust in Government](#)

[Paper](#) by Michael A. Nelson: “This paper contributes to the literature on the nexus between decentralization and citizen trust in government through the use of a comprehensive set of decentralization measures that have been recently developed. Using measures of autonomy at both the regional and local (municipal) levels of government, and responses from five recent waves of the World Values Survey on citizen trust/confidence in their national government, the civil service, and the police, several interesting insights emerged from the analysis. First, giving regional governments a voice in policy making for the country as a whole promotes trust in government at the national level and in the civil service. Second, deconcentration – central government offices at the regional level as opposed to autonomous regional governments – appears to be an effective strategy to generate greater confidence in government activities. Third, affording regional and local governments complete autonomy in the delivery of government services without at least some oversight by higher levels of government is not found to be trust promoting. Finally, giving local governments authority to levy at least one major tax is associated with greater government trust, a finding that is consistent with others who have found tax decentralization to be linked with better outcomes in the public sector. Overall, the analysis suggests that the caution researchers sometimes give when using one-dimensional measures of the authority/autonomy measures of subnational governments such a fiscal decentralization is warranted...[\(More\)](#)”.

[Chandler Good Government Index](#)

[Report](#) by Chandler Institute of Governance (CIG): "...a polycrisis shines an intense spotlight on a government, and asks many difficult questions of it: How can a government cope with relentless change and uncertainty? How do they learn to maintain stability while adapting effectively? How can they distinguish what are the most important capabilities required, and then assess for themselves their own government's strengths and weaknesses? The CGGI was built to help answer questions precisely like these. Why Capabilities Matter for Managing a Polycrisis: This edition of the CGGI annual report offers a special focus on how the pillars of good government stand together in the face of a polycrisis. Drawing on the 35 capabilities and outcomes indicators of the CGGI we examine in particular depth:

- How Public Institutions Are Better Responding to Crises. We explore how a government's leaders, civil service and institutions come together to prepare and respond.
- Building Shared Prosperity. How are governments confronting inflation and the cost-of-living crisis while still creating opportunities for more efficient marketplaces that support trade and sustain good jobs? We dive into a few ways.
- Strong Nations Are Healthy and Inclusive. We spotlight how governments are building more inclusive communities and resilient health systems...[\(More\)](#)".

Google's Largest AI Threat Is Not OpenAI, It's Open Source

Earlier this week, TNS hardware correspondent Agam Shah [posted a provocative story](#) about the economics of Large Language Model (LLM)-based generative AI. Proved popular with OpenAI's ChatGPT, LLMs are a competitive battlefield for tech giants, such as OpenAI (partnered with Microsoft), Google and Facebook.

Shah noted that much AI research actually started out as open research projects, but with the money these companies are pouring into research now – and the revenue they are expected to garner from services built around AI – they are keeping the results to themselves.

"There are concerns about openly distributed models being used for nefarious purposes," Shah wrote, of these companies' reluctance to open source their work. "OpenAI has cited safety as a reason to keep GPT-4 closed. Bloomberg is keeping its recently released Bloomberg-GPT model closed for safety and business reasons."

But such secrecy may be more vanity than anything.

This week, Dylan Patel's SemiAnalysis newsletter posted a leaked internal Google e-mail that, if genuine, suggests that at least one Google engineer sees the biggest threat to the company as not OpenAI's LLM, but a sea of open source technologies that may render all LLMs as dinosaurs.

The subject line of the email was “We Have No Moat ... And neither does OpenAI.” And the author goes on to detail all the open source technologies that are “lapping” the tech giants, such as scalable personal AI, mobile phone-based LLMs, and others.

“While our models still hold a slight edge in terms of quality, the gap is closing astonishingly quickly. Open source models are faster, more customizable, more private, and pound-for-pound more capable. They are doing things with \$100 and 13 billion params that we struggle with at \$10 million and 540 billion parameters,” the author wrote, concluding that Google has “no secret sauce.”

Summing up the document, noted generative AI enthusiast Simon Willison wrote that the premise of the idea “is that while OpenAI and Google continue to race to build the most powerful language models, their efforts are rapidly being eclipsed by the work happening in the open source community.”

