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**PhD Student News**

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

**Sophia Kousidou** “Assessive Exoskeleton for Task Based Physiotherapy in 3-Dimensional Space”, supervisor: Dr Samantha Nefti-Meziani, external examiner: Prof William Hasen – Reading University, Heather Louise Lloyd “The Value of Feasibility Studies in Corporate Reputation Management: An Exploratory Investigation”, supervisor Prof Ben Light, external examiner: Dr Tally Hatzakis, Brunel University and Ja Wu (supervisor: Sunil Vadera) “A Study and Development of Bayesian Exemplar Based Models”, supervisor: Sunil Vadera, external examiner Prof Duncan Gilles – Imperial College.

Also we must not forget one of our Lecturers, Alejandra Heinez! It was a long journey for Alejandra Heinez to reach her PhD milestone, which sometimes felt like a millstone - but it finally all came together on the 19th May 2008. "Reading for a PhD as well as holding down a full-time job is a struggle for many academics but despite the 5 years hard work it was worth it. The support for me in the IRIS research institute has been very much appreciated. I am very grateful to Chris Procter and co-supervisor Professor Elaine Fernley" Alejandra Heinez

We also have new students to welcome. We hope you enjoy your time with us.

**AMIN Zohreian (Supervisor: B. Light)**

**CELEEMAN Emma (Supervisor: T. Bell)**

**HODIHEALM Elin (Supervisor: M. Hope)**

**NUNNISON Michael (Supervisor: A. Heinze)**

**WANG Wei (Supervisor: S. Nefti)***

**ABDULKAREEM Ali Dulaway (Supervisor: S. Nefti-Nefti)**

**BAYUM Alex (Supervisor: B. Light)**

**BRIANPAUL Tom (Supervisor: B. Light)**

**BUSHIRI Eman (Supervisor: A. Heinze)**

**EFRAWIN John (Supervisor: B. Light)**

**HEJJARI Aisham (Supervisor: E. Fernley)**

**MENDES DA COSTA Cristina (Supervisor: B. Light)**

**SHAFWAT Fayaz (Supervisor: A. Adam)**

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**New Members and Staff**

**Dr Chris Bryant - Chris’ research concerns how symbolic machine learning may be applied to real-world applications, mainly in the field of biology and medicine.**

His work focuses on the development of innovative active learning algorithms, which choose examples for training, and on the representation of learned knowledge. His current projects are in the domains of biological sequence analysis and natural language processing. His work is funded by a Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellowship, and he is also an Associate Editor of the Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research.

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**Helen Konogor, appearing in Sense and Engineering, joined ISIS in 2007. Her research focuses in technology, Society and Organisations, specifically within HE. Helen explores national and international and inter-organisational patterns of social networking and digital identity, learning technologies and social software, in education; multilingual environments in (2nd) life, and virtual mobility and online communities of practice.**

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**Nathalie Audren Howarth**

IRIS Research seminar for doctoral students and ongoing research links with them.

**Digital Cultures Workshop**

In June 2008 Ben Light and Steve Sawyer organised the 1st Digital Cultures workshop. Over 60 UK based practitioners and PhD researchers attended from across the UK. The event also attracted academics and PhD researchers from the United States and Canada. Professor Bill Dutton or the Oxford Internet Institute at a University of Oxford. Leslie Romero both gave keynotes over the two days and the workshop began with a practice led Smart City Futures session chaired by Professor James Powell, our Pro-Vice Chancellor for Innovation and Enterprise. A special issue of the Journal of Information, Communication, Ethics and Society, showcasing some of the papers from the workshop, is due to appear early in 2009. The call for the 2nd workshop will be available shortly.

**Campus Fellow Dr. Stephen Billett**

Stephen Billett, Associate Professor in the School of Vocational, Technology and Arts Education, Faculty of Education, Griffiths University Australia, spent a month with HERC colleagues. He presented two seminars on workplace learning, a workshop and was a keynote speaker at a one day conference, speaking on social partnerships. He also provided sessions on research issues for staff completing a PhD in educational research.
The EU has been appointed co-editor of ALT-J, the journal of the Alliance of Universities for the Development of Artificial Intelligence, at University of Sunderland in June 28th, 2008 http://www.cse.salford.ac.uk/cgi/ps.


Professor Adam is invited to speak on his research philosophy of AI in a paper "Is there anything Computers Still Don’t Know and Does it Matter?" University of Cambridge, Horizon Workshop "The Thinking Machine", March 2008. She was the only speaker not from Cambridge University to speak at the Horsley Workshop. She has also presented research in a paper "Women as Knowledge Workers: Some Historical Reflections", CRESIC Workshop on Gender, Service Work and the Curriculum, University of Cambridge, January 2008. The workshop was organized by Helen Richardson and Debra Howcroft.

Dr Apostolos Antonacopoulus has been invited to give a plenary talk at the 1st Conference on Social Networking and Information on Virtuality and Society.

