

# Failed yet successful: Learning from discontinued civic tech initiatives

**Andrea Hamm**  
andrea.hamm@fu-berlin.de  
Weizenbaum Institute for the  
Networked Society  
Germany

**Yuya Shibuya**  
yuya-shibuya@csis.u-tokyo.ac.jp  
The University of Tokyo  
Japan

**Teresa Cerratto Pargman**  
tessy@dsv.su.se  
Stockholm University  
Sweden

**Roy Bendor**  
R.Bendor@tudelft.nl  
Delft University of Technology  
Netherlands

**Nicolai Brodersen Hansen**  
nbha@cs.aau.dk  
Aalborg university  
Denmark

**Christoph Raetzsch**  
craetzsch@cc.au.dk  
Aarhus University  
Denmark

**Masahiko Shoji**  
masahiko.shoji@cc.musashi.ac.jp  
Musashi University  
Japan

**Christoph Bieber**  
christoph.bieber@cais-research.de  
Center for Advanced Internet Studies  
Germany

**Mennatullah Hendawy**  
mennatullah.hendawy@gmail.com  
Ain Shams University  
Egypt  
Center for Advanced Internet Studies  
Germany

**Gwen Klerks**  
g.klerks@tue.nl  
Eindhoven University of Technology  
Netherlands  
University of Technology Sydney  
Australia

**Ben Schouten**  
bschouten@tue.nl  
Eindhoven University of Technology  
Netherlands

# CHI23

Hamburg, Germany | Hybrid  
April 23-28, 2023  
reCHInnecting



# Welcome & Opening Remarks

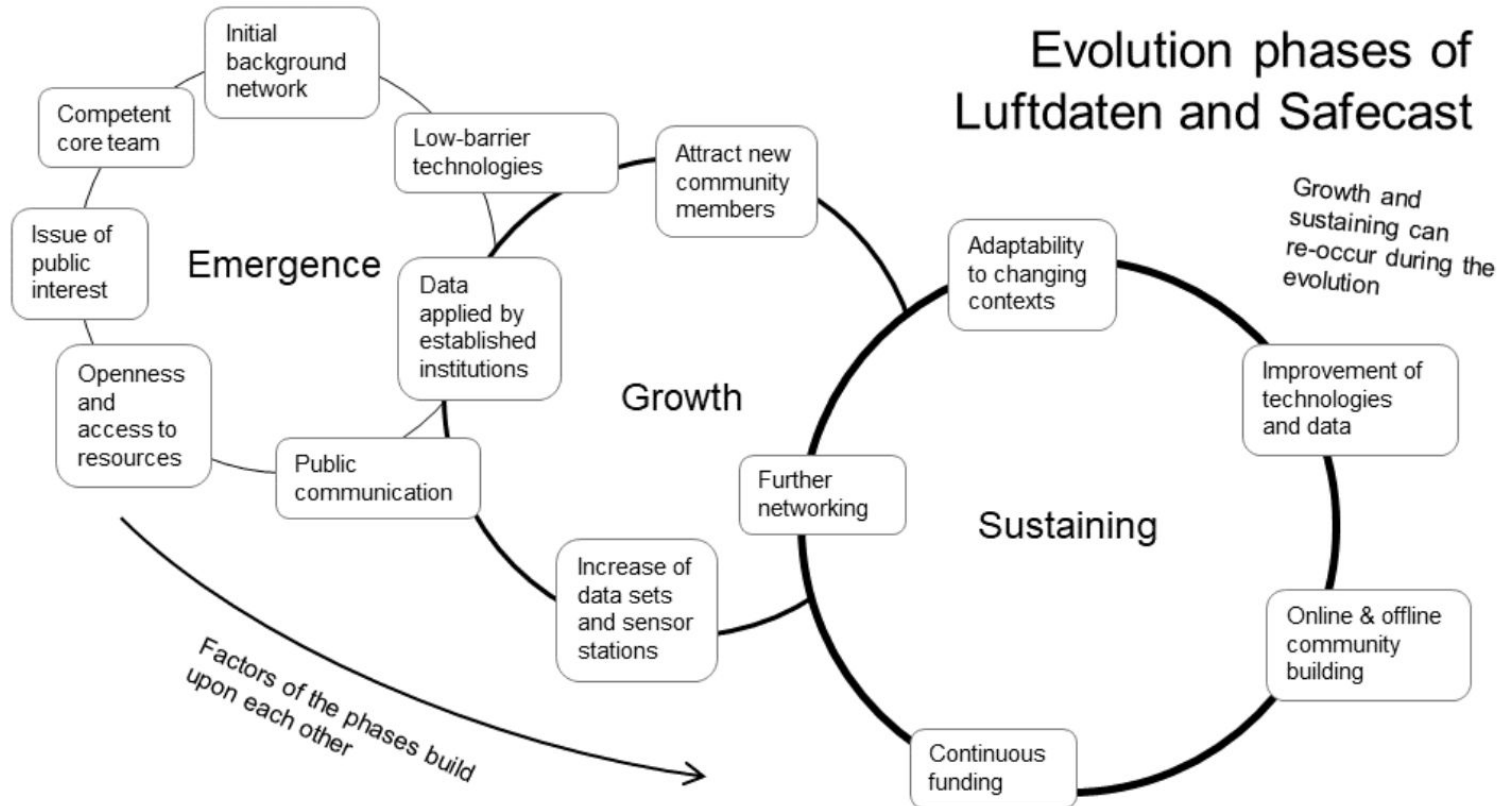
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# What makes civic tech initiatives to last over time?

