



# Internet and Politics

Seminar offered by **Prof. Alexander H. Trechsel**

Spring term 2010

Mondays 17-19, Badia Seminar Room 2

This seminar is structured into three parts:

## **Structures and Contexts**

In this part of the seminar we will address the question of the digital divide, its forms, its evolution over time and its effects on contemporary politics within individual countries as well as on the global level. Particular attention will be given to the diffusion of the internet and the political consequences of this process.

## **Processes**

In the second part of the seminar we will mainly focus on the impact of the internet on electoral processes. We will address questions related to new forms of e-campaigning and e-voting. More generally, we will discuss the impact of the internet on the processes of political participation.

## **Actors and Institutions**

The most extensive part of the seminar will deal with political actors and institutions and the way they are affected by – or make use of – modern information and communication technologies. Particular attention will be given to the media, to political parties and social movements as well as to Parliaments and Governments. Finally, we will discuss the potential for institutional reform in the age of the Internet.

Through weekly readings, discussions and several talks given by specialists we will try to answer these questions using a comparative approach to the topic of the internet and politics. Participants in the seminar are expected to select one of the topics-concepts and take responsibility for the opening and the structuring of the discussion.

Please register with Alessandra Torre ([Alessandra.Torre@eui.eu](mailto:Alessandra.Torre@eui.eu))