

OII Summer Doctoral Programme 2007

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Benjamin Kwasi Addom

Ben received a combined Bachelors Degree in General Agriculture and Diploma in Education from the University of Cape Coast, Ghana between 1993/1998. As a Ghanaian, he served his nation as Agricultural Extension Officer for one year through a mandatory National Service Program that applies to all students graduating from the country's public higher education institutions. He also taught agriculture in Secondary School (High School) for few months before returning to the field where he worked with two different private organizations between early 2000 to mid 2003 prior to his admission to Cornell University.

While at Cornell, Ben enrolled in Masters in International Agriculture and Rural Development (a professional program) for a year between 2003/2004, worked as student computer assistant at Stone Computing Center, and a practical training between 2004/2005 all at Mann Library, Cornell University. His interest in the use of the new Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) developed while in Cornell and based on his experience as an extension officer between farmers and research station in Ghana. He conducted a survey on the E-readiness of seven universities in Ghana as part of his Masters research with very interesting and promising results to assess how prepared the country's higher education institutions are in using ICTs for teaching, research and outreach/extension.

In Syracuse University, Ben is exploring different ways by which these new technologies could be used to enhance access by all. Specifically, Ben has been looking at transnational civil society, epistemic communities, geographically distributed collaboration, knowledge sharing and information exchange between developed and developing nations, timely access to relevant and content specific information by the end users, technology and community innovativeness, social network analysis through the emerging field of Community Informatics.

Ben has been the Lab Manager of the Center for Research on Collaboratories and Enhanced Learning Communities (Cotelco) since 2005 and a research fellow at the Burton Blatt Institute, Syracuse University.

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Julia Ahrens

Julia Ahrens is a third year PhD student in Germany in the field of communication studies. She holds a Master of Arts in economic and communication studies (majors) and media & public relations and law (minors).

Her PhD research focuses on the Internet in everyday life. She conducted a qualitative study comparing the Internet use at home in Germany and Australia. During her studies she spent a year in Australia sponsored by a scholarship of the Australian minister of education. She was a visiting scholar at the Australian National University, the University of Western Sydney and the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. Julia is a scholar of the German National Merit Foundation. She has presented at a number of conferences and seminars, including the conference of the Association of Internet Researchers 2006 in Brisbane.

Julia has work experience as a research assistant and tutor at the department of media and communication studies at the University of Lüneburg as well as a journalist and editor in the media business. She is also working as a communication and presentation trainer for international companies.

Karina Alexanyan Fitch

Karina Alexanyan's research interests involve media, culture and globalization. Her dissertation focuses on the Russian language internet. With this doctoral research, Karina aims to leverage her native insight and ties to Russia (social, cultural and linguistic) to help deepen our understanding of the role of global communication technologies in cultural globalization. She is currently writing a chapter on Russia for a forthcoming edited volume on International Blogging. This summer she will present her research at the *Public Practices, Social Software: Examining Social Practices in Networked Publics* Workshop at the Communities and Technologies Conference in Michigan and will participate in the Oxford Internet Institute Summer Program (in partnership with the The Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard Law School). She is also a 2006 recipient of the Harriman Institute's Pepsico Fellowship for Summer Research and Travel. Her professional experience centers around international issues, technology, education, arts and culture. She has directed an international service learning program, supervised software localization projects, managed a performance art space and produced an educational website raising global awareness among youth (www.worldtrek.org). Karina received her MPhil from Columbia University, her MA in Communications from NYU and a BA in Linguistics and Modern Languages (French and Russian) from the Claremont Colleges. She is married, with two children – Jett, aged 3 and Syrus, almost one year.

Veronica Alfaro

Veronica Alfaro is an advanced Ph.D. student at The New School for Social Research in New York City. She earned her B.A. in International Affairs at the University of Guadalajara (Mexico) in 1998. After that, she moved to N.Y. to start the M.A. degree in Sociology, also working as a Fellow Researcher in several projects for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and El Colegio de Mexico (COLMEX). She started her Ph.D. in 2003, and she's majoring in both Sociology of Media and Culture.

