





OPEN PEER REVIEW

The Social Contract Model in the Digital Era: Revisiting Rousseau and Locke

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The manuscript would benefit from a more detailed presentation of the case studies mentioned. Specifically, it would be helpful to include more concrete examples and statistical evidence supporting the effectiveness of e-government platforms and digital privacy legislation. Expanding these sections would not only strengthen the argument but also provide readers with a clearer understanding of how Rousseau's and Locke's theories can be applied in practice.

While the manuscript does a commendable job of discussing Rousseau's and Locke's theories individually, a more detailed comparative analysis highlighting the specific scenarios where one theory may be more applicable than the other in the context of digital governance would be valuable. This analysis could provide nuanced insights into the practical application of these theories.

The manuscript touches upon digital literacy but does not delve deeply into its role in facilitating the effective participation of citizens in digital-era governance. A more detailed discussion on this topic, including strategies to improve digital literacy across various demographics, would enhance the manuscript's comprehensiveness.

The discussion on the global dimension of the social contract in the digital era is brief. Expanding this section to include challenges and opportunities in international digital governance, such as data sovereignty and cross-border data flows, would enrich the manuscript.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The ethical considerations section would benefit from a more in-depth analysis, particularly regarding the ethical dilemmas posed by emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and machine learning in digital governance. Discussing these topics would provide a more comprehensive view of the challenges ahead.

The manuscript would benefit from integrating more recent studies and data to support its arguments. This would not only update the literature review but also provide a more robust evidence base for the manuscript's claims.

Some sections of the manuscript use technical jargon that may not be accessible to all readers, particularly those from disciplines outside of political science or information technology. Simplifying or providing brief explanations for these terms would make the manuscript more accessible.

The manuscript presents a strong case for the relevance of Rousseau's and Locke's theories in the digital age. However, it could be strengthened by addressing potential counterarguments or criticisms regarding the applicability of 18th-century political theories to 21st-century digital governance challenges.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.