

**Minitrack Title:** Comparative eGovernment

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**Theme:**

eGovernment (electronic government) is a matter of fact in most countries in the world. Here, we can understand eGovernment as the use of information and communication technology (ICT) in government organizations. While the circumstantial setting of eGovernment historically is inherently bound to national characteristics, such as legal traditions, societal values and norms, administrative cultures and regulations, under the conditions of globalization and international agreements eGovernment is becoming more and more inter- and transnational. For example the European Union issues legally binding directives to harmonize e.g. electronic signatures, public procurement or the procedures for founding new companies within its 26 member states. And considering the mobility of European citizens data from financial revenue or social welfare services have to be exchanged between governments in different member states. Similar processes can be observed between the North American countries. In the course of these processes of integration and harmonization many issues are raised concerning to appropriateness of common procedures across different settings. eGovernment research should be able to answer such questions for comparability, but so far is not yet in a state of being able to do so on a sound scientific basis. Rather concepts and methods in eGovernment research do not sufficiently take into account the different conditions for valid and representative comparisons, identifying and explaining communalities and differences.

The aim of the track is to discuss the state of the art as well as the conceptual and methodological challenges for establishing Comparative eGovernment Studies as interdisciplinary field of research with acknowledged standards for appropriate research designs.

For this purpose the track shall examine the following key questions:

1. What is the status-quo of comparative eGovernment research?
2. What are good examples of comparative eGovernment research?
3. Are there any shortcomings/deficits in current (comparative) eGovernment research?

4. What are possible methodological challenges in comparative eGovernment?
5. How can related disciplines, such as comparative management or politics, inform a comparative research perspective in eGovernment?
6. Which next steps could be undertaken in order to strengthen comparative research in eGovernment, for instance, in terms of impact or methodology?

**Possible Topics include (but are not limited to):**

- Cross-country comparisons in eGovernment
- Cross-organizational comparisons in eGovernment
- Cross-sectoral studies in Information Technology, including the public sector
- Methodological papers dealing with issues of sampling, survey design across cultures boundaries
- Comparative studies from other disciplines with implications for comparative eGovernment