

Participants' Motivation Factors and Profile In Crowdsourced Law Reform

Tanja Aitamurto

Stanford University
School of Engineering
tanjaa@stanford.edu

Hélène Landemore

Yale University
Department of Political Science
hlandemore@yale.edu

ABSTRACT

This paper examines participants' motivation factors and identity in crowdsourced policy-making, in which citizens collaboratively participate in online ideation and knowledge creation for policy reforms. Drawing on data from a crowdsourced law reform in Finland, this paper examines the drivers of the participants and their demographic profile. The findings show that the participants typically are male, educated, full-time working professionals with a strong interest in the off-road traffic issue. The motivations to contribute to crowdsourced policy-making are a mix of intrinsic and extrinsic factors. Intrinsic drivers include the desire to do what is one's "civic duty," that is, to participate constructively in a political process, and the desire to deliberate with peers and learn from them. Extrinsic motivations include the desire to have an impact on an issue of importance to participants. The drivers are, in part, similar to those that drive participation in traditional democratic processes like voting, and to those that motivate other volunteer-based large-scale online collaborations, like Wikipedia creation.

Categories and Subject Descriptors

H.5.3 Groups & Organization Interfaces—collaborative Computing, computer-supported cooperative work; J1; Administrative Data Processing, Government

General Terms

Design, Experimentation, Security, Human Factors, Theory,

Keywords

crowdsourcing, crowdlaw, digital democracy, large-scale ideation, knowledge creation, motivation factors, open knowledge, open government, policy-making.

Permission to make digital or hard copies of all or part of this work for personal or classroom use is granted without fee provided that copies are not made or distributed for profit or commercial advantage and that copies bear this notice and the full citation on the first page. Copyrights for components of this work owned by others than the author(s) must be honored. Abstracting with credit is permitted. To copy otherwise, or republish, to post on servers or to redistribute to lists, requires prior specific permission and/or a fee. Request permissions from Permissions@acm.org.

OpenSym '15, August 19 - 21, 2015, San Francisco, CA, USA

Copyright is held by the owner/author(s). Publication rights licensed to ACM.

ACM 978-1-4503-3666-6/15/08 \$15.00

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1145/2788993.2789837>