CALL FOR PAPERS

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
HUMAN SECURITY AND A CYBER MULTI-DISCIPLINARY FRAMEWORK IN THE EUROPEAN HIGH NORTH

ECoHuCy Project, NIEM / Arctic Centre, University of Lapland
Rovaniemi 24-25 May 2018

INTRODUCTION

Digitalisation is changing societies and human activities rapidly in the European High North (EHN), that is, in the northernmost parts of Finland, Norway and Sweden. National and regional policies aim at facilitating the digital development and/or mitigating its potentially harmful effects, but give little attention to the interests and needs of people and communities experiencing this development. The policies developed in national or regional capitals are aimed at sustaining the overall economic growth, creating cost-efficiency gains, or enhancing national security. Instead, people and communities living in the "developing regions" within the countries are treated mostly as objects of development whose lives are to be improved through digitalisation.

The primary aim of digitalisation and cybersecurity policies should be the advancement of human well-being. The conference will address this recognised gap. In order to justify the claim, the conference focuses on scrutinising digitalisation and cybersecurity from the human security perspective. The concept of human security offers a broader understanding of security by combining the complexity and interconnectedness of old and new security threats. The referent object of security is individuals and/or communities who are suppressed not only because of risks arising out of socio-cultural, environmental and economic stagnation, but also because of inter-linked threats resulting from the practice of technological innovation. Simultaneously, the concept of human security offers a positive approach to understanding security, for instance, as the utilization of a wide range of opportunities to tackle security threats in an integrated manner. The concept thus requires the endorsement of linkages and interdependencies of issues, such as technological development, globalization and human rights, as well as their connectedness to national security.

The EHN entails particular characteristics – delicate balance between the nature and human practices, vast distances, sparse and ageing population, limited resources and infrastructures, harsh climate, vulnerability in the face of environmental threats etc. These characteristics have only partially been recognised in the national frameworks of Finland, Sweden and Norway. Alongside scrutinising the effects of top down policies facilitating and securing digitalisation, it is important to investigate how

people and communities in the region interact amongst themselves. Such interactions will help find out associated needs, interests and fears.

The conference seeks to depict both positive (enabling) and negative (threatening) potentials residing in the regional digital development. It focuses on finding ways to reinforce the positive potentials while diluting the negative ones. It highlights societal cleavages which digitalisation brings forth or intensifies while suggesting ways and means to bridge them. In the process, it treats people and communities living in the EHN as both objects and subjects of digitalisation. The conference also strives to redefine cybersecurity from the human security perspective – making the human being the referent object of cybersecurity, instead of "information", "infrastructure" or "vital societal functions" – as well as to incorporate cyber issues in the human security agenda.

The conference is organized as part of the three-year research project – Enablement besides Constraints: Human Security and a Cyber Multi-disciplinary Framework in the European High North (ECoHuCy) – funded by the NordForsk. The project is led by the Northern Institute for Environmental and Minority Law (NIEM) at the Arctic Centre of the University of Lapland, and in partnership with UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Swansea University (UK) and the Institute for Security and Policy Development - ISDP (Sweden). More information about the project can be found from the link: http://www.arcticcentre.org/EN/projects/ECoHuCy.

OBJECTIVES

The aim of the conference is to discuss a multi-disciplinary, comparative research framework to address human security questions related to the (dis)integrating effects of the digitalisation of societies and increasing the importance of cybersecurity. It constructs a research agenda suited for the purposes of policy-makers, regulators and academia alike, as well as gives the citizens and communities of the EHN a voice in matters related to cybersecurity. The conference will bring together knowledge on two overarching themes – cyberspace as an enabler and cyberspace as a threat in the EHN. The width and focuses of the conference will cover a broader area, which will bring inter / multi-disciplinary in puts in relation to societal integrity and cybersecurity.

Specific themes and possible questions

Theme 1: Interrelation between human security and cybersecurity

Under this theme, contributions will discuss how the concepts of human security and cybersecurity are related and connected to each other. Possible questions include: How can the human security concept become an integral part of cybersecurity? How can the cybersecurity concept benefit from the human security approach? How can cybersecurity and human security be conceptualised as a multi-dimensional analytical framework?

Theme 2: Citizen and civil society perspectives to cybersecurity

Contributions to this theme may examine cyberspace from a community/regional/cross-border perspective as an opportunity and/or a threat. Potential contributions may ask: How does digitalisation in the north affect human security on the individual level e.g. the freedom of choice, availability of services, or increased welfare? How does it impact on the societal level, e.g., how can

digitalisation bolster self-organization, participatory democracy, global awareness, or societal empowerment? Or from a civil society perspective: How are immigration or minority issues affected?

Theme 3: Cyberspace and social exclusion

Contributions to this theme may explore such questions as: How do population groups that do not fall under the traditional vulnerable groups (e.g. children, elderly, marginalized people), such as people living in remote/isolated/sparsely populated places, be affected by digitalisation? What areas of social exclusion triggered or intensified by digitalisation may be most acute in the EHN?

Theme 4: Environmental change and cyber security

Contributions to this theme may discuss how environmental changes threaten information, and related critical infrastructure or how digitalisation may contribute to the management of the impacts of environmental changes. Potential questions include: How does information infrastructure need to be developed so that it can resist the climatic impacts in the EHN? How can digitalisation lead to be an improved management of environmental changes? Can digitalisation help prevent environmental impacts on the societies in the EHN, and how so? Is the population of the EHN more vulnerable to disruptions in an increasingly digitised society? If so, how can this vulnerability be tackled?

Generally speaking, the contributions shall discuss societal cleavages that digitalisation of society brings forth and intensifies, with a particular focus on the EHN. Contributions may also discuss if and how the digital products and services developed on the basis of mainstream requirements are suitable to address the needs of the people living in the EHN. The aim of the contributions shall be to add to a more integrated and multi-dimensional framework which pays attention to the interconnectedness of cybersecurity and human security in the EHN.

PUBLICATION

The papers presented at the conference shall be considered for publication as parts of an edited volume from a high ranking international publisher.

IMPORTANT DATES

Abstract submission:	**January 31, 2018**
Notification of abstract acceptance:	**February 15, 2018**
Paper submission (Draft):	**May 01, 2018**
Conference dates:	**May 24-25, 2018**
Final paper submission:	**September 15, 2018**

SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT TO

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