Conferences

- Adam, A. Kreps, D., (July 2006) Web Accessibility: A Digital Divide for Disabled People. Paper presented at International Federation of Information Processing Working Group 8.2 (IFIP8.2) conference in Limerick, Ireland, on Social Inclusion: Societal & Organizational Implications for Information Systems.
- Adam, A. Kreps, D., (September 2006) Inscribing Disability: Web Accessibility and Discourses of Social Inclusion. Paper presented at Information, Communication, Society (ICS) 10th Anniversary International Symposium, York, UK
- Etherington, S., (June 2006) Conference presentation at AAAL (American Association for Applied Linguistics) 'Changing beliefs about grammar: a study of Chinese EAP learners', Montreal, Canada.
- Richardson, H and Saiger, S (October 2006) Managing the maelstrom: trust and leadership during IT-led change in the UK National Health Service – 'a risky business' presented at the ItAIS conference Milan, Italy.
- Tattersall, A and Keogh, C (October 2006) Women, networking and the impact on pay, position and status in the UK ICT industry, presented at the ItAIS conference, Milan,, Italy.

Editorships

Richardson, H and Kvasny, L Critical Research in Information Systems' Information Technology and People Vol 19 no 3 2006 (Guest editorial Critical research in information systems: looking forward, looking back') Richardson, H, Tapia, A and Kvasny, L 'Applying critical theory to the study of ICT' Social Science Computer Review Vol 24, no 3 Fall 2006 SAGE publications

Seminar Programme

Content-oriented XML retrieval, Professor Mounia Lalmas, Department of Computer Science, Queen Mary University, 2pm, October 25, 2006, Maxwell 516

WiMAX – Evolution or Revolution?, Professor Garek Markarian, School of Electronic and Electrical Engineering, The University of Leeds, 2pm, November 22, 2006, Maxwell 526/527

The Nature and Role of Emotions in Information Systems and Organizational Change, Dr Kathy McGrath, Department of Information Systems and Computing, Brunel University, 2pm, December 6, 2006, Maxwell 628,629

Prof. Donald Mackenzie, School of Social & Political Studies, University of Edinburgh, 2pm, January 31st, 2007

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 IS of three major 'turns' in philosophy of the twentieth century, closely examine the Critical Theory of Jürgen Habermas, and bring new material collected from Habermas himself.

Doctoral School

Postgraduate Research Director Dr Samia Nefti-Meziani, with Dr Ben Light, has organised an exciting and varied programme of events for all IRIS research students. Special thanks goes to all those who have presented and contributed so far and also to Joe Telles for filming the sessions. Videos are continually uploaded on to the Virtual Doctoral School Portal, IRIS' collaborative workspace environment (https://ddf1.iris.salford.ac.uk/doctoral_school/)

Joe Telles filming a session

Postgraduate Research Students

Carl Potts has presented his work at the ECIS 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 Ritchings

October 2006

Mohamed DJEBBAR, 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, Mohd MAT ABAS, PhD, Supervisor: Dr Farid Meziane
Kamonnat TAMRACKITKUN, PhD, Supervisor: Dr. Siân Etherington
Deborah TRAYHURN, PhD, Supervisor: Prof. Alison Adam

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 LTRN. 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.

Newsletter Submissions

The next issue of the IRIS newsletter will be published in March 2007; to submit an item please email it to: e.j.hughes@salford.ac.uk

Informatics Research Institute Director:
Professor Yacine Rezgui
Professor of Applied Informatics
University of Salford

University of Salford
A Greater Manchester University

IRIS
Informatics Research Institute

Welcome to IRIS newsletter

December 06

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

- Dr Apostolos Antonacopoulos 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.

Apostolos Antonacopoulos (second from right) is shown with IAPR Executive Committee (left to right: Professors Tombre, Ablameyko, Petrou, Laurendeau, Kasturi and Kropatsch).

Upcoming Events

IRIS will host the next **IFIP 8.6 International Conference in June 2007.** Dr Elaine Ferneley 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 Gordon B. Davis. 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 NLDB07: the **12th International Conference on Applications of Natural Language to Information Systems** (www.nldb.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-Meziani will chair the first Doctoral Consortium of NLDB. Prof. Heinz Klein has been invited, and agreed, to deliver a key note presentation.