Dr Ireland. He was also an Associate Editor for the 2008 International Conference Committee and a Credibility Co-ordinating Trustee. He is a former member of the Management Board of the University of Sunderland City Council and Consult Hyperion and runs for three years. A researcher and PhD student will shortly be recruited.

IMPACT - Dr Apostolos Antonacopoulus, 1,000,000 The EU has applied to an EC framework 6 project of research capacity building as a substantial step towards the 2010 vision of the European Digital Library. The central goal of IMPACT is to substantially improve techniques for converting historical paper documents into fully accessible electronic text. The barriers for behind the scenes institutions to deliver the critical mass of digitised material to build a true European Digital Library. The IMPACT project was ranked 2nd amongst the 374 proposal in the Framework 7 and has by far the largest budget of any other project in the area of Digital Libraries and Cultural Heritage. Salford, recognised as one of the most promising and robust research proposal, in Document Analysis, represented by Apostolos Antonacopoulus, will receive over 1 M Euro for digitally enhancing and analysing historical documents. The project started in January 2008 and will go for four years. Currently impacts 2 Research Assistants and a Research Fellow. Among other participating in the project are some of the greatest libraries in the world; British Library, The National Library of France, the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek, the Koninklijke Bibliotheek (Royal Library of the Netherlands), the Bavarian State Library and the Österreichische Nationalbibliothek (Austrian National Library). IMPACT and ABBYY will contribute their industrial research experience. More information can be found at http://www.project-impact.eu/

Google - Dr Apostolos Antonacopoulus, $12,000 Dr Apostolos Antonacopoulus has received the support of Google (100 UK IUD), in developing a realistic model in the physical, digital image and ground truth to enable the validation of document recognition methods. Google has a major interest in the "Google Earth" project and in "half the world’s knowledge", as it is put, in digital form and therefore not accessible to their search engines. This is the only dataset that Google has supported and it will be available to the wider research community by October 2008.

EXTEND – Mrs Frances Bell, Ms Helen Keegan and Ms Cristina da Costa, £15,000 The EXTEND project, funded by JISC, builds on an ongoing Salford led initiative, called HELF, that was part of the Extending the Cross-Media Access of the Digital Library to the Community (EMAC2) project. The workshop was held at the University of Salford, 4-5 June 2009, and is closed on 30 September 2009. A call for papers will be issued during September.

Professional activities

Mrs Frances Bell has been appointed co-editor of AIIE, the Journal of the Association for Learning Technology. Frances Bell is commissioning editor for a special issue of AIIE, Learning and Teaching in Immersive Virtual Environments, with Specialist Advisory Editor Professor Maggi Sabin, London http://www.aiie.org.uk/af/

This has attracted a large number of submissions, and the theme of the special issue is due to be published, later this year. Frances Bell and Ian Howarth are members of the programme committee for AIIE-2008. Rethinking the digital divide, http://www.aiie.org.uk/aiie-2008/ conference_committee.

Professor Elaine Ferneley, Dr Gordon Fletcher, Dr Marie Griffiths and Professor Ben Light are acting as Associate Editors for ECS 2009. Dr David Kreps has been made Secretary of IFIP 9.5 working group on Virtuality and Society.

Ben Light was track chair (with Remko Helms of Utrecht University, the Netherlands) of the Social Networking and Information Systems track of the European Conference on Information Systems, Amsterdam, Ireland. He was also Associate Editor for the 2008 International Conference on IS and the 2008 UK Academy for IS conference.

Funded Projects

VOME – Prof Alison Adam, £830K ESPRC/TSI have approved a project under the EPIC (Ensuring Privacy and Consent) Program. VOME (Visualisation and Other Means of Expression) researchers’ understanding of models and modes of interaction, aiming to offer better models of privacy which may be represented visually and/or metaphorically, and which will be demonstrated in prototype software. The project is due to begin in May 2008 and is due to last five years.

Prof Sunil Vadera has been appointed co-editor of the Journal of Operational Research Society on Intelligent Management Systems in Operations with Kharly Kodkady of the Management and Management Sciences Research Institute.

The ESMOS project (Enhancing Student Mobility and Virtuality) has been appointed co-editor of ALT-J, the journal of the Alliance of Universities for the Development of Artificial Intelligence, at University of Sunderland in June 28th, 2008, http://www.cse.salford.ac.uk/cgi/ps/. The ESMOS project (Enhancing Student Mobility and Virtuality) has been appointed co-editor of ALT-J, the journal of the Alliance of Universities for the Development of Artificial Intelligence, at University of Sunderland in June 28th, 2008, http://www.cse.salford.ac.uk/cgi/ps/. The two-year project was funded by the SOCRATES Programme/ The Erasmus Programme/ The Cohesion Funds/ the HELF Programme/ the European Social Funds. The partnership came together with the combined aim of the European Union, and the Corresponding European Co-ordinating Agency for Higher Education in order to develop the methodology and disseminate more widely across the European Union, and even hand a written note congratulating the partnership on an excellent project, which external evaluators have remarked at being an ‘unequivocal’ response, also sending their congratulations.

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