## Dissecting two global cases: Luftdaten & Safecast



Hamm, A., Shibuya, Y., Ullrich, S., & Cerratto Pargman, T. C. (2021). **What makes civic tech initiatives to last over time? Dissecting two global cases.** In *Proceedings of the 2021 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems* (pp. 1-17).

# Civic Tech in Journalism

## Formation

- Activist: Identifying matters of common concern
- Journalistic: Planning a story
- Scientific: Grant-seeking

## Data Work

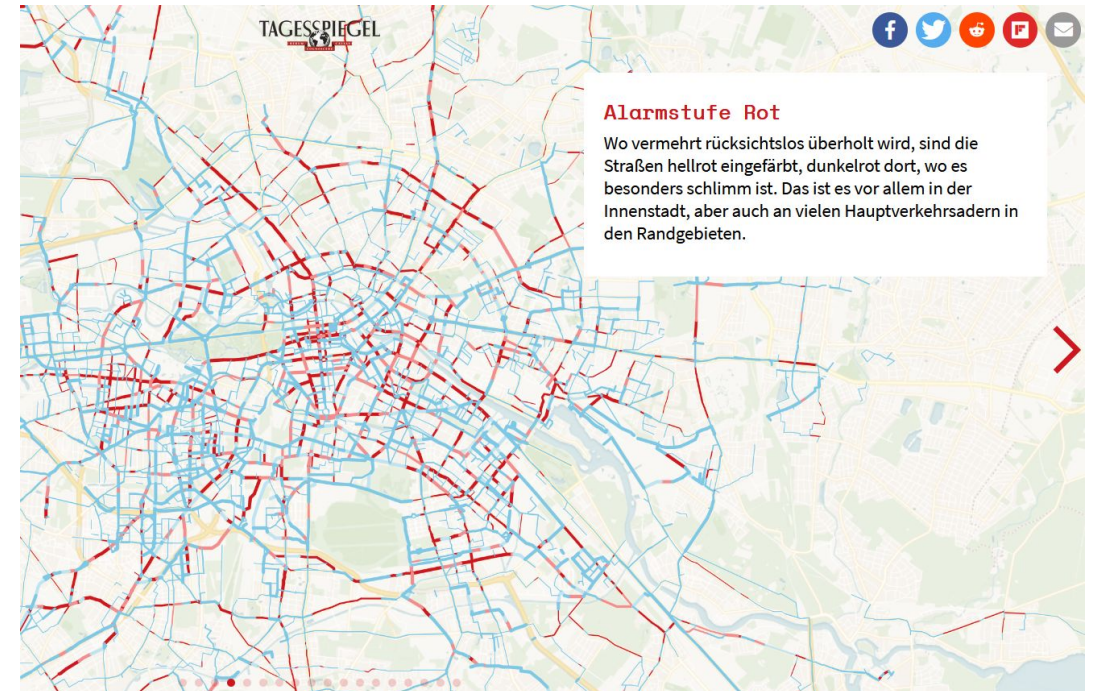
- Activist: Mobilizing the community
- Journalistic: Working with the audience
- Scientific: Designing, measuring, analyzing

