IRIS NEWS

The academic year 2004/5 has seen the re-launch of IRIS's Doctoral School. The Doctoral School will now be delivered through both face-to-face sessions at Salford and through the University's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). The Virtual Doctoral School aims to support <u>both</u> students who are studying at Salford and students who are mainly studying remotely. To familiarise yourselves with the Virtual Doctoral School, it is located at: http://vle.salford.ac.uk

The 'new' doctoral school has been very successful so far and I would like to thank Dr Elaine Ferneley and the Doctoral Tutors for their efforts. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage supervisors and IRIS members to participate in the future.

I am pleased to report that following IRIS appointments:

Director of Marketing:	Ms. Helen Hayes
Director of Seminars Network:	Prof. Tim Ritchings
Director of funded intiatives:	Prof. Grahame Cooper
Director of Doctoral School:	Dr. Elaine Ferneley
Director of Postgraduate Studies:	Dr. Faird Meziane
Postgraduate Conference Chair:	Dr. Amit Mitra
Doctoral School Tutor (ISOS)	Ms. Maria Burke
Doctoral School Tutor (AIRC)	Dr. Laura Campoy-Gomez
Doctoral School Tutor (HERC)	Mrs. Janice Whatley
Doctoral School Tutor (CSRC)	Dr. M Saraee
IRIS Rep on Faculty Board	Ms. Maria Burke
IRIS Rep on Research Ethics	Dr. Maria Kutar
Research Fellow Rep/IRIS Board	Ms. Simona Barresi

Yacine Rezgui
Director of IRIS

Who's Doing What?

Alison Adam was invited to present a seminar, 'Contemporary Issues in Computer Ethics', at the Department of Computer Science, Heriott-Watt University, on 19 October 2004.

Alison is to present a seminar 'Feminist Ethics and Technoscience', at the Department of Sociology, at the University of Surrey, on January 14th, 2005.

Helen Hayes conducted a workshop session at the HERC Conference on 'Student Achievement and Retention' in September 2004.

Appointments

Alison Adam has been appointed on the Programme Committee for Women into Computing (WiC) 2005 and Computer Ethics Philosophical Enquiry (CEPE).

Alison Adam is to serve on the Editorial Board of the International Journal of Ethics (Nova Publishers).

Helen Richardson is guest editing a Special Issue of *IT and People* with Lynette Kvasny from Penn State, on Critical Research in IS. The first submission is due July 2005. The Call is available at: www.itandpeople.org

8th IFP TC-6 TC-11 Conference on Communications & Multimedia Security (CMS 2004)

IRIS successfully organised the IFIP CMS2004 Conference in Windermere, on 15-18 September. The prestige of the conference was highlighted when two organisations - Royal Holloway University of London, and Saltzberg University vied to hold next year's conference.

Looking for Volunteers

Next year we are to host the **2nd European Workshop on Public Key Infrastructures** at Salford. Grahame Cooper will Chair the Organising Committee and David Chadwick is to Chair the Programme Committee.

If you would like to volunteers to help with the organisation of this conference, please contact to Grahame Cooper or David Chadwick directly.

SEEK and you shall find

SEEK (Salford Environment for Expertise and Knowledge) is an online, fully searchable repository of information on Research Institute members and their research across the University. Each Research Institute member will have a profile containing details of their research projects, publications, postgraduate research supervision and presence. The profile can be augmented by researchers adding details of their academic interests and qualifications.

SEEK will improve your visibility across the University, making it easier for you to find potential collaborators, and for external funders to find your expertise. SEEK will feed directly into University processes by providing data for appraisal and workload balancing, RAE2008 planning, and annual reports. By having all this information in one place, it will avoid the constant cross-posting of requests. To obtain more information on this system, go to http://www.rgc.salford.ac.uk/seek/

New Journal - Call for Papers

A group of ISOS researchers have taken over editorship of ACM Computers and Society (C&S) Journal.

ACM Computers and Society is the periodical for ACM SIGCAS, whose mission is to bring together computer professionals, specialists in other fields, and the public at large, to address concerns and raise awareness about the ethical and societal impact of computers. As part of its ongoing efforts to gather and report information, thus stimulating the exchange and dissemination of ideas, SIGCAS publishes a quarterly periodical (C&S) and co-sponsors national conferences such as the National Educational Conference, the Computers, Freedom and Privacy Conference, the Computers and Quality of Life Symposium, and the Computer Ethics Conference.

