Barcelona CrowdLaw Conference
Institutionalizing Collective Intelligence

Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona
October, 10-11th, 2019

Background:

CrowdLaw (https://crowd.law/) is the simple but powerful idea that parliaments, governments and public institutions work better when they boost citizen engagement, leveraging new technologies to tap into diverse sources of information, judgments and expertise at each stage of the law and policymaking cycle to improve the quality as well as the legitimacy of the resulting laws and policies. Traditional forms of political participation were usually conceived either as mechanisms for aggregating and infusing direct inputs into the representative system—in the form of referendums, popular initiatives, and recalls—, or as indirect inputs of control over such representative system—such as lobbying campaigns, protests in the streets, or deliberation in the public sphere.

CrowdLaw promotes direct engagement and participation, but it does it with the aim of enhancing the quality of law and public decision-making. The term "CrowdLaw" was coined by The Governance Lab (The GovLab) at New York University in September 2014 in the framework of an international online conference that grouped practitioners from around the world experimenting with tech-enabled public engagement in Parliaments.

In March 2017, The GovLab organized a second conference called "CrowdLaw: People-Led Innovation in Urban Lawmaking" that took place in the Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center in Northern Italy and grouped academics and practitioners of all over the world to discuss how to define Crowdlaw as a new analytical framework. Among other outputs, the attendants to that conference contributed to write the **CrowdLaw Manifesto**, a seminal document that enumerates the 12 main principles that should guide online, participatory law-making and all forms of crowdsourced legal and pubic decision making (find here the Manifesto: https://crowd.law/manifesto-90d2d3fa8082)**.** Additionally, in that meeting in Bellagio a world-wide **CrowdLaw Community** was born, constituting the first international network around this specific area of interest.

This **Barcelona CrowdLaw Conference: Institutionalizing Collective Intelligence** is an attempt to i) expand the CrowdLaw Community, and ii) continue the task of reviewing what we should do to ensure its institutional and social impact.

Program

<u>Venue</u>**:** Room 24.S18, Mercè Rodoreda Building, Ciutadella Campus

Thursday, October 10th

9.30 – 9.45: Welcome and inauguration

9.45 – 13.00: *Block I: Crowd-Constitution-Making*

Leading questions: 1) How can constitution-making be effectively crowd-sourced in order to maximize the components of collective intelligence? 2) Can we identify a set of necessary or contributing conditions under which citizen involvement exert a positive impact in the quality of the results by making them more intelligent? 3) What lessons can we learn from past experiences, even failing ones, such as the Icelandic case, in order to design and institutionalize better and practically effective processes of crowd-constitution-making in the future?

> 09.45 – 10.15: "How Constitutional Crowd-Drafting Can Enhance Legitimacy in Constitution-Making?", by **Carlos Bernal Pulido** (Justice of the Colombian Constitutional Court and University of Macquarie, Australia)
> 10.15 – 11.00: Panel:
> * "The Icelandic crowdsourcing constitutional initiative of 2010-2013", by **Katrin Oddsdóttir** (Lawyer and Reykjavik University)
> * "Current developments in the Icelandic popular constitutional movement", by **Jón Oláfsson** (University of Iceland)
> * "Constitutional crowdsourcing and constitutional games", by **Róbert Bjárnasson** (Citizens Foundation, Iceland)
> 11.00 – 11.20: Coffee break
> 11.20 – 13.00: Q&A and open discussion on Crowd-Constitution-Making

13.00 – 14.00: Lunch break

14.00 – 19.00: *Block II: Crowd-Legislation, Crowd-Regulation and Crowd-Justice*

Leading questions: 1) Which are the best practices of CrowdLaw applied to legislation and regulation, and what makes them successful examples? 2) What can we learn from past experiences, for good and for bad, that we can apply to future designs of CrowdLaw processes and the institutionalization of collective intelligence? 3) Can we identify precise ways in which digital technologies may help us to strengthen collective intelligence, and which are the main threats we face in that respect?

> 14.00 – 14.45: First Panel:
> * "The Open Justice Program in Argentina", by **Héctor Chayer** (Ministry of Justice, Argentina).
> * "Can We Have Bots for CrowdLaw", by **Cristiano Ferri** (LabHacker, Parliament of Brazil)
> * "CrowdLaw for Congress in the US", by **Beth Noveck** (TheGovLab)
> 14.45 – 16.15: Q&A and open discussion
> 16.15 – 16.45: Coffee Break
> 16.45 – 17.45: Second Panel:
> * "Digital Democracy and CrowdLaw in LatinAmerican and the Caribbean", by **Christiana Freitas** (University of Sao Paolo)

- "Rethinking Online Discussions", by **Christian Meter** (Heinrich Heine University of Düsseldorf)
- "Crowd-Regulations at a transnational level", by **Indira Latorre** (University of Bosque, Colombia)
- "CrowdLaw, Institutional Trust, and Effectiveness", by **Cecilia Güemes** (Autonomous University of Madrid)

17.45 – 19.15: Q&A and open discussion

Friday, October 11th

9.00 – 11.00: *Block III: CrowdLaw and Cities*

Leading questions: 1) How can cities specifically benefit from CrowdLaw and collective intelligence? 2) What have we learned from past experiences that may help us in the design of CrowdLaw processes and the institutionalization of collective intelligence? 3) How may cities better contribute to push for a global agenda of CrowdLaw and the institutionalization of collective intelligence?

09.00 – 10.15: Panel
- "The Decidim Platform in Barcelona", by **Antonio Calleja López** (UOC and Decidim, Barcelona City Council)
- "Building Trust Through Accountability", by **Michael Donaldson**, (CTO Barcelona City Council)
- "Crowdsourcing for your city's strategy. Learning from Belgian cities – first steps", by **Karel Verhaeghe** (CitizenLab)
- "Citizens as Auditors: Collective Intelligence for Law and Policy Evaluation at the Local Level", by **Victòria Alsina** (TheGovLab-NYU-Harvard University)
- "The challenge of Crowdsourcing the international alliances of cities", by **José Luis Martí** (UPF)

10.15 – 11.45: Q&A and Open Discussion

11.45 – 12.15: Coffee Break

12.15 – 13.30: *Block IV: Further developments*

Leading questions: 1) What conclusions can we extract from this meeting? 2) How should we proceed from here to extend the CrowdLaw principles and strengthen the CrowdLaw community in the next future? 3) How can we build bridges with other knowledge communities and civic movements close to us?

13.30: Closure

Participants:

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