Informatics Research Institute (IRIS) December 2006 newsletter
Rezgui, Y

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and bring new material collected from Habermas himself.

The twenty-first century is closely examine the Critical Theory of Jürgen Habermas, the practical implications for IS of three major 'turns' in philosophy of the twentieth century.

The Leverhulme Lecture Series

Prof. H.K.Klein - Leverhulme Professor of Information Systems Research

Six public Leverhulme Lectures will synthesize and summarize Prof. Klein's considered views gleaned over a lifetime of work and philosophical reflection in the three main paradigms of IS research. They will set out the relevance of philosophical thinking to IS and the practical implications for Prof. Klein's students' work in the philosophy of the twenty-first century, closely examine the Critical Theory of Jürgen Habermas, and bring new material collected from Habermas himself.

Postgraduate Research Students

Carl Pets has presented his work at the ECSI Doctoral Consortium 2006, held in Gothenburg, Sweden.

New students

July 2006

Feng GAO, PhD, Supervisor: Dr Martin Hope
Wan WAN AB RAHMAN, PhD, Supervisor: Prof. Tim Ricketts

October 2006

Mohamed DEEBBAR, Masters by Research, Supervisor: Lee Griffiths
Christine EDWARDS, Masters by Research, Supervisor: Lee Griffiths
Imran KHAN, PhD (and GTA), Supervisors: John Kirkham and Dr. Elaine Ferneley, Mhd M AT ABAS, PhD, Supervisor: Dr Farid Meziane
Kamran KHAMON, TAM RACKIKUN, PhD, Supervisor: Dr. Sian Etherington

New members

Simona Barresi, Academic Fellow in the School of Built Environment. has become a full member of CFERA.

New staff

Two new members of staff join the HERC. Emma Casey is the new Administrator to the HERC and LTPR. She joins us with a background in the Private Sector in Customer Service and Administration. A graduate of the University of Manchester in Psychology, she has spent the last eight years in Birmingham and East Anglia before finally managing to achieve her aim of returning to the North West.

Dr Eamon O’Doherty, previously Development Officer, Foundation Degrees, is now the Research Development Officer for HERC.

Congratulations

• Congratulations to Prof. David Roberts who has been recently appointed as Chair. This is a highly deserved promotion given David’s achievements in recent years. His Chair appointment started on 1st August 2006.

• Congratulations to Dr Maria Burke who has been appointed to become a member at the prestigious ESRC College for her expertise in Information Management and related disciplines. Award for Outstanding Professional Service Dr Apostolos

• Apostolos Antonacopulos has been awarded one of only four Certificates of Appreciation for his outstanding professional service in the International Association for Pattern Recognition (IAPR).

• Apostolos has served as Chair of the Education Committee, Vice Chair of the Technical Committee on Reading Systems, member of the Conferences and Meetings Committee and member of the Publications Quality.

Upcoming Events

IRIS will host the next IFIP 8.6 International Conference in June 2007. Dr Elaine Fernley is Organising Chair and Tom McMaster is Co-Programme Chair (Tom has also recently been elected as Secretary to IFIP 8.6). The General Chair is Gordan B. Duvall. Gordon (Executive Editor of MIS Quarterly) is regarded as the “Father of Information Systems”: he is one of the principal founders and intellectual architects of the academic field of IS. Further details about the conference may be found at:

http://www.ifip86-2007.salford.ac.uk/

IRIS will co-organize NLD07: the 12th International Conference On Applications of Natural Language to Information Systems (www.nld.org). This will take place in CNAM, France, June 27-29, 2007. Prof. Yacine Rezgui is the conference co-chair, and Dr Farid Meziane, the Programme Committee co-chair. Dr Samia Nefti-Meziane will chair the First Doctoral Consortium of NLD07. Prof. Heinz Klein has been invited, and agreed, to deliver a key note presentation.

