



Global Internet Governance: Building Human Capacity through Geographically Distributed Policy Collaboratories

Professor Derrick L. Cogburn, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Information and African Studies

School of Information and
Center for Afroamerican and African Studies
The University of Michigan

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 - Ms. Lingling Zhang
 - Ms. Jessica Goger
 - Ms. Soo-yeon Hwang
 - Mr. Peter Keller-Transburg
 - Ms. Madhu Lakshmanan
 - Mr. Clark Ross Leininger
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 - Dr. Kouassi Nguessan

Overview

- Introduction: Moving from “Pawns” to “Partners”
- Theoretical Model of Global ICT Governance
- Background to the Collaboratory Concept
- Policy Collaboratories and Capacity Development
- Discussion on way forward

GII Governance Policy Processes

- **A multiplicity of complex processes**
 - Formal, informal; public, private
- **Wide range of actors involved**
 - Governments
 - International Organizations (e.g., WTO, ITU, WIPO, ICANN)
 - Experts - telecommunications experts, Internet experts, trade experts, private sector, public sector interest groups, international lawyers
 - Other civil society groupings and individuals

GII Governance Policy Processes

- **Critical role of international conferences in global governance (Cogburn, 2003)**
 - Focal points for contestation in regime formation
 - Nurture global networks of recognized policy experts
 - Policy-actors interact at these global fora through practicing “conference diplomacy”
- **Five stages of conference diplomacy**
 - Pre-conference
 - Conference
 - Drafting
 - Post-conference follow-up
 - Presence in Global Policy Nodal Cities
- **Key components/concepts**
 - Policy-actor networks and epistemic communities

Elite Policy Networks

- Elites are the real actors in global information and communications policy processes (not their institutions)
 - Networks of elite policy experts constitute Knowledge Networks (Clark, 1998; Creech & Willard, 2001) and Epistemic Communities (Haas, 1989; Cowhey, 1983; Cowhey, 1990)
- Elite information policy networks small
 - Many of these elite organizations meet by invitation only and all comments are “not for attribution”
 - Sometimes Include developed and developing country actors as well as civil society
- Wield tremendous influence in information policy formulation at national, regional, and global levels
 - Primarily through their acquired knowledge and expertise



Knowledge in GII Policy Formulation

- Role of knowledge in the policy process
 - Scientific and technical knowledge can influence policy processes
 - “In a highly complex world, where goals are often ill-defined and many links are possible, consensual knowledge can greatly facilitate agreement on the development of an international regime.” (Krasner, 1983, p. 20)
 - “Without consensus, knowledge can have little impact on regime development in a world of sovereign states.” (Krasner, 1983, p. 20)
 - “...it must be widely accepted by policy makers” (Krasner, 1983, p. 20)
- International conferences as integrators



Building a Typology of Policy Conferences

- All international conferences are not equal
 - Role determined by its key characteristics
- Key characteristics:
 - Debating and articulating principles, values, and norms of an emergent regime
 - Rule-making, decision-making, and enforcement
 - Resource allocation



Clusters of Ten Key GII Policy Conferences

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. G7/G8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Information Society and Development (ISAD) ■ Digital Opportunities | <p>6. GIIC Annual Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7 Annual Meetings (DC to Beijing) ■ Invitation Only |
| <p>2. WTDC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1st Buenos Aires ■ 2nd Malta ■ 3rd Istanbul | <p>7. GBDe Annual Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 4 Annual Meetings (Paris to Brussels) ■ Invitation Only |
| <p>3. OECD E-Commerce Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ottawa ■ Invitation Only | <p>8. World Economic Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1971 Annual Meetings - Davos, Switzerland (exception NYC, 9/11) ■ Invitation Only |
| <p>4. ICANN Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 16 Meetings (From Los Angeles to Rio), 4 of them Annual Meeting ■ Three Annual Meetings in CA) ■ Most recent in Amsterdam ■ Approximately four per year | <p>9. Global Knowledge for Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Toronto ■ Kuala Lumpur ■ Invitation Only |
| <p>5. WTO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 4 Ministerial Conferences ■ Most recent in Doha, Qatar ■ Members Only | <p>10. World Summit on Information Society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Geneva (2003) ■ Tunisia (2005) |

Moving from Pawns to Partners

- Existing global governance processes not working for developing countries and civil society organizations
 - Louder Voices, 2003; Cogburn, 2003
- Civil society and developing countries participate in ICT policy processes with little influence
 - Global Contract, 2003
- Frustration with this lack of influence led to walkout at the WTO Cancun meeting
 - Economist, 2003
- United Nations ICT Task Force, and others, exploring opportunities to address these inequalities



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Framework for Global Governance

- **The World-System and the “Anarchy Problematic”**
 - World-System comprised of “sovereign” and “equal” nation-states
 - Also comprised of a range of important “non-state” actors
 - How to achieve governance in an global system of “sovereign” and “equal” nation-states, and amongst competing non-state interests?
- **Problem of international coordination and collaboration**
 - Keohane, 1984; Axelrod, 1985; Oye, 1986; Keohane & Nye, 1989; Ostrom, 1990; and Rosenau & Czempiel, 1992



International Regime Theory

- International Regimes emerge to fill the void
- **International Organization**
 - 1983 Special Issue on International Regimes



“Sets of implicit or explicit principles, norms, rules and decision-making procedures around which actors’ expectations converge in a given areas of international relations (Krasner 1983).”



