Knowns and Unknowns about the Internet: Measuring the Economic, Social, and Governance Impact of the Web
November 14-15, 2013, Elliott School of International Affairs, GWU 1957 E Street, NW.
Organizers: Dr. Susan Aaronson, GWU and Karin Alexander, Web Foundation

Conference Summary: Policymakers and netizens alike make broad claims about the effects of the internet upon economic growth, business, democracy, governance, and human rights. In recent years, economists have made significant progress in estimating the impact of the internet on areas such as economic growth, trade, fiscal policy, and education. But the progress made by economists has not been matched by scholars, activists, executives, and policymakers who seek to understand the internet’s effects on governance, cyber security, and on human rights. We don’t know if the Internet has stimulated development or whether the internet has led to measurable governance improvements. Moreover, scholars and activists don’t yet know how to effectively measure Internet openness. We will also weigh the evidence that the Internet is splintering. With this conference, we hope to encourage greater understanding of metrics to assess our new digital age.

TO RSVP for this FREE conference, go to go.gwu.edu /internetecon2013
Thursday, November 14 (Times of Panels May Change)

9:30-11:00 Session I: What Economists Know and Do Not Know About the Internet and Its Impact on the Economy

Dr. Michael Mandel, PPI, Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania
Dr. Michael Kende, Internet Society
Dr. Scott Wallsten, Center on Technology and Policy
Moderator: Matthew Reisman, Microsoft

11:00-11:15- Coffee Break

11:15-12:30 Session II: What We Know and Do Not Know About How the Web is Changing Development

Andria Thomas, Dahlberg
Simon Schropp, Senior Economist, Sidley Austin
Jane Coffin, Director of Development, Internet Society
Brian Bieron, Federal Affairs, eBay
Moderator: Steve Suranovic, GWU

Lunch and Keynote Speaker: 12:30-1:30 Aleem Walji, World Bank Institute,
Delivering on Development: How the Bank uses the Internet and Mobile to Improve Service Delivery

1:45-3:15 Session III: Has the Internet Helped Citizens and Policymakers Improve Governance? Are the Effects Measureable? What New Innovations Might be Helpful?

Bhanupriya Rao, Open Data Barometer, India
Tim Davies, Web Foundation, Boston
Brian Bieron, Federal Affairs, eBay
Moderator: Daniel O’Connor, CCIA
3:15-3:30 - Coffee break

3:30-5:15 Session IV: Measuring the Economic Impact of Broadband
Michael Minges, World Bank
Raul Katz, Columbia Business School, via Skype
Phippa Biggs, ITU, via Skype
John Garrity, CISCO
Moderator: Sonia Jorge, Alliance for Affordable Internet

5:15-5:30 - Break

5:30-6:30 Keynote
Meredith Broadbent - Commissioner, US International Trade Commission
What have we learned from measuring the Internet economy and digital trade?
Adjourn.

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Friday, November 15

9:30-11:00 Session V: Can We Measure the Economic Harm of Cyber-attacks and Cyber-probing? Will the World of Cyber-Espionage, Theft, and Attacks Remain Opaque and Unclear?
Dr. Phillipa Gill, SUNY Stony Brook
Dr. Allan Friedman, Governance Studies, Brookings
Dr. Mark Mateski, Watermark Institute
Moderator: Jessica Meyers, Technology Reporter, Politico
11:00-11:15 - Coffee break

11:15-12:30 **Moderated Discussion: Is the Internet Fracturing? What is the evidence for or against this claim? Are the effects measurable?**

*Laura deNardis*, American University  
*Rob Faris*, Berkman Center, Harvard University

Laura and Rob will present evidence and then lead the audience in a discussion.  
Moderator: *Karin Alexander*, Web Foundation

12:30-1:45 **Luncheon Discussion: A Department of State and Corporate Perspective on Global Governance of the Internet**

*Manu K. Bhardwaj*, Office of Communications and Information Policy, US Department of State  
*John Brueggeman*, ATT

*This session will be off the record.*

1:45-3:15 **Session VI: Can We Measure Internet Openness? If so, what does that allow us to do?**

*Speaker*, *Aaron Forsberg*, U.S. Department of State  
*Joy Liddicoat*, Association for Progressive Communications, New Zealand, via Skype  
*Karin Alexander*, Web Index, World Wide Web Foundation  
*Carolina Rossini*, New America Foundation, invited

Moderator: *Susan Aaronson*

3:15-3:30 **Concluding Remarks: Susan Aaronson, GWU**