C&S has been published for more than thirty years – it is therefore one of the longest established journals of its type (possibly even the oldest). It is well respected and cited and there is a strong will within the community that it must continue to serve us. For many years C&S was a print journal, but a few years ago, it successfully made the transition to electronic form, under the very capable editorship of Leslie Regan Shade, from Carleton University in Canada.

Alison Adam has now taken over from Leslie as 'Editor-in-Chief ' and the journal will now be managed by a small group of colleagues from the Information Systems, Organizations and Society (ISOS) Research Centre at the University of Salford. These colleagues are Frances Bell, David Kreps, Ben Light and Helen Richardson.

We hope to build upon the good work of Leslie and other past editors maintaining a breadth of coverage whilst keeping quality to the fore. The journal does not keep hold of copyright and, authors have, in many cases, published their article in C&S before including it in a book collection later on. Additionally, C&S publishes papers from relevant conferences, notably the Computer Ethics Philosophical Enquiry series. Work in progress is published alongside finished research articles. The journal is accessed from the ACM Digital Library Portal and this ensures wide access.

In particular we wish to maintain and enhance the journal's long and genuine tradition for multidisciplinarity. Looking back over the contents pages of the journal over its 30+ year history, this multidisciplinarity is notable through the range of authors who have published there. There are many names who will be currently well known to you as authors in this field, many who are well known from the 'computer ethics' community. However, in addition to these, I note the following authors have published in C&S at some stage or other: Langdon Winner, Susan Leigh Star, Rob Kling (who was a regular contributor through the 70s, 80s and 90s), Brian Cantwell Smith, David Parnas, Joseph Weizenbaum, Donald MacKenzie, Joan Greenbaum, Bo Dahlbom, Lars Mathiassen, Eileen Trauth, Gary Marx and Richard Sclove.

Over the years, since 1972, published topics include, much discussion on computers and society courses (computer ethics began to appear as a distinct term in paper titles from the late 80s), nuclear power, privacy, electronic funds transfer, computers and elections, automation and employment, education, security, viruses, hacking, expert systems and so on.

This indicates that the journal has, at various times represented research from computer ethics, information systems, science and technology studies and computer science. We see C&S as having great strength in nurturing work at this intersection.

The journal is now electronic, although we hope to produce one print edition per year, perhaps with a selection of papers from editions through the year (yet to be decided and confirmed). In order to reach a wide audience, to offer a critical and supportive approach where quality is emphasized, and to make the journal attractive as an outlet for publication, we now plan to move towards refereeing all research papers. Hence, we are now seeking to build up an editorial advisory team and we are sending out a call for papers and a call for special issues.

To submit a paper or to obtain more details contact Alison Adam, a.e.adam@salford.ac.uk

Upcoming Events

The Informatics Research Institute is to host the **1st Doctoral Research in Informatics 2005**

(DRI2005) Conference. The theme of the Conference is Mediation, Engagement and Validation of Research in Informatics. The Conference is to take place 20-22 July 2005. The deadline for abstract submissions is 19 December 2004.

3rd European Conference on Intelligent Management Systems in Operations, 28 to 29 June 2005, organised by IRIS and the OR Society. The Conference aims to bring together researchers and practitioners working on the challenging problems in operations management that are at the OR-AI interface.

2-Day IRIS PhD Seminar 13 - 14 January 2005. Level 2 students are required to give a 15 minute presentation on their work.

IRIS SEMINARS NETWORK

Prof. Alistair Sutcliffe from UMIST, will be presenting his seminar 'Using Scenarios to Assess the Reliability of Complex Systems' , on 15 December, at 2pm in the Venables Lecture Theatre.

Nominations for speakers to present at the IRIS Seminars Network should be sent directly to Prof. Tim Ritchings (Email: T.Ritchings@salford.ac.uk).

To keep up-to-date on current semianars, conferences, and events in IRIS, lease visit the IRIS web site at: http://www.iris.salford.ac.uk/Conferences/

Research Projects

On December 16, researchers from the ESF funded WINWIT project present their findings to an invited audience of industrialists, academics and representatives form the public centre, at the Old Trafford Football Ground, Conference Centre. The researchers on this project are Claire Keogh and Angela Tattersall. Claire and Angela have spent the past year interviewing women in all parts of the IT industry in NW England, and their results are now available in a report. Several conference and journal papers are planned.

