How are citizens involved in smart cities? Analysing citizen participation in Japanese “Smart Communities”

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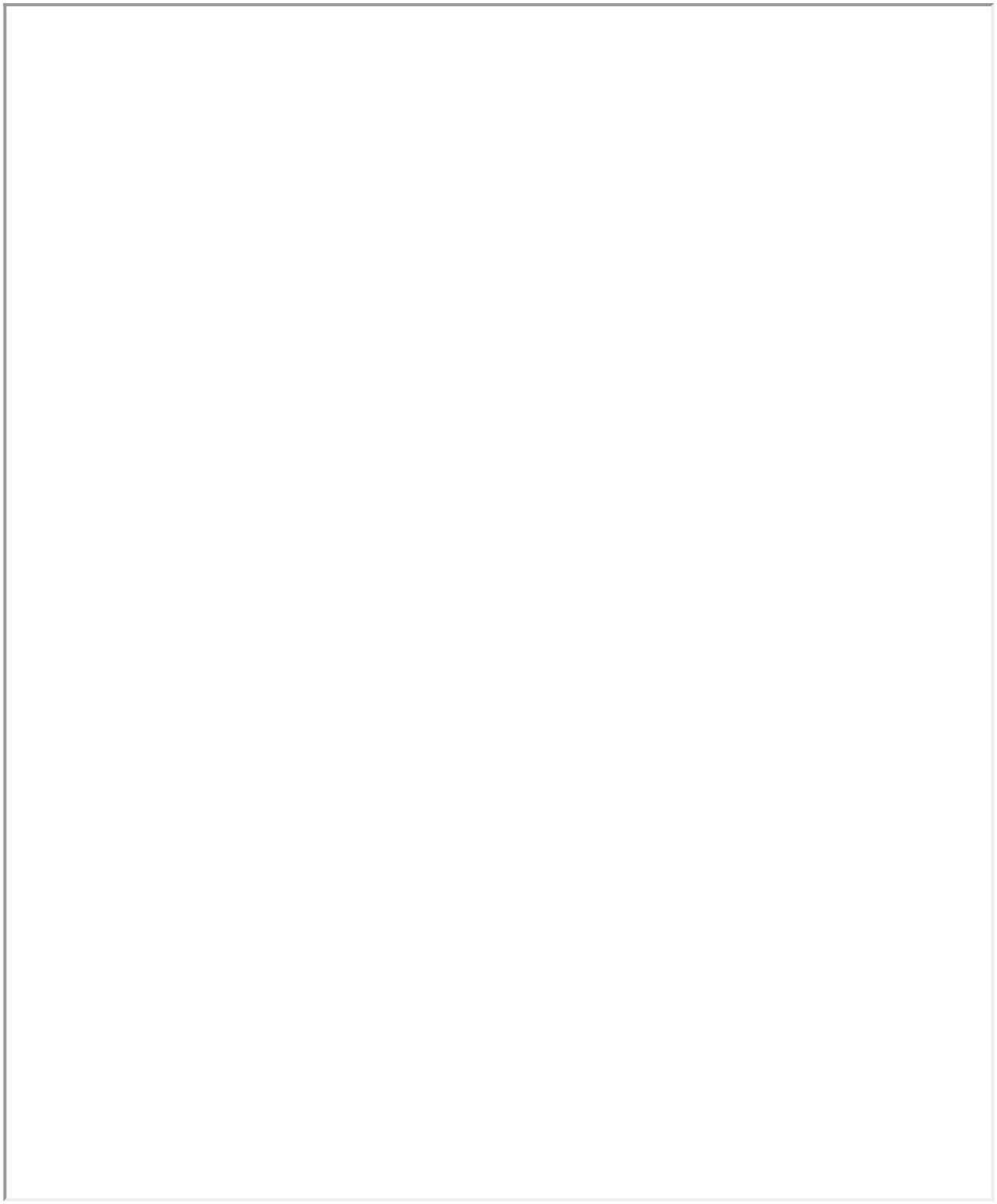
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Why did we conduct this research:

To better understand how the dynamics within smart cities or smart communities work in a specific context, be it in this case the Japanese one. The paper investigates the role of Japanese citizens within smart communities as well as using this participation as a policy instrument achieving acceptance. An analysis on the model of the Japanese approach to smart city governance is provided as too.

Key findings:

- Due to smart communities in Japan being so new, no grounded extrapolations can be made, so no assumptions can be made yet.
- Citizen participation is a clear feature of smart communities. One key point to explain this is the heavy presence of technology in smart communities, which help to communicate more effectively as well.
- Citizen's behaviour changes due to the "real-time" responses.
- Citizen involvement in smart cities can be viewed as a disciplinary strategy and perceived as a means rather than as an end in itself.



Reference:

Granier, B., & Kudo, H. (2016). How are citizens involved in smart cities? Analysing citizen participation in Japanese ``Smart Communities''. *Information Polity*, *21*(1), 61-76.