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ISRC Newsletter - Issue 2: September 2001

The (Re-) Defining Critical Research in Information Systems Workshop, held at Salford on 9-10 July was a great success. Approximately 50 people attended the workshop from far afield as Germany, the USA and Australia. There were a total of 15 papers presented with a panel of international academics debating 'What is critical about critical IS?'. The Workshop provided the opportunity for researchers to discuss applying critical perspective to information technologies and consider how we can build upon this for the future.

Proceedings of the Workshop are available from Donna Bailey.

The final seminar series of the ESRC series 'Equal Opportunities On-Line' was held on 13 June at Salford. The topic was gender and health/bio informatics. Speakers included Teresa Waring, University of Newcastle, Sarah Willis, University of Manchester, John Rooksby, University of Manchester, Melanie Wilson, UMIST, and Irma van der Ploeg, Erasmus University.

Work is underway to construct a website for papers from the seminar series and a special issue with selected papers of the journal ACM Computers and Society is planned for December 2001. Please contact Alison Adam for details.

NEW STAFF

Matthew Weatherill and James Cunningham have recently been appointed as Research Fellows on Prof. Rezgui's European funded Knowledge Management eCOGNOS Project.

Ed Thornton has been awarded an EPSRC studentship to work on Prof. Chadwick's Electronic Prescription Processing project along with Darren Mundy and Ed Ball.

PUBLICATIONS

JOURNALS

Light, B., Holland, C.P. and Wills, K., 2001, 'ERP and Best of Breed: A Comparative Analysis', in Business Process Management Journal, vol. 7, no. 3, pp. 216-224. [ABSTRACT](#)

McMaster, T., 2001, 'Mapping the Conceptual Domain: A Contribution to the Theory/Practice Debate', in Communications of the AIS, vol. 6., March 2001. [ABSTRACT](#)

Adam, A. and Richardson, H., 2001, 'Feminist Philosophy and Information Systems', in Information Systems Frontiers, vol. 3:2, pp. 143-154.

BOOK CONTRIBUTION

McMaster, T., 2001, 'The Illusion of Diffusion in Information Systems Research', in Ardis, M. and Marcolin, B.L. (eds.), Diffusing Software Product and Process Innovations, Boston, Kluwer, pp. 67-85. [ABSTRACT](#).

CONFERENCES

Chadwick, D.W., New, J.P., McDowell, D.M. and Mundy, D.P. 2001, 'Providing Secure Access to Confidential Patient Information Detailing Diabetic Condition', in Graham, P., Maheswaran, M. and Eskicioglu, R. (eds.), The International Conference on Internet

[ABSTRACT](#)

Adam, A., 2001, 'Computer Ethics in a Different Voice', in Information and Organization, vol. 11, no. 4, pp. 235-261. [ABSTRACT](#)

Computing 2001, CSREA Press, vol. 1, pp. 535-541. A copy of the paper is available at <http://sec.isi.salford.ac.uk/>

NEW PROJECTS - (since June 2001)

Yacine Rezgui has secured another European Framework V - IST project entitled '**VOSTER - Virtual Organizations Cluster**'. The project will run for 2.5 years and is funded under the Project Clusters Initiative. The Salford team involves Grahame Cooper and Maria Vakola.

Grahame Cooper has been awarded a European project entitled '**SciX - Open, Self-Organizing Repository for Scientific Information Exchange**', funded through the IST programme action line 'Next Generation Digital Collections'. The project has a 2 year duration. The Salford team involves Yacine Rezgui.

Amit Mitra has successfully obtained a **Teaching Company Scheme** grant with a Manchester based company involved with the promotion of strategic marketing initiatives for a range of companies through different media. The Salford team also involves Chris Procter.

The objective of the project is to create an interactive knowledge warehouse for the Company. Such a knowledge warehouse would be used to consolidate existent expertise within the Company for enhancing strategic as well as operational activities of the organisation. Eliciting tacit knowledge from involved staff and establishing suitable interactivity with the created artefact are a couple of major challenges that the project addresses in the course of its development and delivery over the duration of the project.

COMPLETED PROJECTS (since June 2001)

IT Tools and Support for Improved Construction Briefing (CoBrITe) (EPSRC/LINK)

Investigators: Prof. Peter Barrett, Prof. Yacine Rezgui and Prof. Grahame Cooper

The CoBrITe project argues that the construction industry has yet to exploit the

potential of ICT systems to assist both clients and design teams during the Briefing phase. This is in contrast to later stage of design and construction where computer-based techniques and systems are commonplace. The overall aim of the CoBrITe project was to improve the briefing process through more efficient and effective use of existing and emerging information technologies that can support client and design teams.

