PhD Student News

Our congratulations go to the following students for successfully defending their theses:

- AL-RASHED Maha (supervisor: Nigel Blackie)
- KASIRAN Mohd (supervisor: Lee Griffiths)
- McWHINNIE David (supervisor: Elaine Ferneley)
- MIT Edwin (supervisor: Farid Meziane)

We also have new IRIS students to welcome. Registered in January 2009:

- CAMPION Simon (supervisor: Dave Roberts)
- CAULLEY Elizabeth (supervisor: Elaine Ferneley)
- DOWD Michael (supervisor: Alison Adam)
- DUCKWORTH Toby (supervisor: Dave Roberts)
- EMANNOULIDOU Maria (GTA) (supervisor: David Kreps)
- MOONEY Jane (supervisor: Lee Griffiths)
- RIADI Indra (supervisor: Samia Nefri Meziane)

New IRIS / HERC Members

Jaye Mtsisa: Education Development Coordinator in IIS
My role in the Learning Development Unit is to develop, deliver and support the personal and professional development of postgraduate and early career researchers with an emphasis on teaching and learning. I coordinate and deliver an in-service teacher training programme for all new Graduate Teaching Assistants. Research Interests: I am an early career researcher, with emerging research interests. I have undertaken some small-scale research that clusters around the process of learning and teaching. I am interested in the development of academic identity for early career researchers, with an emphasis on 'learning as becoming' in the teaching development of neophyte teachers. Higher Education.

Dr. Ela Beaumont in the Student Life Directorate
I am presently in the Student Life Directorate and I support students and advise academic staff on academic learning across the University. I was a Research Fellow in the School of Art and Design, Adelphi Research Institute, University of Salford. My PhD is Family Learning and Contemporary Art and I have conducted research in Labour Market Intelligence: Unemployment in North Derbyshire, High Peak College & TEC (B55, 555C) and the retention and retention of North West Creative Arts and Design Graduates, Liverpool and Manchester.

Sophie Hill
I have been a lecturer in prosthetics and orthotics in the School of Health Care Professions for almost 11 years. Currently I'm studying for a PhD in the Department of Educational Research at Lancaster University. My thesis is on difficult concepts within a discipline using threshold concepts and theories of difficulty to explore these.

This is the first newsletter following the outcome of the Research Assessment Exercise which confirmed IRIS as one of the leading multidisciplinary research institutes that brings together expertise in social, technological and computational aspects of information systems.

RAE puts IRIS in the top two in the UK

The UK Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) outcomes, announced today, show that 75% of the research activities of the Informatics Research Institute are at international level, with 25% at the world leading level. Based on a research measure that takes account of the number of staff submitted, Research Fortnight ranks IRIS activities in the top two submissions made to the Library and Information Management panel.

Over 29 staff were included in the submission compared with 20 in the 2001 Research Assessment Exercise, showing significant growth in research activity. This confirms the Informatics Institute as one of the leading multidisciplinary research institutes that brings together expertise in social, technological and computational aspects of information systems.
Funded Projects

Dr Marie Griffiths, Dr Alex Heince and Professor Ben Light have successfully won a KTP award with Cetus, an IT network solutions provider. The project will run for 30 months and is worth £137K. The project will develop an Enterprise 2.0 enabled relationship management web portal. Working with Cetus Solutions, one of the growing IT infrastructure companies that have amongst their clients Media City UK, are academics from RDS research group Dr Marie Griffiths, Dr Alex Heince and Professor Ben Light.

Marie Griffiths (ISOS), Ben Light (ISOS), Paul Kivel (Cetus), Mike English MD Cetus, Vicky Russell (Enterprise and Development Salford), Alexej Heince (ISOS) and Fiona Nightingale (KTP Advisor).

Dr Gordon Fletcher, Professor Elaine Fenemley and Professor Ben Light have also won a KTP awarded on the ‘The Foundry’. This project is over 24 months and is for £107K.

The company: The Foundry are a modern and very effective design company with the emphasis on design innovation for which they are renowned. They are involved in understanding their operations of Closed Online Research Communities and for the academics to study the way in which the latest Web 2.0 technologies change the processes of market research – Research 2.0. The particular Closed Online Research Communities they are studying are easyJet, O2 and United Biscuits.

