



e-democracy 2.0

Istituzioni, cittadini, nuove reti:
un lessico possibile

Panel 1

Towards the de-Institutionalisation of e-democratic governance?

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Web 2.0 & de-institutionalization?

New media often brings huge optimism about its democratising potential.

Web 2.0 - user-generated content, mass collaboration & sharing of intellectual property - is latest example.

I want to suggest that new media may facilitate a trend of de-institutionalization but that it does not determine a democratic future.

Rather new media technologies should themselves be seen a sphere of contestation between competing conceptions of democracy.

What kind of democracy are we talking about?

- Discussions about how ICTs can/cannot democratise our political systems are too often conducted in a vacuum - institutional change is influenced from without!
- Different models produce different objectives/evaluations
- Two competing perspectives -
 1. Participatory models
 2. Liberal models

Latter, as neo-liberalism, has dominated the shape of e-democracy

Mediated Democracy?

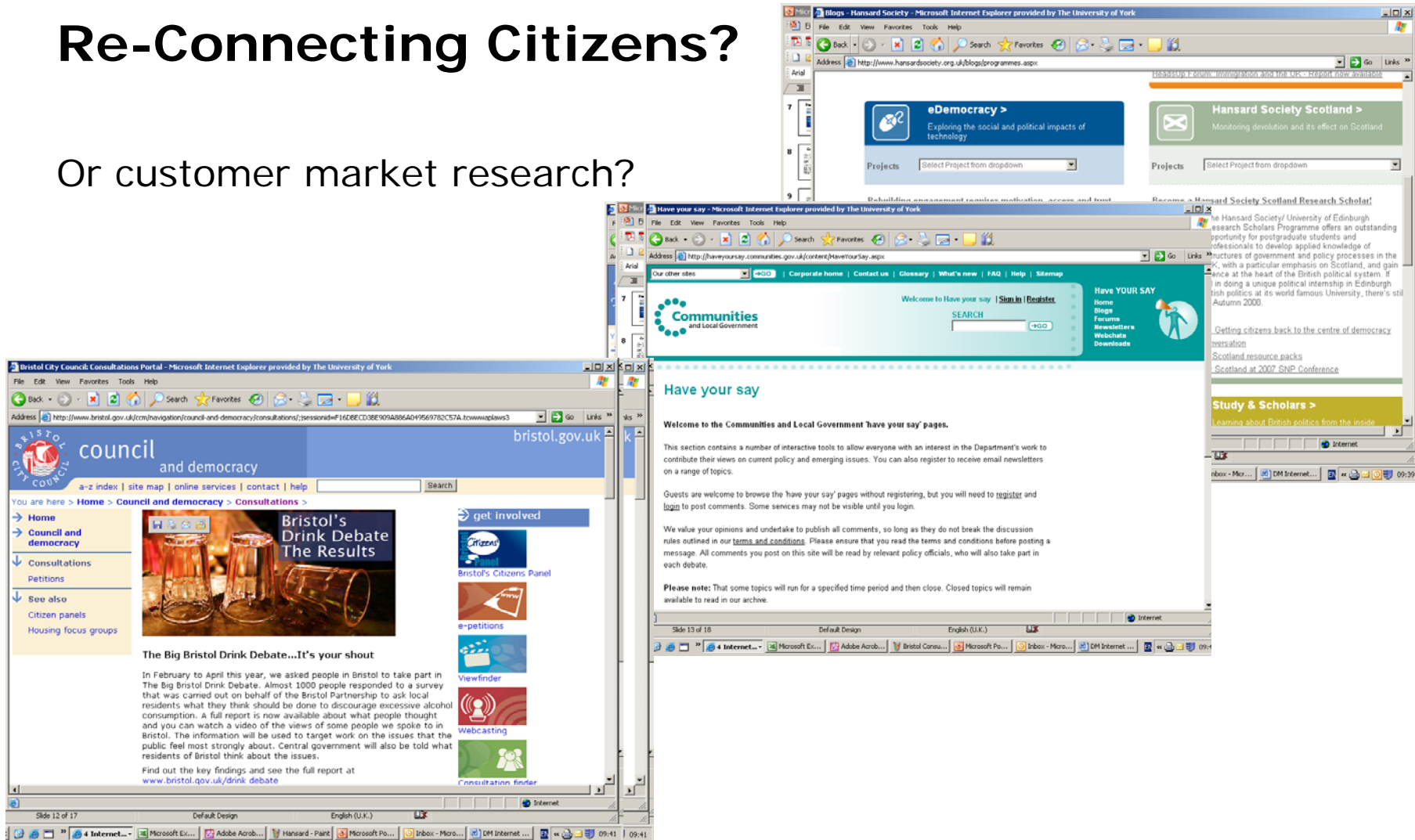
- State
 - e-government
 - re-connecting citizens
 - surveillance state
- Civil Society
 - re-energizing democracy?
 - Community Politics Online?
 - Social movements online
 - Web 2.0 a new public sphere?

E-Government?