Structure of International Regimes

- Soft — **Principles:**
 - Beliefs of fact, causation and rectitude
- **Norms:**
 - Standards of behavior defined in terms of rights and obligations
- Hard — **Rules:**
 - Specific prescriptions or proscriptions for action
- **Decision-Making:**
 - Prevailing practices for making collective choices



Examples of International Regimes

- International Shipping
- International Air Transport
- International Post
- International Atomic Energy & Weapons
- International Environmental Issues
- Global Commons (i.e. Seas and Space)
- Commodities (i.e. Diamonds)
- **International Telecommunications**

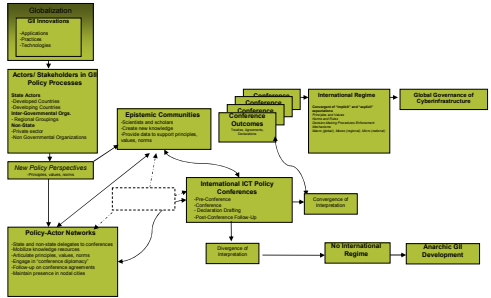


Factors Eroding the Telecom Regime

- **Social Factors**
 - New stakeholders demanding universal access and applications
 - Demand for Information Society applications
 - Maximizing social welfare and benefits of GII
- **Political Factors**
 - Erosion of support for international accounting rate system
 - Hegemonic dominance of the United States
 - WTO Agreement on Basic Telecommunications (ABT)
 - Restructuring of Intelsat: International Accounting Rates
 - Global trend of liberalization and privatization
- **Economic Factors**
 - Drive to harness potential of global electronic commerce
 - Need for Global Information Infrastructure
 - Maximizing the economic benefits of the GII
- **Technological factors**
 - Rapid technological development (e.g. VSATs, VOIP)



Theoretical Model of Global Regime Formation for Cyberinfrastructure



Divergent Visions for GII

- Subtle but distinct visions
 - GII/Global Information Society (GIS)
 - Maximizing **social welfare** and redressing socio-economic inequalities through a range of information society applications and open access
 - GII/Global Electronic Commerce (GEC)
 - Maximizing **economic growth** and development of the socio-technical infrastructure for global electronic commerce and closed access

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The Collaboratory Concept

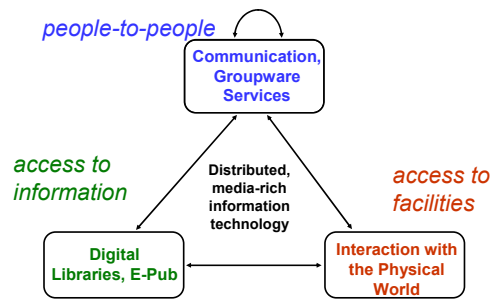
- **Collaboratory**
 - Blending collaborate & laboratory
- 1989 NSF Workshop
 - W. Wulf -- "... a 'center without walls,' in which the nation's researchers can perform their research without regard to geographical location"
- 1993 NRC Report
 - Three illustrative areas
 - oceanography
 - space physics
 - molecular biology
- Many collaboratory initiatives -- NSF, NIH, DOE, NASA, etc.



Dimensions of Geographically Distributed Collaborative Work

		TIME	
		Same	Different
PLACE	Same	Physical Proximity	Walk-in lab, physical BB, phy. library
	Different	Telephone, shared workspace tools, web-conferencing	Electronic mail, conferencing tools

Functions of a Collaboratory



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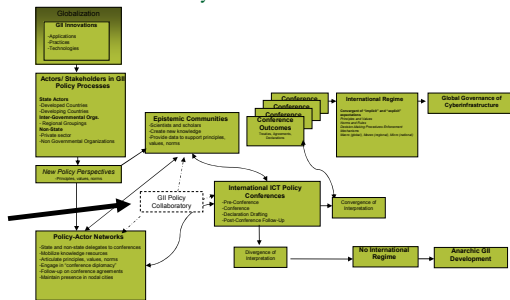


Obstacles to Inclusive Governance (MacLean, 2004)

- International Level
 - Lack of easy, affordable and timely access to information
 - Structure, functioning and working methods of international fora
 - Ineffective use of financial resources available for participation
- National and Regional Level
 - Lack of awareness among decision-makers
 - Lack of technical and policy capacity on ICT issues
 - Weaknesses in national and regional ICT policy processes and Institutions



Theoretical Model of Global Regime Formation for Cyberinfrastructure



The Potential of a Policy Collaboratory

- Design, develop, deploy, and evaluate the application of collaboratory approaches to the international ICT policy domain
- In particular, the goal is to work collaboratively with interested parties to introduce an ICT Policy Collaboratory (IPC) within the WSIS processes in order to enhance the ability for civil society and developing countries to engage in geographically distributed knowledge work
- We aim to work collaboratively with WSIS participants to enhance:
 - Administrative Capacity
 - Substantive Policy Development Capacity
 - Deliberative Capacity
 - Increase the density of policy-actor networks
 - Increase policy-actor network engagement with epistemic communities

