# E-Government Adoption in the EU: Theoretical and Methodological Challenges in the Study of the Digital Divide

by Georgia Foteinou

Dept. of Politics and International Relations
University of Oxford, UK
Wolfson College, OX2 6UD
georgia.foteinou@politics.ox.ac.uk

## Abstract

The study of e-Government adoption has generally overlooked the digital divide: not only this referring to the digital divide within countries, but also this between countries and between potential versus actual adoption. This paper supports the view that this lack of empirical investigation occurs because the existing literature utilises mostly e-Commerce research models to explain e-Government adoption and fails to incorporate institutional and political factors in the analysis. The EU exhibits a significant divide between potential and actual usage as citizens seem reluctant to engage to e-Government for which the literature has not offered answers yet. This paper presents the methodological challenges which are related with this macro-level phenomenon and suggest a theoretical framework for examining the causes which lead in growing scepticism.