CALL TO CONTRIBUTE TO
Special issue *Citizenship Studies*
To be submitted by 1 February 2021

1. Title of Special Issue

Digital Citizenship in the COVID-19 Urban Realm

2. Guest Editors

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3. Brief statement about the issue theme

This special issue explores multifaceted roles played by digital citizenship in the context of the political, social and economic aftermath of COVID-19. The planning and governance of the urban environment is increasingly executed and administered by means of platforms, data ecosystems, institutions, and infrastructures, inflating the capacity of data correlation and projection (Hanakata, 2020), multiplying the stakeholders and creating a new topology of inclusion/exclusion, negotiation, participation as well as control (Calzada & Almirall, 2020). Many scholars theorise the concept of citizenship in the digital age through the lens of the evolutionary character of the classical concept of citizenship or by delving into narratives regarding the democratising potential and risks of the Internet (Goode, 2010; Mathiason, 2008; Buente, 2015; McCosker, Vivienne, & Johns, 2016; Dumbrava, 2017).

Beyond this approach, this issue aims at analysing a wide range of citizenship regimes and forms being re-organised by processes of digitization and related urban transformation (Calzada, 2020a; Hanakata & Bignami, 2021 forthcoming). In the context of COVID-19 the production and governance of urban space as well as our daily lives have experienced a rapid digitization, creating new challenges for citizenship (Leszczynski, 2020; Srnicek, 2017). The urban realm is, in effect, the environment where a new standard for digital development in the twenty-first century is set (E. Isin & Ruppert, 2020). Accordingly, the aim of this issue is to delve into the complex interaction of social and political variables that shape offline and online civic practices and their intertwined relation to the urban environment and the way it is produced and governed in the new context of COVID-19.

Shaping the concept of citizenship in hyper-connected societies requires to think across the growing field of research on digital, urban, and political transformations (Hintz, Dencik, & Wahl-Jorgensen, 2019; Gorwa, 2019). It also provides the opportunity to resignify (smart) citizens as techno-political subjects that are different from, but related to, citizens as political subjects of a polity (Calzada, 2018a; Isin & Ruppert, 2015; 2017). In order to arrive at a productive understanding of citizenship and urban space, this special issue investigates recent developments and effects of digitization on cities in order to identify commonalities and differences in diverse geographies. Hence, the urban is a quintessential environment to investigate a swing towards 'pandemic citizenship' (Calzada, 2020b; 2020c) regimes and forms.

4. A rationale justifying the proposal

The COVID-19 pandemic has stressed the growing impact of digital technologies in political and social life. Digital citizenship and the growing influence of platforms on our urban environment has accelerated during the global pandemic, equally affecting countries around the world. Contact tracing applications based on mobile phones are raising vibrant debates and epitomize the magnitude of contemporary trends to incorporate digital computation into the government of urban areas.

After the euphoria over a *digital renaissance* and the internet as a free network of networks, which characterized the dawn of the new millennium, recent years have witnessed growing concerns regarding the algorithmic extractrivism and surveillance effects of digitization

(Barassi, 2017; Wood and Mackinnon, 2019; Cheney-Lippold 2017; Couldry & Mejias 2019; Zuboff, 2019). The pandemic has further accelerated the need to foster a   political and spcoetal   understandings of potentials and risks of 'technopolitics', and of the entrenchment of digital technologies in political and governmental practices (Calzada, 2017; Ruppert, Isin, & Bigo, 2017).

A rights-based approach to technopolitics can be articulated by connecting digital transformation which is reshaping urban spaces to the concept   and institution of citizenship. This raises the question of how   digitization processes are   redefining   citizenship through the incorporation of new digital rights and forms of participation related to the status of a citizen framed in this "new" urban realm. In this process, the urban is challenged as a primary social and political space (Cuppini, 2017; Tomasello, 2017; 2020; Hanakata & Bignami, 2021 forthcoming) and is threatened to be alienated from citizens as a space for participation, exchange   , and action. In order to adapt to the COVID-19 new normal, and establish   a productive understanding of citizenship and urban space, we need   to critically assess   recent developments and the impact of digitization on our cities and identify   commonalities and differences across different geographies   .

This special issue proposal aims to provide a substantial and original contribution in this direction by outlining   an in-depth investigation into how digitization processes in a post-COVID-19 world can bring about new substantive citizenship changing regimes and patterns.

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