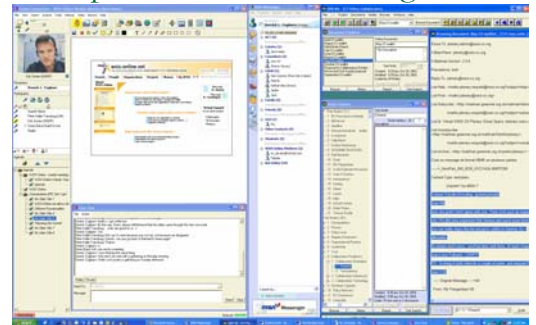


Socio-Technical Infrastructure

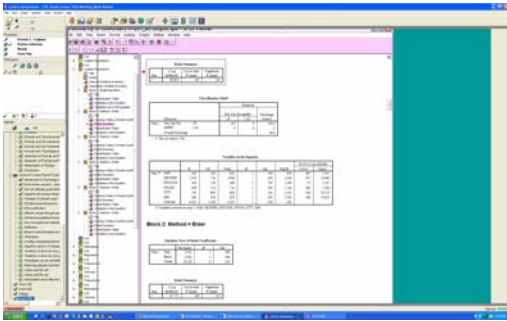
- Social Infrastructure
 - Seminars on key themes
 - Breakout rooms
 - Panel presentations
 - Issue debates
 - Strategy sessions
 - Administrative business
 - Training
 - Longitudinal survey and iterative re-design
- Technological Infrastructure
 - Presence Awareness
 - Instant Messaging
 - Person to Person Voice/Video
 - Web conferencing
 - Voice and video over IP
 - Multi-media content
 - Slides/whiteboards
 - Polling
 - Application sharing
 - Digital Repository
 - Document storage and collaboration
 - Digital library resources and archives



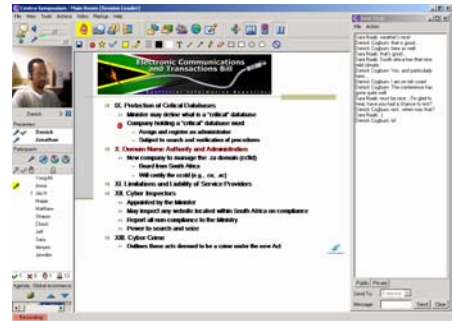
Example of web-conferencing



Another Example



Yet Another Example



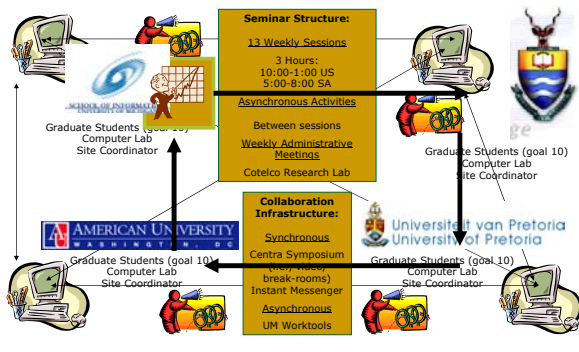
Final Example



Educational Integration: Going Global, Locally

- The *i*PC will be integrated into a geographically distributed seminar
 - *Globalization and the Information Society: Information, Communication and Development*
- Up to six universities in the US, South Africa, and Latin America/Caribbean
- Global virtual teams of graduate students
- Generating and contributing knowledge to the *i*PC as a novice “epistemic community”

Global Graduate Seminar on Globalization and the Information Society



Global Collaborative Learning

- **Working in globally distributed teams**
 - Complex, Cross-National, Collaborative Learning Teams
 - Working in a distributed team with people from all of the participating universities
 - Multiple time zones, cultures, institutions, languages, technology background, infrastructure access, disciplines
- **Representing stakeholders in the World-System**
 - Global and MNCs
 - National Governments (Developing and Developed)
 - Intergovernmental Organizations
 - NGOs and CBOs
- **Decision-making and strategy formulation tasks**
 - Developing approaches to influence global information policy

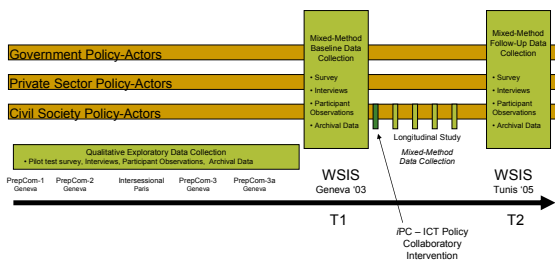
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Philosophical Approach

- Collaborative Action Research
 - Working interactively with the participants
 - Collaborative design of the intervention
 - Meets their own goals and objectives
- Evaluation Research Orientation
 - Understanding the impact of a social intervention

Collaborative Research Design



Thank You!!!

We look forward to our discussions

dcogburn@umich.edu

www.si.umich.edu/~dcogburn

www.cotelco.net