## Presentation

- Journalistic: Creating professional media products

## Ramification

- Activist: Raising awareness, foster change
- Scientific: Providing knowledge for society



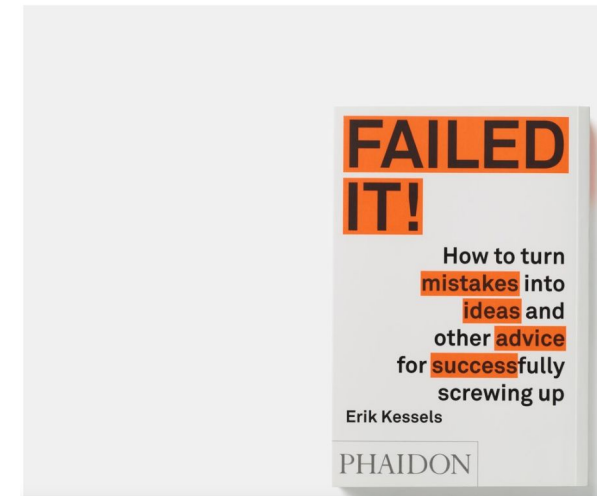
Hamm, A. (2022). New Objects, New Boundaries: How the “Journalism of Things” Reconfigures Collaborative Arrangements, Audience Relations and Knowledge-Based Empowerment. Digital Journalism, 1–20. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21670811.2022.2096088>

Screenshot from:  
<https://interaktiv.tagesspiegel.de/radmesser/kapitel8.html>

# Why do some civic tech initiatives fail? Could discontinued initiatives still contribute to social change and the growth of digital civics?

- **Failed:** the project was completed but did not achieve its goals, but it can also mean that it was not completed at all.
- **Unsustainable:** it is short-lived but still successful.
- **Discontinued:** it was not completed, but also that it was not extended beyond its original duration.

## FAILED IT!



Source: <https://www.erikkessels.com/failed-it>



# Schedule

- 10:10 Position statements
- 10:40 **Coffee break** ☕
- 11:00 Sharing circle: Your "failure" story
- 12:30 **Lunch break** 🍴
- 14:00 Group exercise 1
- 15:00 Groups' presentations
- 15:30 **Coffee break** ☕
- 15:45 Group exercise 2
- 16:45 Groups' presentations
- 17:15 Outlook & Closing remarks
- 18:00 **Dinner** 🍴

