Informatics Research Institute (IRIS)
March 2007 newsletter
Rezgui, Y

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Postgraduate Research Students

New PhD Students
Nadim ADI, PhD, Supervisor: Prof. David Roberts
Samer AYYAT, MPhil, Supervisor: Dr. Adli Al-Yazir
Hasan BUJABAS, PhD, Supervisor: Prof. Yacine Rezgui
Priya DEY, PhD, Supervisor: Prof. David Roberts
Linda EL-QARI, PhD, Supervisor: Prof. Yacine Rezgui
Othman ESOUH, MPhil, Supervisor: Prof. Grahame Cooper
Graham HICKEE, PhD, Supervisor: Dr. Farid Meziane
Jiten MAKAAN, PhD, Supervisor: Dr. Maria Katar
James MULKEEN, PhD, Supervisor: Prof. Carole Roberts
Linda PRINCE, PhD, Supervisor: Prof. Carole Roberts
Rosdah SAM, PhD, Supervisor: Dr. Samia Netfi-Meziani

Assessments
Oliver OTTO (supervised by Prof. David Roberts) and Hamed AL-HAJI (supervised by Prof. Yacine Rezgui) have passed their viva, having been given typographical changes and minor suggestions for improvement only. The following students have passed their interim assessments since December 2006: Majed AL-BRAITHI, Mahara AL-RASHID, Tayyfur MOHAMMED, Chalee VORKALUPPK, Xiao KONG

New members
Dawn Shown, School of Computing Science and Engineering, has become an associate member of CERIA.

New staff
Dr Peter Wheeler - Research Assistant, Combating eDiscrimination in the North West Project. Research interests are in the broad arena of social policy and employment with regard to disabled people. He has conducted original historical research to uncover over the past century the many attempts made by government, employers, TUC, and organised groups of disabled people to engage more impaired people in the workforce. More recent research has investigated the ways organisations engage with diversity and equal opportunity policies when using both a business case and arguments of social justice in employment decisions. Current research involves the concept of eDiscrimination and how barriers to inclusion in labour markets are constructed through inaccessible web content design.

Prof. David Roberts is getting married this Easter. Congratulations.

Research Institute Director

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Prof. Yacine Rezgui for all of his hard work in developing the Informatics Research Institute to the level it has achieved over the four years of his term of office as Director.

When Yacine steps down in April, he will leave a Research Institute that is unrecognizable in almost every way, with much clearer structures and arguments of social justice in employment decisions. A Doctoral School to be proud of, and an enviable reputation both inside and outside of The University.

During the last few years he has developed new lines of research, leading to his current primary area of work in relation to knowledge management in virtual organisations and the distributed IT systems that support them.

He has managed to continue to pursue his line of personal research whilst securing and completing a number of successful research projects, working tirelessly on behalf of IRIS and we look forward to seeing exciting developments in this area in the future.

Welcome to

IRIS
Informatics Research Institute

University of Salford
A Greater Manchester University

March 07 newsletter

Postgraduate Research Students

Featured Student - Peter Baloh

Peter Baloh’s MPhil study is supervised by Dr. Maria Burke. He is a lecturer in Business Information Systems and Managing Information Systems at The University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. He has also guest-edited of a special issue of Journal of Organizational and End User Computing on the topic of “Interacting with Virtual Organizations”. The double special issue will appear in Summer and Fall this year. He was also invited to the editorial review board of the International Journal of Knowledge Management, published by Idea Group, edited by Murray Jennex. In April 2007 he acts as KM-track chair at 6th OntoWorld 2007 conference. In January 2008 he acts as KM implementations issues’ mini-track chair at 41st HCIISS 2008 conference. Peter is almost ready to submit his thesis and hopes to graduate this year. Publications accepted and presentations held since November:


Recent Events

On Saturday 3rd February The University hosted the BALEAP (British Association of Lecturers in English for Academic Purposes) Professional Interest Meeting on Testing and Assessment. The meeting was attended by 70 delegates from universities around the UK. It was opened by Professor Carole Roberts from Salford’s Higher Education Research Centre and the plenary lecture was provided by Professor Barry O’Sullivan of the Centre for Language Assessment Research, Roehampton University. Parallel presentations on many aspects of language testing followed throughout the day. Delegates were very positive about the meeting, finding it interesting and useful in combining research, theory and practice in this important area of language teaching.

