Welcome to Technology for Accountability Lab!

This handout includes information on the following topics:

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- How to Use Google Translate for Chrome (Pg 2.)
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**Video Modules**

All the course materials for Tech for Accountability Lab are in the form of videos, which you can find in the “Courseware” tab. There are no text books or reading materials for this course. All the videos for the course will be made available at the start of the course, and you can select any topic that you are interested in, and in any order you want. However, each week a different topic will be featured and participants will have the opportunity to pose questions to the presenters.

If you want to view captions, please click on the "CC" button on the video.

Videos include:

- **Anchor Talks**: Overviews of the topic by an expert.
- **Case Studies**: Exemplary project(s) in the topic area.
- **Tool Demonstrations/ Exercises**: Introductions to relevant technology tools.
- **Interviews with Presenters (optional)**: Each week we will record question-and-answer sessions with presenters, using questions posted by course participants to the Piazza discussion boards.
How to Use the Google Translate Chrome Extension

To use GoogleTranslate as a Chrome Extension

1. Visit the Chrome Web Store
2. Find and select the extension.
3. Click Add to Chrome.
4. A dialog will appear to show you data that the extension will be able to access.
5. Click Add to grant the extension access to your data and install the extension.

Session Descriptions

WEEK 1. INTRODUCTION/ STATE OF PLAY

INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE
Sarah Welsh, National Democratic Institute

WHY TRANSPARENCY IS SO IMPORTANT
Larry Diamond, Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law, Stanford University

This primer on politics discusses why transparency is important and how it supports a wide range of accountability measures. Diamond also discusses how engineers can play a part in the democratic process, with a few tips for getting started.

HUMAN CENTERED DESIGN
Terry Winograd Department of Computer Science, Stanford University

Human Centered Design is a mindset and a problem-solving process that focuses on the needs, wants and limitations of the end user (such as the person actually using a mobile-phone app.) Winograd will discuss how to apply this approach when designing transparency tools.

WEEK 2. MONITORING CORRUPTION AT THE GRASSROOTS

TECHNOLOGY FOR ACCOUNTABILITY AT THE GRASSROOTS
Vivek Srinivasan, Program on Liberation Technology, Stanford University
Technology initiatives often ignore marginalized social groups, including people in rural areas. Srinivasan discusses widely available technologies that grassroots organizations and networks are using to promote transparency and accountability.

BEING ‘SUAVE’: USING FEATURE PHONES FOR TRANSPARENCY
Vivek Srinivasan Program on Liberation Technology, Stanford University

Srinivasan shares strategic and practical tips for designing an effective grassroots transparency project using feature phones (aka ‘dumb phones.’)

SMART PHONES FOR SMARTER DATA
Asim Fayaz, UC Berkeley

The ability to monitor governments depends critically on what information is collected and shared by governments in the first place. Fayaz discusses how smartphone technologies are changing government record-keeping, and how that can change the landscape of information for citizens.

WEEK 3. MONITORING LAW-MAKING

HOW CIVIL SOCIETY CAN EXERT PRESSURE AND DRIVE CHANGE
Greg Brown, National Democratic Institute

Civil society has an important role to play in monitoring the work of legislatures and supporting legislative reform and innovation. Brown discusses strategies for parliamentary monitoring, explains how technology is expanding and accelerating that work, and shares best practices from around the world.

BRAZIL’S LEGISLATIVE OPENNESS INITIATIVE
Cristiano Ferri, Hacker Laboratory, Chamber of Deputies, Brazil

In December 2013, Brazil became the first country in the world to create a permanent 'hacker space' inside a legislative body to engage technologists with lawmakers. Ferri discusses how this happened, and what it has meant for legislative openness and citizen engagement.

MONITORING PARLIAMENT FOR CITIZEN ACTION
Ons Ben Abdelkarim, Al Bawsala, Tunisia

Public information itself can spark citizen participation and accountable government. Ben Abdelkarim explains how Al Bawsala has created an online platform (Marsad) that helps citizens understand the work of the Tunisian Parliament through the provision of public parliamentary partisan data. Marsad also monitors municipal work, national budget, and local councils through three main observations linked online to where citizens can browse and see how these observations work and achieve goals.
SAYIT: A TOOL FOR TRANSCRIPTS
Dave Whiteland, MySociety

Meetings are at the heart of institutional decision-making, and transcripts of meetings provide us with a window into the decision-making process. Whiteland explains how to use Say It, a tool that helps us record and analyze transcripts of parliamentary proceedings, court hearings and other records of events.

WEEK 4. MONITORING ELECTIONS AND POLITICAL FUNDING

HOW TECHNOLOGY IS SHAPING ELECTION MONITORING
Michael McNulty, National Democratic Institute

As elections approach, citizens who support democratic values can do much more than register to vote. Nonpartisan citizen organizations in dozens of countries, which often link diverse communities of interest and typically mobilize large numbers of women and youth, conduct independent monitoring of election processes and outcomes, and their work can raise public confidence in an election, deter irregularities and manipulation and expose them if they occur, and furnish important information concerning the integrity of elections. Learn how groups around the world are harnessing the power of citizens and data to ensure clean elections.

MAKING POLITICAL FUNDING TRANSPARENT
Lindsay Ferris, Sunlight Foundation, USA

There are unique challenges facing activists who want to track money in politics and draw conclusions about its influence on policy - not least, a lack of comprehensive and reliable data. Ferris discusses examples of how technology can be used to collect data and map political connections among powerful people.

MAKING POLITICAL FUNDING TRANSPARENT IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC
Vitezslav Titl, EconLab, z.v. Prague, University of Siegen, KU Leuven
Miroslav Palansky, Institute of Economic Studies, Charles University in Prague

This case study looks at how an NGO in the Czech Republic gathers, analyzes and presents information on political finance.

