Algorithmic systems increasingly govern our lives, including through rapidly spreading applications in the public sector. Under which conditions do citizens support or oppose these changing foundations of decision-making and governance? To shed light on this question, Pascal König (in joint work with Anja Achtziger, Julia Felfeli and Georg Wenzelburger) probes citizens’ evaluations of algorithmic systems with survey data and by using experimental as well as choice-based conjoint designs. This work emphasizes the importance of context and takes seriously the idea that algorithms, as parts of socio-technical systems, are always embedded in a specific social context. Empirical findings from the surveys show that citizens’ acceptance of algorithmic systems adopted in the public sector depends crucially on two context-related evaluations: First, the personal importance of the specific purpose realized in a given domain, and second, trust in the institution deploying the system. The performance of the algorithmic system itself, in contrast, matters much less. These findings indicate that a narrow focus on the technical properties of algorithmic systems is likely to miss how citizens evaluate them. Only a broader perspective, which also considers the larger context of application and allows for uncovering the importance of contextual cues and heuristics, enables us to understand how citizens evaluate algorithmic systems. Their assessments are largely driven by factors that are well known from other areas of political attitude research.