Marie Griffiths (ISOS), Ben Light (ISOS), Paul Kivel (Cetus), Mike English MD Cetus, Vicky Russell (Enterprise and Development Salford), Alexej Heince (ISOS) and Fiona Nightingale (KTP Advisor).

Invited Seminars

David Kreps was invited at a Seminar at Bath University ‘Code in Action: Closing the Black Box of WCAG 2.0’ Dec 3rd 2008.

David Kreps has been invited to make a presentation on Web Accessibility in the Arts for Ambition event in London, March 09 (http://www.getambition.com/).

Ben Light was joint plenary speaker (with Dr Peter Wheeler of Edge Hill University), at the Disability and the Internet Workshop held December 2008 by the Department of Critical Media Studies, Liverpool John Moores University. Their presentation was entitled: ‘VIP 2.0? Disability, Technology and Daseinization in Digital Culture’.

Ben Light has been invited to speak at the University of St Andrews’ LGBT Society, 16 March 2009. His talk is entitled: gaymer:net: For Boys Who Like Joy Sticks and Girls Who Like Rumble Pads.

Sunil Vodera gave a seminar to the Chinese Academy of Science in Beijing on his research on cost-sensitive machine learning and the use of the family resemblance principle and Bayesian networks for learning exemplars.

Huw Jarvis has been invited by the conference organisers and the British Council to deliver the a featured speaker talk - details as follows: April, 2009. Oman International ELT Conference Responding to Challenges in the Curriculum, Assessment and Independent Learning. Featured Speaker ‘The Changing Role of Computers in Independent Learning.’

Ben Light – Appointed as Senior Associate Editor – European Journal of Information Systems 2008-2010.


Ben Light – Appointed Associate Editor for the 2009 International Conference on Information Systems.

Chris Procter was invited to take part in the think tank concerning e-support for work-related learning held at Winchester Business School in January 2009 organised jointly by the HEA and JSC – contact Chris if you would like to know more.

Alexej Heince and Elaine Fenemley - Research 2.0: Virtual Surveys Limited: Elaine and Alexej have taken on an academic placement in a Manchester based market research company – Virtual Surveys Limited (http://www.virtualsurveys.com). This is an exciting opportunity to help the company in understanding their operations of Closed Online Research Communities and for the academics to study the way in which the latest Web 2.0 technologies change the processes of market research – Research 2.0. The particular Closed Online Research Communities they are studying are easyJet, O2 and United Biscuits.

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Journal Papers


Book Chapters


Telecommunications technology is a familiar part of our lives and the younger you are, an ever increasing necessity. However, despite this importance a widespread adoption - there are more mobile phones in the UK than people - the general public do not fully appreciate the engineering that makes the technology work and the youngsters don't even articulate that there is any engineering within devices such as mobile phones. Our Family Telecommunications Days are designed to address this issue. Comprising an exhibition of telecommunications artefacts acquired by the University and a set of interactive demonstrations designed by academic staff, the public can learn how hard it was to send messages by semaphore flag or Morse Code, find out how the telephone works, learn about fibre optics and see how the Internet is able to support high quality video communications. Supported by a comprehensive range of posters, information sheets and educational activities the Family Telecommunications Days have grown in popularity since their inception in September 2006. Each event is hosted at the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester and facilitated by academic staff and postgraduate students. To date a total of 10,130 people have had the pleasure of participating in a Family Telecommunications Days and judging by the feedback received, have had a most rewarding, enjoyable, motivating and educational experience.

Conferences:


Kreps, D. & Wheeler, P. (Dec 07) “Language, Technology & the Body: Critical Research into Disability, Impairment & Web Accessibility for UK JobSeekers” paper at ICS, Montreal, Canada

Kreps, D (June 08) "My Facebook Profile: Copy, Resemblance or Simulacrum” paper at European Conference on Information Systems Galway, Ireland

Kreps, D & Pearson, E (July 2008) "Community as Commodity" paper at IFIP 8.5 WG conference in Lougمحا University, Luneberg, Germany. Kreps, D (Sept 08) "How the Web Continues to Fail People with Disabilities" ALS-C, Leeds, UK


