

Electronic voting 2006, Bregenz

How Technology Challenges Traditional Concepts of Citizenship : an Analysis of French Voting Rituals.



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Outline

- Introduction : Scope of the presentation
- Online voting in France
- Voting rituals as a symbol of citizenship
- The voter behind the virtual ballot box
- Conclusion

Introduction

- A theoretical (human sciences) approach to voting
- Much emphasis on security the political issues : challenges security (representation, citizenship)
- E-voting can be perceived as a new democratic practices
- Which relationship between the digital citizenship and its material expression



1- Electronic voting in France



1980

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Nedap 2.07

iVotronic (RDI consortium
Univote)

Point& Vote (Indra)

2004





E-Poll



Cybervote

Mérignac



Bregenz

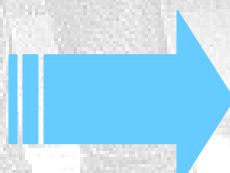
On-line voting : a threat to democracy !

« The electronic vote strikes me as difficult to put into practice, even if remedies are found for the technical problems related to voting security. It questions the underlying principles of democracy : how can one imagine voting outside a booth and risk the voter be subjected to outside influence ? » , T. Vedel. 1999.



A threat to voting rituals

A threat to citizenship



E-voting technology is a symbol of the evolution of citizenship conception

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2- The paper ballot as a ritualization of citizenship



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System of constraints

Set of procedures

Set of beliefs

The dramatic narrative structure

Post-liminal phase



Liminal phase



Pre-liminal phase

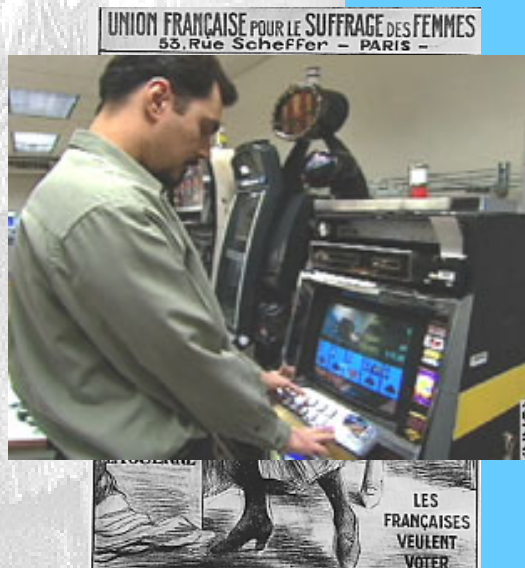


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The voter behind the virtual ballot box

A new relation to time and space

An empowered citizen



A reflexive citizen

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A new definition for citizenship

Model	Administrative	Referendum	Republican	Deliberative
Citizenship concept	Systemic	Liberal	Republican	Neo-Social
Relationship to decision-making	Action taken on application of the law	Action taken after national referendum	Action taken after non-binding consultation	Action taken after legally binding consultation
Technology	E-gov.	E-voting, Fishkin-type polling	Forums, Gateway sites, public debates	Dedicated web sites, on-line debates...

Conclusion

- How relevant are existing voting procedures ?
- Voting technology have a social dimension and a political one : call for a new citizenship, a new representative system.
- A confrontation between systems is healthy for the social fabric : a symbolic transition is to be negotiated.