

# CyberParty

## Popular Politics in Digital Times

Friday May 13th 2016, 9am-7pm

Centre For Digital Culture, King's College London

**KING'S**  
*College*  
**LONDON**

### CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

<b>Web:</b> <a href="http://centrefordigitalculture.net">centrefordigitalculture.net</a>		<b>Twitter:</b> @DigiCultureKCL / #CyberParty	
<b>9:00-9:45 REGISTRATION</b> ( <i>Edmund Safra Theatre</i> )			
<b>9:45-11:20 OPENING PLENARY</b> <b>The return of the party in digital times</b> <i>Edmund Safra Theatre</i>			
Birgitta Jonsdottir (Pirate Party)			
Andrew Chadwick (Royal Holloway)			
Bernardo Gutierrez (activist and journalist)			
<i>Moderated by Paolo Gerbaudo (King's College London)</i>			
<b>11:30-13:00 BREAKOUT SESSIONS I</b>			
<b>Panel 1 - Digital Demands: Policies and Cleavages</b> <i>Safra Lecture Theatre</i>		<b>Panel 2 - Digital Organisation: From Movements to Parties</b> <i>Nash Lecture Theatre</i>	
Cristian Vaccari (Royal Holloway)		Bernardo Gutierrez (activist and journalist)	
Maria Haberer (Universidad Obierta de Catalunya)		Marco Deseriis (Northeastern University)	
Alex Williams (City University)		Aaron Bastani (Novara Media)	
Richard Barbrook (Uni of Westminster)		Sofia de Roa (Podemos)	
<i>Moderated by Gordon Ramsay (Policy Institute, King's College London)</i>		<i>Moderated by Emmy Ekhlund (King's College London)</i>	
<b>13:00-14:00 LUNCH BREAK</b>			

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### 14:00 – 15:45 BREAKOUT SESSIONS II

#### Panel 3 - Digital Democracy: Platforms and Processes

*Safra Lecture Theatre*

Francisco Jurado (15M/Podemos)

Francesca Bria (D-cent project, Nesta)

Davide Barillari (5 Star Movement)

Arnau Monterde (Open University of Catalunya - UOC)

*Moderated by Paolo Gerbaudo (King's College London)*

#### Panel 4 - Digital Participation: Ecologies and Practices

*Nash Lecture Theatre*

Stefano Bory (Federico II di Napoli, IRIS-EHESS)

Miguel Ongil (Podemos)

Simon Thorpe (Take Back the City)

Alex Clarkson (King's College London)

Samuele Greene (King's College London)

*Moderated by Photini Vrikki (King's College London)*

### 15:45-17:00 AFTERNOON BREAK / INFORMAL NETWORKING

### 17:00-18:40 CLOSING PLENARY

#### Between crowds and Parties: Digital Communism or Techno-Populism?

*Safra Lecture Theatre*

Jodi Dean (Hobart and William Smith Colleges)

*In conversation with*

Paolo Gerbaudo (King's College London)

Marco Deseriis (Northeastern University)

Emmy Ekhlund (King's College London)

*Moderated by Aaron Bastani (Novara Media)*

### 18:45-19:30 WINE RECEPTION (*River Room*)

The logo for CyberParty, featuring the word "CyberParty" in a white, sans-serif font against a dark, textured background.

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The logo for King's College London, featuring the text "KING'S College LONDON" in a white, serif font on a red background.

## PANEL DESCRIPTIONS

### Opening plenary: The return of the party in digital times

Is the political party making a digital comeback? How are digital parties from the Pirate Party, to Podemos and the 5 Star Movement different from industrial parties? How do they reflect the digital communication ecology and the changing forms of social experience in a digital society?

Birgitta Jonsdottir (Pirate Party), Andrew Chadwick (Royal Holloway), Bernardo Gutierrez (activist and journalist)

*Moderated by Paolo Gerbaudo (King's College London)*

### Panel 1: Digital Demands: Policies and Cleavages

Digital parties raise new demands about a number of new issues that reflect the new conflicts and forms of life and social experience of a digital society as seen in demands for Internet freedom, privacy, transparency, for basic income and for freedom to be put at the service of collective good. The panel will explore to what extent these emerging demands prefigure a new digital cleavage beyond the industrial cleavage that separated socialist and conservative parties.

Cristian Vaccari (Royal Holloway), Maria Haberer (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya), Alex Williams (City University), Richard Barbrook (Uni of Westminster)

*Moderated by Gordon Ramsay (Policy Institute, King's College London)*

### Panel 2: Digital Organisation: From Movements to Parties

Digital parties introduce several innovations in forms of organisation, many of which are strongly informed by the doings of recent protest movement, their use of digital media and their participatory ethos. This panel will discuss the relationship between movements and parties and the new organisational models that emerge at their crossroads, debating the nature of emerging forms of leadership and coordination, of verticality and horizontality.

Bernardo Gutierrez (activist and journalist), Marco Deseriis (Northeastern University), Aaron Bastani (Novara Media), Sofia de Roa (Podemos)

*Moderated by Emmy Ekhlund (King's College London)*

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### **Panel 3: Digital Democracy: Platforms and Processes**

Digital parties are well known for their pursuit of the idea of direct democracy and for their use of various online decision-making platforms to discuss and vote on policies and candidates. These practices prefigure a return in a digital form to mass participation in political decisions. But to what extent are these platforms and processes truly democratic? And when will they enter the political mainstream?

Francisco Jurado (15M/Podemos), Francesca Bria (D-cent project, Nesta) Davide Barillari (5 Star Movement), Arnau Monterde (Open University of Catalunya - UOC)

*Moderated by Paolo Gerbaudo (King's College London)*

### **Panel 4: Digital Participation: Ecologies and Practices**

The diffusion of digital media has profoundly reshaped the experience of political participation and the very space in which people come together to take part in political processes. This has not meant a doing away of face-to-face interactions, but rather a complex intertwining of the online and offline. This panel will look at the changing environment of political participation by looking at the practices of internal participation of various emerging movements and parties from Spain and Eastern Europe. It will ask how the meaning of participation and party participation is changing in a digital world.

Stefano Bory (Federico II di Napoli, IRIS-EHESS), Miguel Ongil (Podemos), Simon Thorpe (Take Back the City), Alex Clarkson (King's College London), Samuele Greene (King's College London)

*Moderated by Photini Vrikki (King's College London)*

### **Closing Plenary: Between crowds and Parties: Digital Communism or Techno-Populism?**

What kind of politics should digital parties pursue? Is communism, anarchism, or leftwing populism the most credible direction for an emancipatory politics in a digital age? And how do these different ideologies and political imaginaries configure different political directions to deal with the new conflicts that are emerging in a digital society?

Jodi Dean (Hobart and William Smith Colleges) in conversation with Paolo Gerbaudo (King's College London), Marco Deseriis (Northeastern University), Emmy Ekhlund (King's College London)

*Moderated by Aaron Bastani (Novara Media)*

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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