

Inclusion in online participation in practice (Gefion Thuermer, King's College London)

I will discuss the anticipated and actual effects of the introduction of new online participation processes in the Green Party Germany on the participation of party members, specifically with regards to inclusion and gender. The Green Party has a strong commitment to grass-roots participation and gender equality, which is one of the drivers behind their push for online participation tools and makes it an ideal case to investigate the effects of such tool introductions.

Through a mixed methods approach, using observations, interviews and surveys, I find that while positive effects on participation on many groups were expected, only very few of these effects materialised in practice. On the other hand, new, unexpected differences in participation have arisen as a result of these new processes.