CYBERSPACE GOVERNANCE – DISSECTING ACCOUNTABILITY STRUCTURES

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Motivation and Background

- Understand how accountability structures unfold in cyberspace

- Cyberspace governance is characterized by a multitude of actors, issue areas, and fora involved in processes of steering

- Accountability structures are often diffuse in settings of this nature

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Research Questions

- **A:** Conceptually, what are the key accountability challenges confronting cyberspace governance?

- **B:** Employing an actor-based perspective, what types of accountability can emerge in the context of cyberspace governance?

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A: Accountability Challenges

- The problem of many hands

- The profusion of issue areas

- The hybridity of institutional arrangements

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B: Actor-Based Types of Accountability Emergent in Cyberspace Governance

- Hierarchical/state accountability

- Corporate/private sector accountability

- Collective/community accountability

Conclusion

- Cyberspace governance presents researchers and practitioners with tangled webs of accountability relationships of different texture and design

- Accountability structures are contested by the very elements that are constitutive of cyberspace governance

- Explicit and deliberate rehashing of accountability structures may be required

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