

Research proposal for BSc/MSc thesis supervision at the Chair of Digital Governance

If you are interested in having your thesis supervised by a member of the Chair of Digital Governance, please make sure to approach us with a full-fledged research proposal of no less than five pages first. The goal of the research proposal is to present your ideas to a potential supervisor and will provide the basis for discussing your project and defending its feasibility and originality. We accept research proposals on any topic falling in the broader area of digital governance and you can send your proposal via email to a potential supervisor. As your sole aim should be to convince us that this is a well-thought through, exciting, and feasible project, your research proposal should be as developed and polished as possible substantively and methodologically. To this end, any research proposal should include the following:

- **Introduction:** A concise introduction to the topic of your proposed research that describes the research puzzle, briefly outlines the data and methodology and the project's significance.
- **Literature review:** A short literature survey of existing work pertinent to your research puzzle. This should take the form of briefly discussing and contrasting the most important studies on the topic, connecting this research to your research puzzle and explaining where you have identified the gap which your work plans to fill.
- **Theoretical framework:** This section should sketch the research puzzle and your theoretical approach to addressing it. It should clearly describe the specific theory or theories that you will use to develop a framework for studying the research puzzle you have posed, and it should make your theoretical assumptions explicit (i.e. what are the theoretical reasons for suggesting that X has an effect on Y, or why would Z moderate the relationship between X and Y). At the end of this section, you should state your hypotheses.
- **Research design and methodology:** This section should specify the research process you will undertake to address the research puzzle. This must include a very clear account of what your data and data collection strategy will look like, and the methodological approach you plan to undertake to obtain the information you need from your data – including the *techniques* you plan to use to analyze your data.
- **Potential implications of your work:** In this section you should briefly discuss the ways in which you believe your work will help extend, refine or even revise existing knowledge, including some thoughts about how it could influence future scholarship.

Please note that a research proposal that conforms to this format is absolutely essential for arranging an appointment to discuss your BSc or MSc thesis project.