

# Open Sessions at ICTD2012: Information Society Research in the Global South



## What To Expect

An open panel discussion on key ICTD and Information Society research by senior scholars followed by SIRCA II (Strengthening Information Society Research Capacity Alliance) grantees present their research plans.

The Strengthening Information Society Research Capacity Alliance (SIRCA II) aims to improve the inter-disciplinary research skills of emerging scholars in ICTD and Information Societies in the Global South.

A total of 15 projects were awarded under this program.

## What You Get

1. Participate collaboratively in knowledge-sharing sessions with emerging researchers from the Global South.
2. The first 25 registered attendees will receive an attractive goodie bag.
3. 5 Best Participation awardees will receive a copy of the newly-launched book entitled, "From Research to Practice: Building ICT for Development Research Capacity in Asia."

## Program Information

### Morning Session 1 (85 Mins)

- 10:00 - 10:10 Introduction (10 Mins)
- 10:10 - 10:30 *Dr Gloria Bonder:*  
**Gender Analysis in ICT4D Research: A Matter of Fairness, Quality and Representation**
- 10:30 - 10:50 *Professor John Traxler:*  
**We Talked About Doing the Right Thing**
- 10:50 - 11:10 *Dr Alexander Flor:*  
**Information Society Research Traditions: A Southeast Asian Retrospective**
- 11:10 - 11:25 Q & A Session
- 11:25 - 11:45 Tea Break

### Morning Session 2 (90 Mins)

- Latin America Region,  
chaired by Roxana Barrantes
- 11:45 - 11:55 *Andrea Lucía Ordóñez Llanos*  
**ICT's and the Natural Knowledge Economy: Diverging or Converging Paths?**
- 11:55 - 12:05 *Fabro Boaz Steibel*  
**Supporting Collaborative Deliberation: Designing Consultation Portals for Deliberative Practices in Brazil**
- 12:05 - 12:15 *Héctor Sebastián Benítez Larghi*  
**Youth, Inequalities and ICT. A qualitative study of youth paths to the incorporation of computer and Internet in the frame of the Plan Conectar Igualdad in La Plata and Gran La Plata**
- 12:15 - 12:25 *Maria Paz Olivera Rodríguez*  
**Are Digital Textbooks A Sustainable Alternative in Peruvian Schools? Adapting the Pedagogical Approach of the Program "Leer Es Estar Adelante" to a Digital Format.**
- 12:25 - 12:35 *Matías Dodel Schubert*  
**ICT and Welfare Policies: Digital Skills' Impact on Formal Education and Labor Market Trajectories of Young Uruguayans Evaluated by PISA 2003 (Panel Study)**
- 12:35 - 13:15 Q & A Session
- 13:15 - 14:30 Lunch

### Afternoon Session 1 (90 Mins)

- Asia Region,  
chaired by Roger Harris
- 14:30 - 14:40 *Elinor May Cruz*  
**Cybersex in the Anti-development State: Labor Politics and Life Histories**
- 14:40 - 14:50 *Dr. Rajesh Kumar Chandwani*  
**The Dynamics of Interplay of Technology with 'Health Seeking Behavior' and 'Doctor-Patient Interaction' in Telemedicine: Case Studies from Rural India**
- 14:50 - 15:00 *Baohua Zhou*  
**ICTs and Empowerment Among New Generation Migrant Workers in China**
- 15:00 - 15:10 *Nikos Dacanay*  
**ICT Usage Among Burmese Ethnic Women Organizations in Thailand: Enabling Change For Women and Communities**
- 15:10 - 15:20 *Ezmieralda Melissa*  
**The Internet and Women Empowerment - A Study of How Women in Indonesian Urban Areas Use Social Media to Become Entrepreneurs**
- 15:20 - 16:00 Q & A Session
- 16:00 - 16:30 Tea Break

