## PROVISIONAL PROGRAM

### Public Discussion on
### « Virtualization of Politics: Challenges and possibilities»,
### 18 April 2019, 18:00-19:30, The Stanley Hotel
(salon ViKos, 1 Odisseos str, Karaiskaki Square, Athens, Greece, near to metro Metaxourghio).

**Head of the Public discussion**
Dr. Christ`l De Landtsheer, Conference Leader, International Hellenic conference of political science: New Challenges, New Answers (HEPO2019) & Professor, director Political Communication Research Unit, University of Antwerp, Belgium.

**Speakers**
1. Dr. Helen Shestopal, Conference Leader, International Hellenic conference of political science: New Challenges, New Answers (HEPO2019) & Professor, Chair of Psychology and Sociology of Politics, Lomonosow Moscow State University. '………'
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**Description**
The rapid development of new forms of political communication, since the last decade of the XX century, have brought new phenomena in politics. Virtualization of politics is one of them. It can be tackled as separation of images and contents of politics and politicians from their carriers and their autonomous existence that double political reality. Today we see various spinning technologies that manipulate public opinion and substitute real politicians by their virtual images. This is not just a harmless embellishment of political reality that change people's political optics, but a political tool that deprive citizens from the freedom of choice. This phenomenon can become particularly dangerous in times of political crisis, instability and uncertainty.

Another problematic situation offered by this virtualization, that is quite acute nowadays, is the demonization of particular politicians or countries and the creation of enemy images. These images, from Kim Chen In, to Putin or Trump, can have nothing in common with political reality. Nevertheless, they are multiplied by Media and from some moment start to exist independently from their carriers.

Undoubtedly, virtualization of politics have also positive traits and possibilities.

This public discussion aims to examine the actual condition of political virtualization, the ways that such practices are followed, positive and negative aspects, practices to ameliorate the actual situation. To be more particular, we will discuss, but not limited to, issues as:

* The nature of virtualization of politics that came with new forms of political communication
* Psychological mechanisms of political perception in time of virtualization of politics;
* Possibilities of molding of a citizens' critical perception of political information.

Politicians, political journalists, political psychologists, academics and students in politics and communication from different countries and universities can contribute to this discussion, taking into account national traditions and cultures.

The working language will be English, without interpretation. This event is free of charge but pre-registration is required. If you are interested in participating, please contact Mrs Evi Naki at info@coming.gr