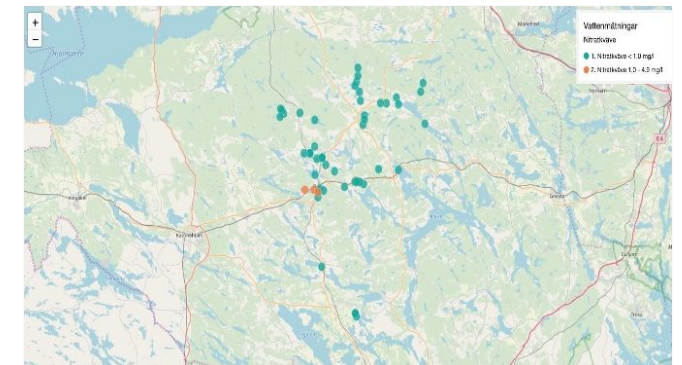
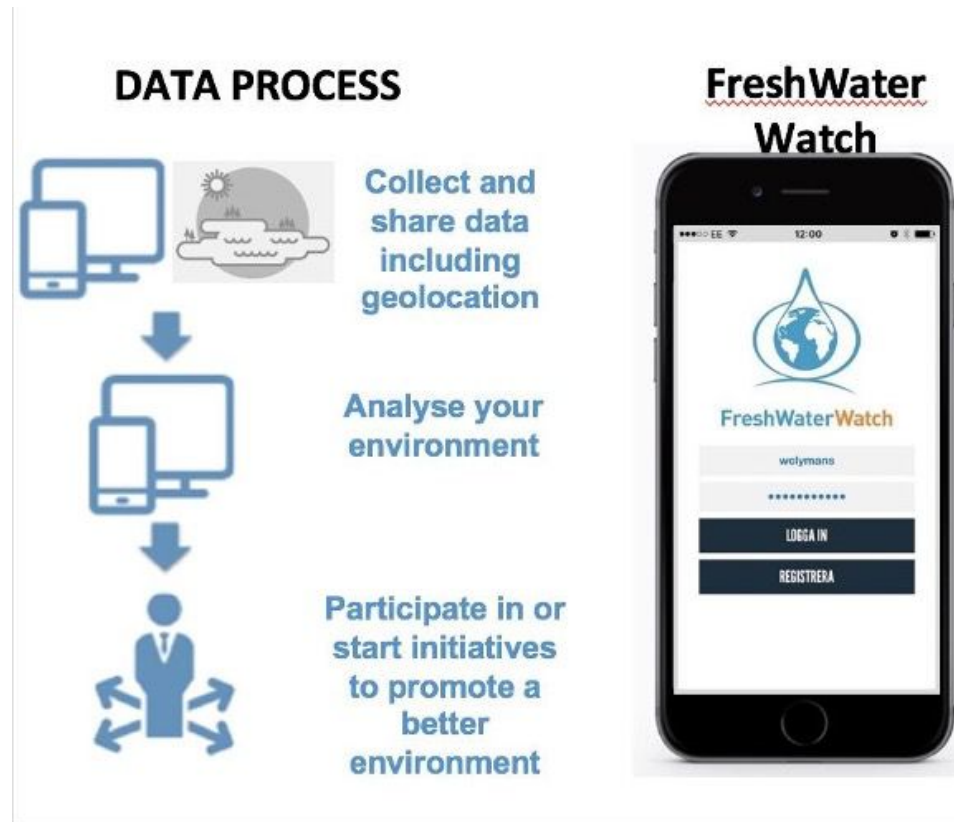
# Invitation for Collaboration



# Appendix



# Designing a Citizen Observatory focused on Water Quality Conservation in Sweden



# From Data to Discourse

Communicating Civic Data As a Participatory Structure for Sustainable Cities and Communities

## From Data to Discourse

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How Communicating Civic Data Can Provide a Participatory Structure for Sustainable Cities and Communities

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**Yuya Shibuya<sup>1</sup>, Andrea Hamm<sup>2</sup>, Christoph Raetzsch<sup>3</sup>**

*<sup>1</sup>The University of Tokyo, [yuya-shibuya@iii.u-tokyo.ac.jp](mailto:yuya-shibuya@iii.u-tokyo.ac.jp)*

*<sup>2</sup>Weizenbaum Institute / Technical University Berlin, [andrea.hamm@tu-berlin.de](mailto:andrea.hamm@tu-berlin.de)*

*<sup>3</sup>Aarhus University, Department of Media and Journalism Studies, [craetzsch@cc.au.dk](mailto:craetzsch@cc.au.dk)*

