



# re:thinking tomorrow



EMPOWERMENT

GRASSROOTS MOBILISATION

ONLINE ACTIVISM

CITIZEN JOURNALISM

## The Transformative Power of Online Activism

The lightning spread of communication technologies has enabled the dissemination of information and ideas that mainstream media have been unwilling or unable to publish. While the Internet empowers individuals to engage in advocating, mobilising and reacting on behalf of the disempowered, it also raises significant issues of privacy and hate speech when used by the wrong people for the wrong reasons.

Are we at a stage where we can argue that online activism challenges the balance of power between governments and citizens, giving rise to a new form of deliberative and participatory democracy? Or is the transformative power of virtual civil disobedience blown out of proportion? To what extent is the Internet a level playing field where gender, ethnicity or class do not matter? What kinds of legal and political instruments are available to governments and corporations in their efforts to control the Internet? This panel discussion will bring together four female jury members of The BOBS Award 2015 who will seek answers to these and other questions regarding Internet activism, citizen journalism and grassroots mobilisation.

re:thinking tomorrow is a discussion series hosted by Deutsche Welle and the Hertie School of Governance.

### INVITATION re:thinking tomorrow

#### The Transformative Power of Online Activism

**Monday, 4 May 2015 | 6:00 p.m.**

Hertie School of Governance | Friedrichstraße 180 | 10117 Berlin

**DISCUSSION** **Alissa Wahid**, National coordinator of the GUSDURian Network Indonesia  
**Renata Avila**, Member of Creative Commons Board of Directors and a member of the Web Index Science Council, Guatemala  
**Rohini Lakshané**, Researcher at the Centre for Internet and Society, India  
**Georgia Popplewell**, Writer and media producer from Trinidad and Tobago

**MODERATION** **Dilek Kurban J.D.**, Marie Curie Fellow, Hertie School of Governance

The event will be followed by a reception.

If you wish to attend please register by 30 April 2015.

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