Women in North West Engineering (WEWIN) Dissemination Conference

The Women in North West Engineering (WEWIN) 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 Haifa Takruri-Rizk, 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.l.bezer@salford.ac.uk) or visit the WEWIN website: www.cse.salford.ac.uk/wewin.

Upcoming Events

Psychology of Programming Interest Group
PPIG Work-in-Progress Workshop (WIP-PPIG)
Salford, UK, 4-5 January 2007

The PPIG 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. PPIG 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 PPIG, 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 PPIG web site (www.ppig.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/her/conference/

Esteem

Dr David Kreps was one of a four-strong panel at the recent Fifth International EGOV conference, 4-8 September 2006, in Krakow, Poland. The panel presented and led a workshop on Training and Education for e-Government, where Dr Kreps was able to describe and highlight the evolution and achievement of what is the only campus-based MSc in eGovernance in Europe, now in its third year. Professor Lasse Berntzen, from Norway, who led the panel, has invited Dr Kreps to Oslo in November this year, and will be visiting Salford in late February next year, to deliver teaching, seminars, and PhD workshops at each others universities.

Huw Jarvis was the plenary speaker at the 15th International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language, Poland Annual Conference in Poznan. 'Computers and the challenges for English Language Teaching.

Dr Elaine Ferneley has joined the advisory panel for the EPSRC Pegasus project, a 2 year project exploring the implementation of GridPP. They are building a distributed computing Grid across the UK for particle physicists. The UK Grid will contribute the equivalent of 10,000 PCs to this worldwide effort.

The Pegasus project is exploring the various issues surrounding the implementation of such a large scale, time critical project across a globally distributed network of users.

Frances Bell is on the programme committee for ALT-C 2007, see http://www.alt.ac.uk/altc2007/, research papers due 14 February 2007 (other submissions later) and has also been invited to be a moderator and 'Resource Person' at the Virtual Mobility Forum, see http://www.online-educa.com/?a=1&b=4&c=4.

Dr Maria Burke was Track Chair at the IRMA (Information Resources Management Association) Conference in Washington, D.C., USA, for a new track 'Philosophical Viewpoints in Information Management'. The track attracted considerable interest with papers from diverse topics. After the conference Dr Burke visited Prof. Lee at Harvard Business School to discuss further work in information fulfilment.

Dr Farid Meziane is the editor of a Special issue of the Data and Knowledge Engineering Journal on Application of Natural Language to Information Systems, Volume 58 Issue 1 and is on the International Editorial Review Board of the International Journal of Information Technology and Web Engineering.

Projects

The ESF funded project DEPICT (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 Baroness Prosser at the Institute of Engineering in London.

Funding

There have been a number of recent successful bids.

Eye Catching – Prof. David Roberts, £740K EPSRC

Prof. David Roberts has been awarded an EPSRC 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

Combating NW e-Discrimination - Dr David Kreps, £84,538 ESF Funding

Dr David Kreps has secured an £85k 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 Haifa Takruri-Rizk, £86,752

Following on from WEWIN, 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 Tattersall 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 IT Project – Frances Bell, £74,000

Women in IT are a rare and valuable group, often isolated and lacking knowledge about overcoming discrimination at work, and without opportunities for business and social support and networking. Women are severely under represented in the IT sector and are haemorrhaging out of the IT labour market. To counter this trend, the 'KAN (know and network): Women in IT' project will research the diversity of information needs of women, particularly those in SME IT 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 IT throughout England link with each other, aiming to help to collectively overcome barriers to recruitment, retention and career development.

