

Digital Government- Citizen Engagement

Where we've got it wrong,
and how to get it right.

AMANDA CLARKE

Amanda Clarke is a PhD student at the Oxford Internet Institute at the University of Oxford, an instructor at Carleton University's School of Public Policy and Administration, and a Trudeau Scholar.

The earliest research on and practice of Internet-enabled government-citizen engagement merely digitized traditional mechanisms of citizen participation. That is, rather than thinking imaginatively about the web's capacity to transform traditional and produce new mechanisms by which citizens participate in the work of government, writers and practitioners looked to "consultations", "townhalls", and "deliberations", simply added the words "electronic", "virtual", and "digital" to the front of them, and called it a day.

In this lecture, Amanda Clarke argues that traditional theories of offline government-citizen engagement are to blame for this narrow approach to digital engagement. She claims that this narrowness undercuts space for innovative government-citizen partnerships that capitalize on new forms of social production made possible by the digital age, but which do not conform to the models of citizen engagement inherited from earlier theory and practice.

Monday, February 4th, 2013

TIME: 5:00-7:00 PM **PLACE:** Canadiana Gallery (CG150), 14 Queen's Park Crescent West **REGISTER:** <http://clarke.eventbrite.com/#>

