Technology—the use of it, exposure to it, protection from it, and even the absence of protection from it—has direct influence on the access people do, or do not have to the full rights and benefits of citizenship. For example, advances in health care technology have long had direct implications for citizenship, with access to medical interventions in birth and death at the center of debates over the rights of the unborn and the dying.

The revolution in information technology and widespread use of social media raises a different set of issues in the study of citizenship. Widespread use of social media has disrupted and displaced the public sphere, reshaping how citizens engage each other, transforming how they exercise their rights as citizens by doing such things as recording police encounters or mobilizing to protest or raising awareness of issues. Social media use has also been shown to be susceptible to exploitation and a spread of misinformation that undermines the meaningful exercise of citizenship rights.

Among the many questions raised for citizenship studies by uses of technology: What have been the consequences and what are the implications of advances in artificial intelligence for how the boundaries of citizenship are drawn? How are rights, obligations, and privileges shaped by uses of different kinds of information technologies such as mass media, print media, and social media? In what ways does citizen access to infrastructure technologies such as electricity, sanitation, or transportation shape experiences of freedom and public power? How do uses of computing, information, and infrastructure technologies shape not only citizens’ relationship to public power but also the ways societies constitute and conceive of both the state and the citizen?

The Center for the Study of Citizenship invites proposals for its 16th Annual Conference in Citizenship Studies. We welcome proposals that examine such topics as:

- Theories that critically engage the dynamics of technology, sovereignty, and citizenship;
- Relationships among technology, authority, power, or responsibility.

Although the program committee will give preference to proposals directly relevant to the theme, proposals evaluating all aspects of the study of citizenship are welcome. We invite panel proposals, individual submissions, and suggestions for book sessions focused on exciting new scholarship in the field of citizenship studies.

To apply, please submit your abstract, a 500-word bio, and your CV online at: www.clas.wayne.edu/Citizenship/Abstracts.

Please submit your materials no later than 5:00pm EDT on Friday, September 28, 2018.

We will notify applicants of their acceptance to present work at the conference by October 15, 2018. We will invite presenters to submit full papers for further review by our advisory board.

International Scholars:

Through the generosity of Center donors, The Keast Lion Fund provides a limited number of scholarships for international scholars. These funds will be distributed on a competitive basis. Scholarships include three nights of lodging and a discounted conference registration rate for the participant, but no transportation. If you wish to be considered for a scholarship, please indicate it in your abstract submission.

For international scholars who submit proposals by September 3, 2018, the program committee will make early decisions about acceptance and scholarships by September 17, 2018.

Center for the Study of Citizenship
Wayne State University
citizenship@wayne.edu
clas.wayne.edu/citizenship

Steering Committee:
Richard Marbach, Conference Chair
Marc W Kruman, Director