

**Call for Papers**  
**Special Issue on Policy Informatics**  
***The Innovation Journal: The Public Sector Innovation Journal***  
**www.innovation.cc**

Edited by Erik Johnston and Yushim Kim, ASU Center for Policy Informatics

The Innovation Journal is announcing a Call for Papers for a symposium issue on *Policy Informatics: The Intersection of Technology, Information, and Public Policy*. We define “policy informatics” as the use of information and technology to understand and enable policy decisions within complex social systems. Decision makers and policy analysts face a constant influx of information, conflicting values, and political pressures. There is a growing need to better navigate the vast amounts of complex information, for identifying patterns, for building justifications, for ensuring transparency of influences, and for accounting for uncertainty and risk. The intent of the symposium issue is to introduce scientific and methodological advances to tackle challenging social problems in various policy areas. Through the issue, and a Spring 2010 special research workshop on policy informatics at the Center for Policy Informatics at Arizona State University, we hope to take the first steps in establishing a community of practice on policy informatics. We want to raise two initial questions on the research agenda: (1) what is the potential of advances in information and social technologies to make a positive and lasting impact on public policy and (2) what are ways that we can bridge the gap between scholars and policy-makers using advances in technology. This special issue will consider a host of methods including case studies from the United States and abroad, analytic work on challenges and opportunities, technical capacity assessments, and we particularly encourage process models that demonstrate potential for two-way communication with policy stakeholders. Papers selected for this issue could address one or more of the following types of questions:

1. What are demonstrably effective ways to extract useful patterns of information from complex policy landscapes?
2. How can technology advances in the commercial and social spheres help tackle public policy problems in novel ways?
3. How can we better prepare for potential unintended consequences of policy choices using advanced information technology?
4. In what ways can an informatics approach improve policy-making on specific issues like health care?

Please inform the Editor of interest and if possible provide an Abstract. The deadline for submission of completed papers is September 1, 2010. Editors will submit the papers to a blind review process (minimum 2 reviewers for each paper, reviewed without identifiers) and provide feedback to authors in the late fall or early winter, with a view to publication in 2011.

Send submissions to:  
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