### Afternoon Session 2 (85 Mins)

- Africa Region,  
chaired by Richard Ling
- 16:30 - 16:40 *Kabran Aristide DJANE*  
**ICT and Food Security in Côte d'Ivoire: Case of Mobile Phone on Food Products Distribution from Village to City**
- 16:40 - 16:50 *Kassimu A. Nihuka*  
**Course Redevelopment for Delivery Using Learning Technologies**
- 16:50 - 17:00 *Stephen Kimani*  
**StoreRooms: Science and Technology Opportunities and Resources Portal for Kenyan Female University Students**
- 17:00 - 17:10 *Mamadou Alhadji LY*  
**Impact of Mobile Banking on Micro Savings, Payments and Household Welfare: Randomized Controlled Trials**
- 17:10 - 17:20 *Tefong Vaumi Achille*  
**ICT for the Development of Labour Productivity in Cameroon**
- 17:20 - 17:55 Q & A Session
- 17:55 - 18:00 Closing Remarks (Arul Chib)

## About the Panel Session

Dr Gloria Bonder

### Gender Analysis in ICT4D Research: A Matter of Fairness, Quality and Representation

The aim of this workshop is to present and discuss current intellectual and practical developments and debates related to gender relations and in particular the academic and socio-political implications of the integration of gender concepts and analytical perspectives into research in ICT4D research.

It will give a brief historical panorama of the different trends in gender conceptualization and its contributions to the redefinition of development. In order to clarify key concepts and methodological resources and through active participation of the audience we will analyse through selected cases and practical strategies and programs focused on ICT, which is the added value of the integration of gender analysis all along the project cycle, its contribution to quality, representation of its context and social, economical and/or cultural impacts".

Professor John Traxler

### We Talked About Doing the Right Thing

Research in different and distant cultures is ethically challenging.

The core of ethical behaviour in research is to avoid harm. The inhabitants of these different and distant cultures, along way from university campuses in the 'developed' world, all have their own ideas of what constitutes 'harm'. The definitions of physical and physiological harm may be universal and objective; research may be easy to regulate but what about research that might cause psychological, social and emotional harm, what about shame, embarrassment, oppression and discomfort? These issues are significant for ICTD researchers. The communities they work with are geographically distant from the university campuses of the 'developed' world. People everywhere, including the 'developing' world, inhabit multiple online digital communities; they live in the blogosphere, in the twittersphere, in cyberspace, in immersive virtual worlds and in social networks. Each online community has its own expectations about what is ok, what is acceptable, what is right, what is approved of, and what is appropriate in speech, interactions, language ..... and what constitutes harm. We will explore these issues and the challenges by reporting on earlier discussions ongoing within the SIRCA community of emergent and established ICTD researchers.

Dr Alexander Flor

### Information Society Research Traditions: A Southeast Asian Retrospective

Information society research, particularly in Southeast Asia, has originated from, has been borne out of, and has been thriving in practice. For more than half a century, ICTs from the humble rural radio to the most sophisticated knowledge networks have been applied in the service of national development and, more recently, in support of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), generally without adopting solid theoretical frameworks or traditions. ICTD theory came ex post facto, more of an afterthought to help explain processes and outcomes, rather than ex ante, to be validated by research. The dominance of applied research, mostly attendant to project monitoring and evaluation, attests to this. So does the preponderance of ICTD fugitive papers or grey literature produced by international development agencies over scientific articles published in technical journals.

The reasons for this trend are uncertain. It may have been a function of the immediacy of the societal problem being addressed (i.e., food security, poverty, pandemics, etc.), generating a sense of urgency that could not accommodate the luxury of theory building. Alternatively, ICTD inquiries were, more often than not, transdisciplinary, blurring the boundaries between information technology, information science, communication science, and development studies; thus the difficulty in establishing a theoretic anchor.

However, first generation information society research did not evolve devoid of tradition. Consider that ICTD is a product of the convergence of three areas of study with robust theoretical foundations: information technology, communication science and development studies. Early on, information society related research have been established along the lines of the development communication, and information economics disciplines. However, other traditions soon became engaged in the ICTD arena. Although not as exhaustive as may have been desired, this session presents a list of five traditions that the author had personal knowledge and involvement in, particularly during the early years.

### Organizer

The sessions are organised by the Strengthening Information Society Research Capacity Alliance (SIRCA II) Program, at the Singapore Internet Research Centre, Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information, Nanyang Technological University in Singapore.

### Contact Information

For queries about SIRCA II program, please email to [sirca2@ntu.edu.sg](mailto:sirca2@ntu.edu.sg)

For more information about the program, please visit our website at [www.sirca.org.sg](http://www.sirca.org.sg)



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