Her doctoral dissertation work is focused on social movements that are staged in cyberspace, the 'informational guerrilla movements' that use the internet as a tool for doing politics and cyberspace as an agora, a virtual public sphere, and a field of struggle. Mapping the political dimension of cyberspace from a sociological point of view, and first inspired by the Zapatista community around the world, Ms. Alfaro's work analyses the Electronic Disturbance Theater (EDT), one of the first movements that practiced Electronic Civil Disobedience –and the creators of the "virtual sit-in" in solidarity with the Zapatistas, as a case to study the intersection between cultural practices and politics.

She is also working as the webmaster of The Virtual Kitchen Table, a project that seeks to build a space for intellectual discussion and collaboration among peers.

Bodó Balázs

Bodó Balázs (1975), economist, assistant lecturer, researcher at the Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Department of Sociology and Communications, Center for Media Research and Education since 2001. Fulbright Visiting Researcher at Stanford Law School. Non Residential Fellow at the Center for Internet and Society at Stanford in 2006/07. Project lead for Creative Commons Hungary.

His academic interests include sociocultural impacts of new media, media regulation, online communities, copyright piracy, peer-to-peer filesharing communities, underground libraries, digital archives. Leader of the development of several commercial internet applications as well as numerous academic research projects dealing with digital archives, e-learning and online communities.

Editor and member of the board (2004/06) of the Budapest based community radio Tilos.

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Monica Barbovschi

Monica Barbovschi is a PhD student in the Department of Sociology at the Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, University of Babes-Bolyai, Cluj-Napoca, Romania, under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Traian Rotariu. Her PhD thesis deals with mediating technological structures between individuals and civil society, between the civil society and governmental authority, with a focus on the replacement / co-existence of traditional mass media with new information technologies and its social consequences in four of the countries in Central and Eastern Europe.

During the past academic year, she has also been collaborating with the Research Center of Inter-Ethnic Relations (Cluj-Napoca), on both social research (regional and national social surveys) and study abroad programs. She is currently working on a 2 year research project on "Risks and effects of Internet use among children and teenagers".

In 2004 she completed her studies in Sociology and started to develop an interest in media and communication studies, which had further been channeled into a Masters in Social Communication (completed 2005). During her MA, she took interest in issues like virtual communities, ICTS and the emergence of a new public sphere and civil society, which became the starting point of her doctoral research.

Her current research interests include uses and implementation of ICTs, predicted effects on individual and societal level, media multiplicity, mobile journalism and the emergence of individual and communal online content, changes and challenges in youth Internet uses, development possibilities for Eastern European countries.

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Serena Carpenter

Serena Carpenter is a third-year doctoral student who is obtaining a degree in Media & Information Studies from Michigan State University. Carpenter has accepted a position as an assistant professor at Arizona State University beginning Fall 2007. Her core research interests are technology's effects on news media organizations, content, communities and educational institutions. Carpenter has taught classes in media production and writing, digital reporting and nonlinear/linear video editing. She previously worked as a broadcast reporter for four years.

Jaz Hee-jeong Choi

Jaz Hee-jeong Choi is a doctoral candidate in the Creative Industries Faculty at Queensland University of Technology. Research-wise, she is fascinated by how people play and create playgrounds within evolving techno-social contexts to have fun and be generally happier, and thus she is currently very keen to explore domains of play, culture, technology, urban design, and the betweenness of things.

During her undergraduate studies (in Multimedia), she was introduced to the anime *Serial Experiments Lain*, which influenced her greatly in understanding the human-technology relationship. With her own betweenness/es (being a Korean Australian, for example), she developed a strong interest in techno-social contextualisation (as compared to technological or social determinism) and looking at non-Western (less dominant) side of story for such contextualisation. This led to her Honours research titled *Sign in to Cyworld, Move on with Moblog: Blogging the Korean Way?* in Communication Design. Her current doctoral research further expands on this by exploring the youth mobile play culture of South Korea.

She believes in the importance of playing, creativity, and diversity, and would like to contribute to making the world a happier place, especially through learning of these. She plans for her contribution to come not only in the form of academic research, but also in various other forms such as technology design/development and art. Jaz's blog is at <http://www.nicemustard.com>

Rachel Cobcroft

Rachel Cobcroft is a PhD candidate in the Institute for Creative Industries and Innovation (iCi) (<http://www.ici.qut.edu.au>), as represented by the Faculties of Law, Creative Industries, and Information Technology at the Queensland University of Technology (<http://www.qut.edu.au>). Her doctoral thesis examines modes of participation in the new media environment; specifically, users' motivations to create and contribute content within the oft-debated 'Web 2.0' framework. Maintaining a critical interest in the Free/Libre Open Source Software movement and the ethos of the gift economy, her work explores issues of remix and reuse through Creative Commons licensing, and investigates incentives of next-generation business models. To this end, her research conceptualises a spectrum of practices ranging from 'life caching' to commons-based creativity, and the intersection of offline and online interactions within the Flickr photo-sharing community, where she is admin of several groups.