USING TECH TO ENSURE FREE & FAIR ELECTIONS
Manel Lahrabi, Mourakiboun, Tunisia

To increase citizen confidence in Tunisia's historic 2014 elections - the nation's first independently organized parliamentary and presidential polls - Mourakiboun
conducted advanced statistically-based observation of voting, counting, and tabulation proceedings. Ultimately, Mourakiboun's findings confirmed the official results, thereby bolstering the credibility of the electoral process. Mourakiboun publicized its findings and raised citizen awareness through a web platform, social media, and other media efforts throughout the election period.

**WEEK 5. GETTING CITIZENS INVOLVED**

**CROWDSOURCING IN POLICY MAKING AND PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING**

**Tanja Aitamurto**, Stanford University

Aitamurto provides an overview of two recent democratic innovations involving technology: crowd sourcing in policy making and in budget formulation. She discusses how citizens can engage with governments using technology, and how this engagement can shape the functioning of governments.

**OUR CITY. OUR BUDGET. OUR FUTURE.**

**Whitney Smithers** City of Calgary

The City of Calgary in Canada took elaborate measures to engage citizens in the budget-making process. Smithers discusses how the city demystified the budget making process and combined online tools with offline events to involve citizens.

**HOW TO WRITE A CONSTITUTION IN THE 21ST CENTURY**

**Finnur Magnusson** Meniga

In 2012 Iceland conducted a bold experiment that allowed citizens, on a mass scale, to contribute to the re-writing of the country’s constitution. Magnusson explains how citizens were engaged in such a complex process.

**ENABLING CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE**

**Hind Kabaj**, SimSim-Participation Citoyenne, Morocco

SimSim-Participation Citoyenne created [Nouabook.ma](http://Nouabook.ma) to enable citizens to ask text and video questions to their elected representatives, and to help the latter to be more responsive and engaging. In the process, SimSim has developed a variety of mechanisms to foster citizen participation in politics - from online town hall meetings to a youth ambassadors program.

**WEEK 6. MONITORING THE PRIVATE SECTOR**

**TRANSPARENCY AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR**

**Alasdair Roberts** Harry S. Truman School of Public Affairs, University of Missouri
Over the last few decades there has been a restructuring of governments worldwide, with private actors playing an increasing role in service delivery and policy formulation. Roberts explains how these changes pose a threat to transparency and discusses the latest ideas on how to open public-private partnerships to greater scrutiny.

CROSS-BORDER CORRUPT FINANCIAL FLOWS: HOW TO STOP THEM
Maggie Murphy Transparency International

Trusts, incorporated companies and other private legal entities can occupy an important place in the web of grand corruption. Murphy discusses measures for making the ownership and control structures of corporations transparent in order to promote public integrity.

AN INTRODUCTION TO OPEN CORPORATES
Vivek Srinivasan Program on Liberation Technology, Stanford University

Making private entities more transparent presents important legal challenges, but technology can assist with some of the practical challenges. Srinivasan will introduce OpenCorporates, a leading tool for obtaining information on corporate ownership and finances internationally.

WEEK 7. TELLING STORIES WITH DATA

INTRODUCING BEDFELLOWS
Derek Willis New York Times

Willis explains how he built software to comb through mountains of data, and how he uses data analysis to find and tell compelling stories for a general audience.

OPEN CONTENT LICENSING AND TRANSPARENCY
Timothy Vollmer Creative Commons

Good communicators, who understand complex or highly technical information and can explain it to a general audience, play a critical role in shaping public opinion and mobilizing citizen advocates. These information mediators or ‘infomediaries’ should have the permission to process and redistribute data without roadblocks. Vollmer offers a primer on data licensing and why it is important for transparency activists in the digital era.

Projects

In addition to the video presentations, participants will have the option of initiating and engaging in group projects. We welcome a wide range of collaborative projects, including:

1. **Implementation of existing tools**: A number of open source tools are available for transparency and accountability work. Participants could work in
a group to implement a tool simultaneously, fostering peer learning and collaborative problem-solving.

2. **Coding:** Participants could engage in collaborative coding to create, improve or adapt software for transparency and accountability. These projects would engage participants with technical skills, but activists, lawyers, students and others would also have much to contribute and learn.

3. **Advocacy documents:** Teams could crowdsourced a variety of advocacy documents around transparency, open data, regulation of ICT and other topics - for example, a set of global principles, a petition, a compendium of best practices, or a strategic communications plan.

4. **Model funding proposal:** Young entrepreneurs could collaboratively write funding proposals for tech-for-transparency projects. Please note that this course will not lead to any project funding directly; however, this exercise could help entrepreneurs receive feedback and produce compelling proposals.

Participation in a project is required to earn a Statement of Accomplishment with Distinction. More information about projects will be provided in the Piazza discussion boards and through course updates.

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**Statement of Accomplishment**

This course offers statements of accomplishment to participants who are interested in gaining one. The minimum requirement for getting a statement is to **watch at least 10 video lectures** in the course. To receive credit, click the checkbox below each video to confirm that you have finished watching that video. Each video will earn you 5% of the grade, and you have to watch at least 10 in order to get 50%, which is the minimum required to get a statement of accomplishment.

**Getting a ‘Statement of accomplishment with distinction’**

The course also offers a statement of accomplishment with distinction to those who engage in projects. A participant can participate in a project independently or can contribute to a group. We anticipate that a lot of the learning in this course will happen through engaging with your fellow participants. The projects will be assessed and supported through peer evaluation, based on specific guidelines from the instructors.

**Note:** Participating in a project is a must to earn a statement with distinction. Video completion contributes up to 70% of the total grade, with the remaining 30% from project participation.