

**UNITAR "State of the Art" workshop
series**

**Curriculum Building workshop: e-
Democracy"**

**"Interdisciplinary
methodologies and the study of
e-democracy"**

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Quantitative and Qualitative methodologies

- Positivist epistemology
 - Quantitative methodologies
 - Survey Research
 - Aggregate Government statistics
 - Quantitative methodologies
 - In-depth case studies

Quantitative and Qualitative methodologies

- Interpretative/Hermeneutic Epistemology
 - Qualitative methodologies
 - Discourse analysis
 - Participant Observation

The role of ICTs in research methods

- The internet as a useful tool for improving existing methods and techniques
 - Inexpensive web surveys
 - Massive data bases
 - Archiving Data
 - Increased Text Sources
 - Electoral activity

The role of ICTs in research methods

- Real-time changes in the web of contacts among people
- Individuals' records
- Accessible governmental databases
- replication movement in academia

The role of ICTs in research methods

- Web analysis: The study of the behaviour of website visitors
- Quantitative technique (web statistics)
- Auxiliary

ICT's not just as a means but a social phenomenon to be studied

- The internet is part of our social world
- New social phenomena
- New research questions

- New Research Agenda in Social Science

Internet and Social Science Research Agenda

- Political Sciences: E-democracy, i-voting, e-governance
- Social Psychology: Emerging Social Groups (e.g. Virtual Communities)
- Sociology: Social Inequality and digital Divide
- Anthropology: Symbols/Emerging symbols ☺ :)
- Linguistics: e-language (jargon)

In sum

- New social phenomena, that are linked associatively rather than linearly both in time and in space
- Necessity for interdisciplinary communication and dialogue
- Need to overcome existing traditional dichotomies
- Creativity and imagination