Their results suggest that women are far from achieving equality in the IT industry. Despite decades of equal opportunities and diversity legislation, women still receive a hard time in the predominantly male IT sector. Yet women are adept at developing coping strategies. They often distance themselves from IT, preferring to regard themselves as in sales or marketing rather than claiming to be in a technical domain. Some women even try to neutralise gender by dressing in polo shirts and chinos so they won't stand out in the IT workplace! These findings reinforce the latest shock statistics that

women are leaving the IT industry in substantial numbers. Helen Richardson and Alison Adam are seeking further funding for a continuation of this important research. Meanwhile the 'sister' project, WINIT, also funded by ESF, but looking at the picture for the whole of England, continues to run with researchers Marie Griffiths and Karenza Moore.

Publications

Adam, A., Howcroft, D. and Richardson, H. 2004, 'A Decade of Neglect: Reflecting on Gender and IS', in *New Technology, Work and Employment*, vol. 19, no. 3, pp. 222-240.

Adam, A. "Against Rules" in *The Ethical Turn in Information Systems*" in Howcroft , D. & Trauth, E. (eds.) Handbook of Critical IS, Edward Elgar, 2005 forthcoming.

Conference Papers

Hayes, H. 2004, 'Information Systems as a Profession: Waiting for the Past to Catch up with the Futre', at *UKAIS*, Glasgow.

Hayes, H. 2004, 'Making the Connections: Regional Needs, Customer Wants, and Non-Accredited Learning', *UAce*, Glamorgan.

Books

Alison's monograph, 'Gender, Ethics and Information Technology' is now in production, although it won't be in time for you to get a copy for your Christmas present list – but at £45 for the hardback, you'd have to love someone quite a lot to put it in their stocking. It will be published by Palgrave Macmillan in spring 2005.

The book brings a critique from feminist ethics, political and legal theory to computer ethics and topics such as privacy, surveillance, cyberstalking, Internet dating and

Internet pornography, arguing that insufficient attention has been paid to the gendered aspects of such issues.

New Staff

Research Assistants/Fellows:

The ISI now employs 8 Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTA), three of whom started in 2003 and five in 2005.

The GTAs in the ISI are Amrey Ahmad, Helen Ferris, Alexeis Garcia, Aleksej Heinze, Carl Potts, Karen Robinson, Andrew Schofield, and Krishnan Subrahmanian. They are making a tremendous contribution to the teaching and research of the School. Their enthusiasm and breadth of knowledge and experience is very welcome!

The use of GTAs in Higher Education is a topic of growing national (and international) importance. Chris Procter and Paul Spedding (both from IRIS), together with Jaye McIsaac (the University GTA co-ordinator) and Helen Ferris have been involved in presentations concerning GTAs at the following conferences. The Higher Education Academy conference on Information and Computer Science in Belfast, the Education in a Changing Environment conference in Salford and the forthcoming Society for Research into Higher Education conference in Bristol.

The new GTA for Computer, Science and Engineering is Mustafa Al-Chelabu.

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STUDENTS

New Postgraduate Research Students

July 2004

First Name	Surname	Award	Supervisor	OS / EU	FT / PT
Tuan Anh	NGUYEN	PhD	Chadwick D	OS	FT
Gansen	ZHAO	Mphil	Chadwick D	OS	FT
Alaa	EL-TALMAS	PhD	Fletcher	Split	Split
Shin-Ying	MA	PhD	Ritchings	OS	FT

October 2004

First Name	Surname	Award	Supervisor	OS / EU	FT / PT
Amrey	AHMAD	PhD	Whatley	OS	FT
Carl	POTTS	PhD	Procter	EU	PT
Christopher	BULL	PhD	Adam	EU	PT
Elias	EKONOMOU	PhD	Booth	EU	FT
Karen	ROBINSON	PhD	Bell	OS	FT
Martin	SINCLAIR	PhD	Caldwell	EU	FT
Mmeli Sidwell	FIPAZA	PhD	Caldwell	OS	FT
Mohammed	ELGERGAWI	PhD	Chadwick D	Split	Split
Mustafa	Al-CHELABI	PhD	Takruri-Rizk	EU	FT
Mykhaylo	SAHALAYEV	PhD	Cooper	OS	FT
Nazanin	ASADI	PhD	Caldwell	EU	FT
Philip	HOLT	PhD	Basden	OS	FT
Salah	AL-FADHLI	PhD	Fletcher	Merit	FT
Subrahmaniam	KRISHNAN	PhD	Campoy-Gomez	OS	FT
Susan	LOMAX	MSc	Vadera	EU	FT
Wensheng	XU	PhD	Chadwick D	OS	FT
Zhen	PENG	MSc	Ritchings	OS	PT

Research Newsletter Submissions:
The next issue of the IRIS Newsletter will be published in April 2004.
Submissions to the Newsletter must be sent to Joanne Perrott at-mail: j.e.perrott@salford.ac.uk by 25/03/05