Sustainability, Entrepreneurship and Global Digital Transformation

[The Sustainability, Entrepreneurship and Global Digital Transformation \(SET\)](#) research and knowledge transfer project addresses issues relating to digitalisation and sustainability, particularly in the Global South. HIIG supports the Federal Ministry for Economic Developments (BMZ) Digital Transformation Centers (DTCs) as a scientific partner, tasked with conceptualising and organising participatory events and academic outputs. Through the integration of relevant stakeholders, local requirements were identified to develop future-oriented and sustainable contextual approaches in eight countries. With a particular focus on the topics of sustainable entrepreneurship, digital technologies for climate protection and gig economy, HIIG collaborated with local researchers, practitioners and policy makers to build application-oriented expertise, identify best practices and develop concrete recommendations.

The results are made available to a diverse audience through various formats, such as studies, policy briefs, blog posts and podcasts. The exchange of knowledge and the strengthening of cooperation between different countries is intended to support sustainable digitalisation that is appropriate to local conditions. Various best-practice cases are displayed in a database to make them accessible for a broader audience, spanning various sectors and localities.

Perspectives on Platform Power, Public Values and the Potential of Social Media Councils | Study results

This [publication](#) presents the end results from the Platform://Democracy project, which examines how platform rules can be aligned with public values. Together with over 30 researchers from six continents, the

research team investigated existing models of advisory bodies worldwide and proposed Social Media Councils (SMC) as a useful advisory instrument for private platform companies.

How can local areas 'design out' severe hardship? A new framework

[New Local](#) has been working with The Joseph Rowntree Foundation to explore local approaches to tackling poverty and to understand what would be needed to galvanise and deliver on a mission to 'design out' the most severe forms of hardship in a local area. The idea of 'designing out' poverty may sound ambitious, but it is a statement of intent – asking what it would look like for a local area to do everything it can to ensure no one experiences the most severe forms of hardship.

Rethinking democracy for the age of AI

[Keynote speech](#) by Bruce Schneier: “There is a lot written about technology’s threats to democracy. Polarization. Artificial intelligence. The concentration of wealth and power. I have a more general story: The political and economic systems of governance that were created in the mid-18th century are poorly suited for the 21st century. They don’t align incentives well. And they are being hacked too effectively.

At the same time, the cost of these hacked systems has never been greater, across all human history. We have become too powerful as a species. And our systems cannot keep up with fast-changing disruptive technologies.

We need to create new systems of governance that align incentives and are resilient against hacking ... at every scale. From the individual all the way up to the whole of society.

For this, I need you to drop your 20th century either/or thinking. This is not about capitalism versus communism. It’s not about democracy versus autocracy. It’s not even about humans versus AI. It’s something new, something we don’t have a name for yet. And it’s “blue sky” thinking, not even remotely considering what’s feasible today.

Throughout this talk, I want you to think of both democracy and capitalism as information systems. Socio-technical information systems. Protocols for making group decisions. Ones where different players have different incentives. These systems are vulnerable to hacking and need to be secured against those hacks.

China’s new AI rules protect people – and the Communist Party’s power

[Article](#) by Johanna M. Costigan: “In April, in an effort to regulate rapidly advancing artificial intelligence technologies, China’s internet watchdog introduced draft rules on generative AI. They cover a wide range of issues

– from how data is trained to how users interact with generative AI such as chatbots.

Under the new regulations, companies are ultimately responsible for the “legality” of the data they use to train AI models. Additionally, generative AI providers must not share personal data without permission, and must guarantee the “veracity, accuracy, objectivity, and diversity” of their pre-training data.

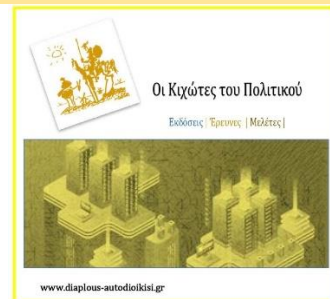
These strict requirements by the Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC) for AI service providers could benefit Chinese users, granting them greater protections from private companies than many of their global peers. Article 11 of the regulations, for instance, prohibits providers from “conducting profiling” on the basis of information gained from users. Any Instagram user who has received targeted ads after their smartphone tracked their activity would stand to benefit from this additional level of privacy.

Πηγές

<https://thelivinglib.org/>
<https://chandlergovernmentindex.com/>
<https://thenewstack.io/>
<https://www.hiig.de/en/>
<https://www.newlocal.org.uk>

Ταυτότητα

Η ενημερωτική σειρά «Τοπική Αυτοδιοίκηση Χωρίς Σύνορα» αποτελεί έκδοση του «Εργαστηρίου Πολιτικών του Μέλλοντος» του πυλώνα «Οι Κιχώτες του Πολιτικού», ο οποίος αναπτύσσεται και λειτουργεί συνεργατικά στον ιστότοπο: www.diaplous-autodioikisi.gr



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