Advanced Decision Support for the Construction Design Process (ADS) (EPSRC/IMI)

Investigators: Prof. Grahame Cooper and Prof. Yacine Rezgui

The ADS project was primarily concerned with recording of intent, dependencies, and change notification in the design process within construction projects. In doing this it was necessary also to address ownership and responsibility, versioning, and schema evolution. It tackled the challenging problem of managing design information, including eliciting design rationale, without intruding too much on the design process itself. It provided the possibility to link design decisions back to requirements, to gather rationale information for states of the building lifecycle, and to gather knowledge of rationale for projects.

WHO'S DOING WHAT?

Alison Adam is now book reviews editor for ACM Computers and Society. Those interested in reviewing books or who have books for review should contact her.

Tom McMaster chaired 'World Issues' session at BITWorld Conference in Cairo, Egypt, in July 2001. In August, Tom was also Chair of the Working Group at the 24th Information Systems Research Seminar (IRIS), in Scandinavia.

Andrew Basden will be presenting a paper to the ECITE Conference on 'Towards a Philosophic Understanding of Information Systems Evaluation'. [ABSTRACT](#)

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH NEWS

[New Postgraduate Students](#)

Lian Pate, MSc (Supervisor: Tom McMaster): Linda obtained her BSc in Business Information Systems from Salford in 2001.

Navinchandra Karsan Patel, PhD (Supervisor: Terrence Fernando): Navinchandra obtained his MSc in Virtual Environments in 2000. His research will focus on virtual environment for supporting client-briefing.

Lee Anthony Eddowes, PhD (Supervisor: Bob Wood): Lee obtained his MSc in Managing IT from Salford in 1999.

Edward Thornton, MPhil (Supervisor: David Chadwick): Ed is a BSc IT graduate. He has been awarded an EPSRC studentship to work on Prof. Chadwick's Electronic Prescription Processing project.

Mykhaylo Sahalayen, MPhil (Supervisor: David Chadwick): Mykhaylo will primarily working on extensions to Open LDAP.

RESEARCH FELLOWS/ASSISTANTS NEWS

Simon Harvey is leaving Salford on 14 September. He's secured a position with Accenture in the South of France.

Stefan Boddy has been appointed as Research Fellow on Prof. Rezgui's project - Creating, Sustaining, and Disseminating Knowledge for Sustainable Construction: Tools, Methods and Architectures (C-Sand).

UPCOMING EVENTS

4th Continuous Reporting and Auditing Conference, 18-19 April 2002 at Salford

David Chadwick and his postgraduate student, Robert Onions, will be hosting this two day symposium at Salford. The Conference has always been held at Rutgers University, New Jersey, and organised by Dr. Miklos Vasarhelyi. The 4th Conference at Salford will be the first time it has been held in Europe and should attract a more diverse input.

To obtain further information:

<http://www.continuousauditing.org>

Robert Onions - R.L.Onions@salford.ac.uk

David Chadwick - D.W.Chadwick@salford.ac.uk

MISS Seminar Series - Wednesday, 17 October, at 2pm, ISI

Professor Karlheinz Kautz from Copenhagen Business School will be speaking on 'Systems Development in the Age of @nything - Demystifying Some Issues'

HCI International 2001, New Orleans, USA

The premier conference on Human-Computer Interaction was held in New Orleans in August. With over 1000 delegates from all around the world it was a large event, requiring 15 parallel streams to fit all the presentations in. Two members of the ISI presented research papers (Terrence Fernando and Janice Whatley), both being received with interest judging by the discussion that followed. Research papers presented varied from designing interfaces, web applications, cognitive ergonomics to virtual reality and agents, indicative of the diverse impact HCI has upon computer implementations.

The proceedings included the 1st International Conference on Universal Access in Human-Computer Interaction, a new and prolific area of research, showing that support for all users is becoming a priority. Many of the papers were concerned with adaptive interfaces to enable access for particular classes of users, also work towards generic designs capable of supporting a range of disabled users. I would like to hear from anybody currently involved or interested in research in this area.

New Orleans was a good choice for a conference venue, with its attractive town centre, interesting sights to visit and music all around. The weather during the conference did make it seem like home from home, as we experienced storms resulting from tropical storm Barry. On the evening of the conference meal aboard the paddle steamer on the Mississippi there was particularly heavy rain, so delegates had to run under umbrellas to the coach.

Article submitted by Janice Whatley

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RESEARCH NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

The next issue will be published in December 2001. Deadline for submissions to Donna Bailey is **15 December 2001**

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