

The Decoupling of Political Judgment and Responsibility in Digitally Mediated Communication

Jooyeol Kim
Independent Researcher

Accepted as a reflections/viewpoint paper at EGOV-CeDEM-ePart 2026 / IFIP EGOV 2026, Governance, Digital Legislation & Policy Track, Athens, Greece.

Abstract

Digital political communication increasingly enables politically consequential judgment to form before responsibility for that judgment can be effectively recovered. Existing literatures on misinformation, polarization, and populism illuminate important parts of this terrain, while platform-risk regulation addresses adjacent concerns. However, none places responsibility recoverability after accelerated public judgment at the centre of analysis. This paper introduces Political Scam as an analytic shorthand for a recurring communication configuration in which political judgment is induced, responsibility recovery is weak, delayed, or obstructed, and the same configuration persists across episodes. It distinguishes traceability from recoverability, arguing that actors may remain identifiable across mediated chains while responsibility becomes institutionally ineffective in practice. The paper then translates the concept into five diagnostic dimensions—judgment induction, responsibility recoverability, correction asymmetry, persistence, and coupling—to support structured comparison across mediated political environments. The framework contributes an *ex ante* governance lens for assessing whether platform-mediated environments preserve workable conditions for correction, accountability, and responsibility recovery once public judgment has already been accelerated.

Keywords: Political Scam, responsibility recoverability, digital governance, platform amplification, disinformation policy.

Track: Governance, Digital Legislation & Policy

Note: This is a public record excerpt for an accepted reflections/viewpoint contribution. The camera-ready version may differ.