Women in North West Engineering (WEEN) Dissemination Conference

The Women in North West Engineering (WEEN) team have spent the last 12 months attempting to evaluate working practices and organisational culture in engineering industries across the North West by comparing and contrasting the experiences of men and women in the industry. The team explored the explanations for the persistence of occupational segregation and also recognised that there are multitudes of ways in which these barriers can, and have been overcome. The project is now in the conclusion stage, and Dr Hafsa Takuri-Rid, the project Manager, is pleased to announce that the team will be hosting a dissemination conference on the 5th December, 2006 at the Museum of Science and Industry. The day long event will include two keynote speakers, key findings from the WEWIN project, discussion workshops on a variety of themes, and the opportunity for delegates to tour the galleries at the museum. For further details please contact the Project Administration Co-ordinator, Rae Bezer (r.a.bezer@salford.ac.uk) or visit the WEWIN website: www.cse.salford.ac.uk/WEEN.
Psychology of Programming Interest Group
PPG Work-in-Progress Workshop (WIP-PPG)
Salford, UK, 4-5 January 2007
The PPG work-in-progress workshop is a forum in which researchers concerned with psychological aspects of software development can present and discuss current work and recent results, findings and developments.

PPG aims to bring together people working in a variety of disciplines and to break down cross-disciplinary barriers. If you have any queries as to whether your topic falls within the remit of PPG, then please do not hesitate to contact the Program Chair, Maria Kutar at M.Kutar@salford.ac.uk.

All accepted papers will be circulated to workshop participants prior to the workshop, and will appear on the PPG web site (www.spg.org).

4th Education in a Changing Environment Conference
12-14 September 2007
This is an international conference hosted by the Learning and Teaching Research Network and Higher Education Research Centre. Submissions and delegates are invited from Salford, national and international colleagues (staff and postgraduates). The Conference aims to provide a supportive environment for new and developing researchers, generate debate about the changing environment in which we work and provide an opportunity to reflect on student learning and teaching. For further information visit: http://www.edu.salford.ac.uk/itc/conference/

Projects

The ESF funded project DEPCT (Directing Equal Pay in ICT), led by Dr Helen Richardson, provided case studies for a recent publication of the UK Resource Centre for Women in Science, Engineering and Technology: 'Equal Pay in SET - good practice guide'. This was presented to Baronesess Prosser at the Institute of Engineering in London.

Funding

There have been a number of recent successful bids:

Eye Catching - Prof. David Roberts, £740K ESRC

Prof. David Roberts has been awarded an ESRC grant worth £233k over 2 years. This is a large collaborative project worth around £740k in total, and David is leading the research. The project is: Eye Catching: Supporting tele-communicational eye-gaze in Collaborative Virtual Environments.

Combatting NW e-Discrimination - Dr David Kreps, £84,378 ESF Funding

Dr David Kreps has secured an ESF grant from the ESF to research barriers to employment faced by disabled people in England's North West. The project will focus on the accessibility of employment information and application processes, online, to disabled people. This will lead to policy recommendations and guidelines designed to improve employers' websites and disabled people's access to work. The project will employ two researchers for the duration of one year, from January to December 2007, and it is hoped that there will be a good deal of output in the form of journal papers and conference papers, as well as the final report to be distributed in 2008.

Women Audio Visual Engineers - Dr Halia Takuuri-Rizk, £86,752

Following on from WAVEW, the team have also secured further ESF funding for a subsequent research project: Women Audio Visual Engineers (WAVE) which will attempt to explore the reasons why the audio engineering and video technology studies and industries remain male-dominated, despite being free from the typical 'heavy machinery' stereotype of engineering. The project will examine gender segregation in the industry, with a view to producing policies and strategies to influence the effective recruitment and participation of women in this sector. The project will begin in January 2007.

GATE Project NW - Dr Helen Richardson and Prof. Alison Adam, £105,474

Alison Adam, Helen Richardson, Claire Keogh and Angela Tatterson are pleased to announce that the ESF have awarded £101,000 for the GATE project North West. The GATE project (Gender, Age, Technology and Employability) will investigate the gender dimensions of age discrimination in the North West ICT labour market. The research aims to highlight ways to overcome barriers to employment that exist for women at all ages in the ICT sector.

KAN: Women in ICT Project - Frances Bell, £74,000

Women in ICT are a rare and valuable group, often isolated and lacking knowledge about overcoming discrimination at work, and without opportunities for business and social networking. Women are severely under represented in the ICT sector and are hampering out of the ICT labour market. To counter this trend, the KAN (knowledge and networking) women in ICT project will research the diversity of information needs of women, particularly those in SME ICT occupations. The project will then develop a 'diversity direct' knowledge portal to meet these needs. The KAN project will also develop virtual social networking tools to help women in ICT throughout England link with each other, aiming to help to collectively overcome barriers to recruitment, retention and career development.

Papers in Press: