



Tanja Aitamurto

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Management Science and Engineering

Bio

BIO

I am a social scientist influenced heavily by engineering sciences. My work examines civic technologies for informing, empowering, and connecting people. The empirical contexts range from virtual, mixed, and augmented reality to large-scale online collaboration systems, such as applications of collective intelligence in open and participatory journalism, deliberation and policy-making, civic crowdfunding, and applications of artificial intelligence for civic use. I develop interdisciplinary theoretical frameworks by drawing on social psychology, democratic theory, computer science, and information systems. My work has been recognized with a number of awards and published in top journals, such as *New Media & Society*, *Design Issues*, *Information, Communication & Society* and *International Journal of Communication*.

I am a postdoctoral scholar in the Department of Management Science & Engineering at Stanford, where I work in the Crowdsourced Democracy Team. I received my PhD in social sciences at the School of Communication, Media and Theatre at the University of Tampere in Finland in 2014. Previously I worked as a postdoctoral Brown Fellow and as Deputy Director of the Brown Institute for Media Innovation at Stanford. During my doctoral studies, I studied as a visiting student researcher at Stanford and at UC Berkeley

In my dissertation “Collective Intelligence in Open Journalism: Power, Knowledge and Value”, I introduced a theory of open journalism. My dissertation received the Gene Burd Outstanding Dissertation in Journalism Studies Award from the International Communication Association (ICA). Drawing from several empirical cases, I showed how the building blocks of collective intelligence—a large number of participants and cognitive, demographic, and socioeconomic diversity within the crowd—both support and challenge journalistic norms, practices, and values through open journalism.

My studies often have unique in-the-wild experiments, in which I collaborate with media organizations and local and national governments. I have designed and developed several online platforms and processes for crowdsourced journalism and policymaking and advised local and national governments in participatory policymaking projects. Currently I'm working with the city of Palo Alto on a crowdsourced urban planning strategy process.

More about my work at www.tanjaaitamurto.com

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Best Paper Award, Academic MindTrek, ACM (2016)
- Gene Burd Outstanding Dissertation in Journalism Studies Award, Journalism Studies Division, International Communication Association (ICA) (2016)
- Notable Paper Award, Advancement of Artificial Intelligence Conference on Human Computation and Crowdsourcing (HCOMP) (2014)
- Proclamation for work in participatory budgeting, City of Vallejo (2014)

- Top Student Paper Award, Journalism Studies Division, ICA (2014)
- Best Academic Paper Award, Conference on Innovation Journalism, Stanford (2008)
- Best Master's Thesis of the Year Award, Finnish Association for Public Policy (2004)

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- Doctor of Philosophy, University Of Tampere , Social Sciences (2014)
- Master of Public Policy, University Of Jyvaskyla , Social and Public Policy (2007)
- Licentiate of Philosophy, University of Jyvaskyla , Humanities: Journalism Studies (2005)
- Master of Arts, University of Jyvaskyla , Humanities: Finnish Language and Literature (2004)

STANFORD ADVISORS

- Ashish Goel, Postdoctoral Research Mentor
- Ashish Goel, Postdoctoral Faculty Sponsor

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Unmasking the Crowd: Participants' Motivation Factors, Expectations, and Profile in a Crowdsourced Law Reform** *Information, Communication & Society*
Aitamurto, T. K., Landemore, H., Saldivar Galli, J.
2016
- **Civic CrowdAnalytics: Making Sense of Crowdsourced Civic Input with Big Data Tools** *Academic MindTrek*
Aitamurto, T., Chen, K., Cherif, A., Galli, J. S., Santana, L.
2016: 86–94
- **Crowdsourcing as a Knowledge Search Method in Digital Journalism: Ruptured Ideals and Blended Responsibility.** *Digital Journalism*
Aitamurto, T.
2016; 8 (2): 280–297
- **Collective Intelligence in Law Reforms: When the Logic of the Crowds and the Logic of Policymaking Collide** *49th Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences*
Aitamurto, T. K.
2016: 2780–2789
- **Crowdsourced Deliberation: The Case of the Crowdsourced Off-Road Traffic Law in Finland** *Policy&Internet*
Aitamurto, T. K., Landemore, H.
2016; 8 (2): 174–196
- **The Open Paradigm in Design Research** *DESIGN ISSUES*
Aitamurto, T., Holland, D., Hussain, S.
2015; 31 (4): 17-29
- **Motivation Factors in Crowdsourced Journalism: Social Impact, Social Change, and Peer-learning.** *International Journal of Communication*
Aitamurto, T.
2015; 9: 3523–3543
- **Five Design Principles for Crowdsourced Policymaking: Assessing the Case of Crowdsourced Off-Road Traffic Law in Finland** *Journal of Social Media for Organizations*
Aitamurto, T., Landemore, H.
2015; 2 (1): 1-19
- **Crowdsourcing for Participatory Democracies: Efficient Elicitation of Social Choice Functions** *Proc. 2nd AAAI Conference on Human Computation and Crowdsourcing (HCOMP)*
Lee, D., Goel, A., Aitamurto, T., Landemore, H.
2014

- **Open innovation in digital journalism: Examining the impact of Open APIs at four news organizations** *NEW MEDIA & SOCIETY*
Aitamurto, T., Lewis, S. C.
2013; 15 (2): 314-331
- **Balancing Between Open and Closed: Co-Creation in Magazine Journalism** *Digital Journalism*
Aitamurto, T.
2013; 1 (2): 229-251
- **The Impact of Crowdfunding on Journalism: Case Study of Spot.Us, a Platform for Community-Funded Reporting.** *Journalism Practice*
Aitamurto, T.
2011; 5 (4): 429-445.