IRIS hosted a successful workshops for the Psychology of Programming Interest Group (PPiG) on 4-5th January. Organised by Dr Maria Kutar, with invaluable assistance from Nathalie Audren-Howarth and Emily Hughes, the workshop attracted participants from Microsoft Corp, together with researchers from Denmark, Germany and Ireland. A wide range of topics were discussed, from a session on critical thinking, to Information System Design, and Computer Science Education. A number of participants commented on the excellent facilities and it is hoped that the workshop will be hosted at Salford again in future years. Thanks must go to IRIS for providing financial support to the workshop, which enabled costs to be kept to a minimum, ensuring that the workshop was accessible to PhD students. A number of the participants have contributed their review of the workshop to the PPiG newsletter at: http://www.ppig.org/newsletters/2007-03.html.

Photographs courtesy of Luke Church Photography
Funded Projects

Dr Elaine Feneley has won funding from HERC’s Strategic Development Funded Project, Urban Regeneration: Making a Difference. Dr Feneley’s specific project has been awarded £31,000 and is a collaborative venture with UCLan and M M University which aims to focus on how crime affects SMEs, and particularly new SMEs. Such funding is absolutely crucial to the project in the area of ICT fraud and they will be working with entrepreneurs and advisors in New Entrepreneur Scholarships (www.neso.org.uk). Carlii MMC and the Blackpool Tourism Support Bureau to investigate barriers to putting protection in place and to develop training materials on prevention that are appropriate to the needs of emerging enterprises.

Dr Maria Burke has been awarded a research study award from the Polish Embassy in London, the amount has yet to be announced. The work will take place in March 2007 concerning the use of knowledge management in SMEs in Krakow, working with the Jagiellonian University, Poland.

The Higher Education Academy, via Languages, Linguistics and Area Studies, have awarded funding for a project; How Jaws will deliver a presentation on EI research. “From conception to publication: conducting research in English language teaching (ELT)” will be presented by Dr Sunil Vadera from the School of Information Systems in Galway, Ireland.

CVE News

CVE Centre for Virtual Environments) research and research facilities are moving to Newton building. The new facilities will be far more reconfigurable than the old, allowing a better fit to a wider range of applications, and will be used to investigate the next generation of collaborative visualisation, including tele-immersion.

The BBC have awarded the first collaborative mini-project to a Manchester area university in preparation for their move to Salford, to the CVE. David Roberts, Tim Ritchings, Robin Wolff and Kim Hoang Lü will be working with the BBC to adapt their mixed reality technology to support an unprecedented level of tele-immersion which will be demonstrated in the new facility being built in Newton.

Books


Journal Papers


Funded Projects

Registration is now open for the IFIPS 6 conference, this is a major event and we are delighted that IRIS has been selected to host the event this year. The theme of this year’s conference is ‘Organisational Dynamics of Technology-based Innovation’. We are pleased to announce that after a rigorous reviewing process over 25 papers have been accepted together with two panels, there will also be keynote speeches from Prof Bob Galliers of Bentley College, USA and from Gerry Pennel who is the Chief Information Officer for Co-operative Financial Services and the Co-operative Group. There is also a pre-conference Doctoral Consortium (13th June 2007) that we strongly encourage doctoral students to attend.

Further information regarding the conference is available at: http://www.ifips-2007.salford.ac.uk or from the conference programme Chair Tom McNab (T.McNab@salford.ac.uk) or from the conference organising chair Dr Elaine Feneley (E.Feneley@salford.ac.uk)

Upcoming Events


Seminar Programme

Technology and Collaboration, Dr Will Verrill, London School of Economics, 11th February 2007.

Classification Association Rules Mining, Dr Frans Coenen, The University of Liverpool, 2pm, 14th March 2007, Maxwell 5267.


Industry Analysts and their Tools, Dr Neil Pollock, University of Edinburgh, 18th April 2007.

Prof. John Miles, Cardiff University, 9th May 2007.


Lin Yan, University of Wales, 23rd May 2007.

The Leverhulme Lecture Series

Prof. H.K. Klein gave his fourth Leverhulme Lecture on the 12th January 2007 on the topic of ‘Principles of Critical Field Research from Nietzsche to Habermas: Going beyond interpretivism’. The seminar was well attended by colleagues from across the country.

The above picture shows Prof. Klein being presented with a gift to thank him for his contribution to IRIS from left to right: Dr Ben Light, Dr Kathy McGrath, Brunel University, Dr Maria Burke, Tayfour Mohammed, Dr Helen Richardson, Prof. H.K. Klein, State University of New York, Binghamton, USA, and Prof. Andrew Badenso.