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Business Models for ICT systems and services
Smart Cities
Digital platforms

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Press/Media**De toekomst van het internet**

Pieter Ballon

11/02/10

1 Media contribution

De Vrije Universiteit Brussel bouwt mee aan een gebruiksvriendelijke(re) informatiemaatschappij

Pieter Ballon

1/02/08

1 Media contribution

Een algoritme voor de democratie

Pieter Ballon, Ike Picone & Christophe Busch

12/01/20

1 Media contribution

VUB bouwt draadloos campusnetwerk op mesh-topologie

Pieter Ballon

12/05/08

1 Media contribution

Woke-discussie zonder karikaturen gezocht

Pieter Ballon & Christophe Busch

19/04/21

1 Media contribution

Short Resumé

I am Professor on the digital economy at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, teaching at the Communications Sciences and Business Economics departments. I am the director of imec-SMIT (Studies in Media, Innovation and Technology) at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel. This research centre aims to make digital technologies society-proof. With over 100 researchers, it is among the largest centres in social sciences dedicated to digital innovation in Europe. SMIT also contains knowledge centres on media literacy (Mediawijs) and societal impacts of artificial intelligence (KC Data & Maatschappij). From 2017-2021, I held the VUB Academic Chair on Smart Cities. I am also Scientific Lead Humanized Technologies at imec, the worldwide R&D centre on nanotechnology and digital systems, representing the social science research carried out by research teams from several universities.

I hold a PhD in Communication Sciences (VUB) and a Master degree (licentiate) in Modern History (KU Leuven). My PhD dealt with business model innovation and power in mobile communications. I have since then published extensively on the political economy of digital platforms in media and urban contexts. My current research interests include the evolution of digital platform models, the benefits and drawbacks of smart cities, and serendipity in a digital context.

I have written over 60 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters, over 100 published conference papers and have delivered over 50 keynotes. My research is impactful, as testified by a high h-index and citation rate. I sat on the editorial board of 3 academic journals and have been co-editor of 8 special issues of academic journals and of 2 academic books. I have won 5 scientific awards (Veli-Pekka Niitamo Best Paper Award 2015, ICE-B Best Paper Award 2013, Elaine Lawrence Best Paper Award 2013, ICIN Best Presentation Award 2008 and IEEE DYSPAN Best Policy Paper Award 2008). Over the years, I have been the coordinator and promotor of over 100 research projects within VUB and imec, both at European and Flemish levels.

I have co-founded several organisations dedicated to the social sciences. I am co-founder and scientific director of the Hannah Arendt Institute (2020), dedicated to disseminating facts and best practices on citizenship in diverse, urban contexts. It was set up by the VUB and the University of Antwerp, and presently involves all Flemish universities. I am also co-founder of the Brussels institute on AI for the Common Good (FARI), the European Network of Living Labs (ENoLL) and the Open & Agile Smart Cities network (OASC).

Next to my academic research, I try and play a role as opinion maker on digital platforms and their impact on economy and society. I wrote a number of popular-scientific books on cities and technology, including "Smart Cities: Hoe slimme technologie onze steden leefbaar houdt en slimmer maakt" and "De Stad is een Boek"(LannooCampus). From 2016-2019, I was appointed by the Brussels regional government as Brussels Smart City Ambassador. In 2017, I was awarded the prize for Societal Valorisation by the VUB research council, meant for researchers who have a strong societal impact. In 2020, I was one of the winners of the KVAB annual prize for scientific communication. In that same year, I was appointed by the Flemish government as one of the 9 experts advising on the societal relaunch post-Covid-19.