- Neo-liberal response to major environmental challenges to post-war Liberal-Welfare-States
- Re-engineering Government? Networked Informational organisations
- Privatisation of public info systems
- de-professionalisation
- Welfare Direct - remote control of populations

Re-Connecting Citizens?

Or customer market research?



Surveillance State?

- Joined-up government - e-government efficiencies
- National databases
- National ID cards
- CCTV
- Politics of fear – security, terrorism, cybercrime, cyberwar

Civil Society: re-energizing democracy?

- Political Parties Online
- Campaigning
- E-voting

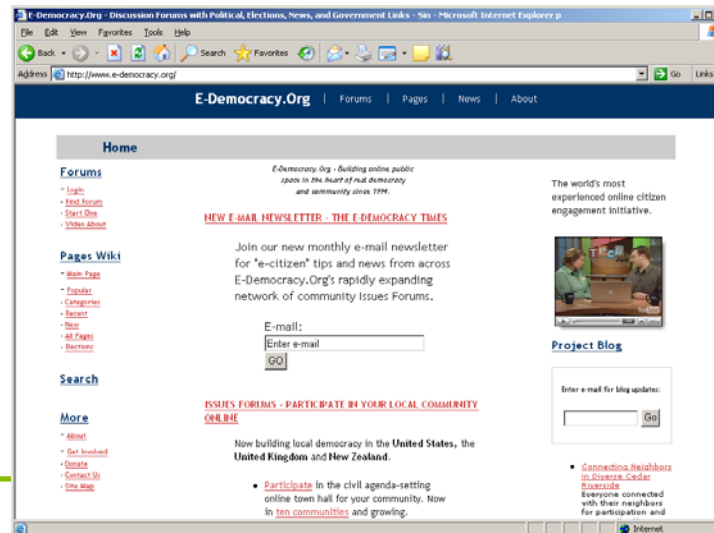
• But...ease of voting does not necessarily lead to active engagement, commitment, democratic learning.



Community Politics Online?

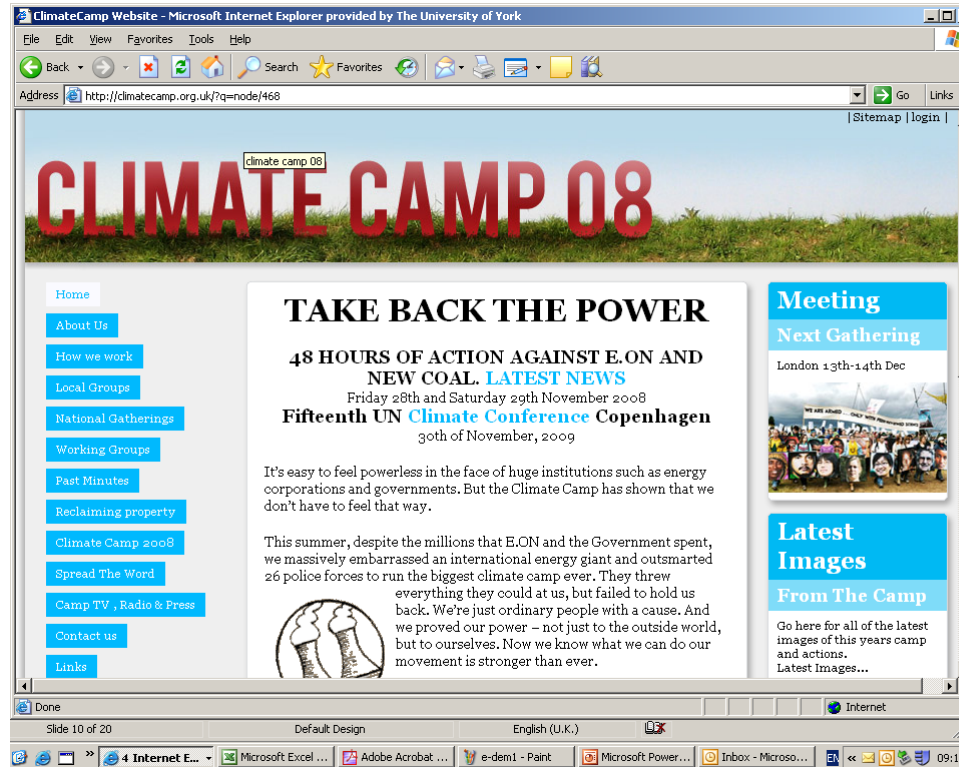
Community Informatics/Community Networking local democratic politics

- Social Sorting
- Splintering Urbanisation and premium spaces
- Fragmentation of civil society preventing deliberation



Social Movements Online?

For many the most important means to develop participatory democracy



Web 2.0 a new public sphere?

The latest battleground for contested notions of democracy

Participatory e-democracy?

- User generated content - citizen journalists
- Mass Collaboration
- Sharing culture & democratic practices emerging?

Liberal democracy

- dataveillance - state captures user-generated content?
- Little brothers watching?
- Social movements will have to compete harder in media-saturated world.