Publications

Book Chapters

- Adam, A., Griffiths, M., Keogh, C., Moore, K and Richardson, H. (2006) Gender and information systems research at the University of Salford in Trauth, E (ed) 'Encyclopaedia of Gender and Information Technology' IDEA Group
- Griffiths, M, Keogh, C., Moore, K., Richardson, H and Tattersall, A (2006) Inclusion through the ages? Gender, ICT workplaces and lifestage experiences' households in Kendall, J., Howcroft, D., Trauth, E., Butler, T., Fitzgerald, B and DeGross J.I. 'Social inclusion: societal and organisational implications for information systems' Springer
- Griffiths, M and Moore, K (2006) Issues raised by the Women in IT project in England in Trauth, E (ed) 'Encyclopaedia of Gender and Information Technology' IDEA Group
- Griffiths, M, Keogh, C, Moore, K, Tattersall, A & Richardson, H., (2006) Managing diversity or valuing diversity?: Gender and the IT labour market in Niederman, F & Ferratt, T.W. 'IT Workers: Human Capital issues in a knowledge-based environment' Information Age Publishing
- Keogh, C, Tattersall, A and Richardson, H. (2006) Directing equal pay in the UK ICT labour market in Trauth, E (ed) 'Encyclopaedia of Gender and Information Technology' IDEA Group
- Kreps, D. and Adam, A., (2006) Failing the Disabled Community?: The Continuing Problem of Web Accessibility, in 'Advances in Universal Web Design and Evaluation: Research, Trends and Opportunities' IDEA Group
- Richardson, H (2006) Space invaders – time raiders: gendered technologies in gendered households in Kendall, J., Howcroft, D., Trauth, E., Butler, T., Fitzgerald, B and DeGross J.I. 'Social inclusion: societal and organisational implications for information systems' Springer
- Tattersall, A., Keogh, C., Richardson, A., and Adam, A. (2006) Women and the IT workplace in North West England in Trauth, E (ed) 'Encyclopaedia of Gender and Information Technology' IDEA Group

Journal Papers

- Adam, A., 'Delegating and Distributing Morality: Can We Inscribe Privacy Protection in a Machine?' Ethics and Information Technology, 2006, 7 (4), 233 - 242.
- Adam, A., Griffiths, M., Keogh, C., Moore, K., Richardson, H. & Tattersall, A., 'Being an it in IT – Gendered Identities in the IT Workplace', European Journal of Information Systems, 2006, 15, 368-378.
- Adam, A. & Kreps, D., 'Enabling or disabling technologies? A critical approach to web accessibility', Information Technology & People, 2006, 19 (3), 203-218.
- Ferneley, E. H. & Sobreperez, P. 'Resist, Comply or Workaround? An Examination of the Different Facets of User Engagement with Information Systems', European Journal of Information Systems, 2006, 15, 345-356.
- Ferneley, E. H. & Light, B., 'Secondary User Relations in Emerging Mobile Computing Environments', European Journal of Information Systems, 2006, 15, 301-306.
- Light, B. & Wagner, E., 'Integration in ERP Environments: Rhetoric, Realities and Organisational Possibilities', New Technology, Work and Employment, 2006, 21 (3), 215-228.
- O'Doherty, E. 'Foundation Degrees and Widening Participation: public sector employees' work-based learning and Foundation Degrees', Journal of Access Policy and Practice, 2006, 3 (2), 142-161.
- Doyle, M. and O'Doherty, E. 'Foundation Degrees and Widening Participation:
- Earning, learning and public sector modernisation', Journal of Widening Participation and Lifelong Learning, 8 (1), 4-13.

Papers in Press:

- Boddy, S; Rezgui, Y; Cooper, G; and Wetherill, M. (2007), Computer Integrated Construction: A review and Proposals for Future Directions, Advances in Engineering Software (Elsevier).
- Boddy, S., Rezgui, Y., Wetherill, M. & Cooper, G (2007), Knowledge informed decision making in the building lifecycle: An application to the design of a water drainage system, Automation in Construction (Elsevier)
- Lindsay, S., Smith, S., Bell, F. & Bellaby, P. (2007) Tackling the Digital Divide: Exploring the Impact of ICT on Managing Heart Conditions in a Deprived Area, Information, Communication and Society, 2007, 10(1).
- McMaster, T. & Wastell, D. (2007) 'The Rise of the Phoenix: methodological innovation as a discourse of renewal' Journal of Information Technology.
- Rezgui, Y (2007), 'Exploring Virtual Team-Working Effectiveness in the Construction Sector', Interacting with Computers.
- Rezgui, Y (2007), 'Knowledge Management Systems and Value Creation: A Case Study Investigation', Industrial Management and Data Systems (Emerald).
- Richardson H & Robinson, B. (2007) 'The mysterious case of the missing paradigm: a review of critical information systems research 1991-2001', Information Systems Journal.
- Wetherill, M., Rezgui, Y., Boddy, S. & Cooper, G. (2007) 'Intra and Inter-Organisational Knowledge Services to Promote Informed Sustainability Practices, Computing in Civil Engineering, Journal of the American Society of Civil Engineering.