Rachel is currently lead research associate on an Australian Research Council grant investigating the support of Australian rural women through online communities and collaborative technologies.

She holds a Masters of Information Technology and has lectured in Information Systems, and has published work on the use of mobile technologies in pedagogical contexts. Her Honours thesis undertaken at the University of Queensland considered the role of the independent press in Argentina in the 1970s. Rachel has served as Coordinating Editor, Reviewer, and Guest Editor for M/C – Media and Culture (<http://www.media-culture.org.au>). In addition, she regularly contributes technology columns for several professional organisations, and was the curator of the first photographic exhibition of the CC Salon in Australia.

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Seok-Jin Eom

Seok-Jin Eom is a Ph.D. Candidate in Public Administration at the Seoul National University in Korea. Eom received his Master of Public Administration in 2001 and his Bachelor of Economics in 1996, both from Seoul National University. He has been doing the comparative research on e-government building as a 2006-2007 Doctoral Fellow at the National Center for Digital Government in the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Prior to enrolling in the Ph.D. program, Eom was a business consultant for Korea's national e-government initiatives and research programs. Participating in the e-government initiatives and the research, he analyzed the public service level through the Internet and proposed the innovative model for integrating e-services and directions of e-government for Korean central government.

He also published several papers on e-government and IT policy in academic journals in Korea. In some papers, he analyzed the relationship between IT adoption and organizational structure in Korean central/local governments. After empirically testing the impact of IT adoption on the organizational structure in Korean central/local government, he analyzed the institutional and organizational factors that influenced the impact of the IT adoption on the organizational structure in Korean governments.

Eom is currently analyzing e-government-building of Korean central government and that of the U.S. federal government from comparative perspective. He is focusing on how different institutional arrangements produced the different outcomes and performance of e-governments in the two nations.

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Adam Fiser

Adam Fiser is a Ph.D. candidate in the Faculty of Information Studies (FIS) and a graduate fellow of the Knowledge Media Design Institute (KMDI) at the University of Toronto. Adam's research program explores political, social, and organizational aspects of community network design in the context of remote indigenous communities. In 2004 he entered a series of collaborative research projects with members of K-Net (<http://www.knet.ca/>), a community network of over 100 First Nations and related points of presence in northwestern Ontario. Through these projects he has studied a cross-section of K-Net's ICT infrastructure, from cases of

carriage and human resource development, to experiments in content/services design. Adam has also stepped back from collaborative research to study the policy programs and partnerships that enabled K-Net's version of ICT infrastructure to emerge, and he has learned about some of the strengths and vulnerabilities of this community network model by engaging K-Net's management, staff, and various stakeholders. Adam's involvement with K-Net has also given him opportunities to meet with stakeholders from community networks across Canada and internationally to learn about the similarities and differences of their designs.

Adam has been involved in research and design related work, in addition to his dissertation research. In July 2006 he joined the Community Wireless Research Project (CWIRP) as a graduate student researcher responsible for CWIRP's aboriginal case study (Lac Seul), in which his responsibilities include data collection, liaising with community and government partners, and presenting data to stakeholders. In 2006, he was a research consultant for Princess Margaret Hospital's Patient Education Prescriptions project (Peptalk) and worked as a project manager and co-designer of a health informatics application for remote aboriginal communities in northwestern Ontario. Since September 2004, Adam has also been a graduate student researcher for the Canadian Research Alliance for Community Innovation and Networking (www.cracin.ca) where he is responsible for CRACIN's aboriginal case study (Keewaytinook Okimakanak).

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María Gómez Rodríguez

I am a PhD student at the Universidad Autonoma de Madrid and part-time lecturer in Law and New Technologies at the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya.

In my studies in Law and Journalism at University Carlos III de Madrid, at Universitat Pompeu Fabra de Barcelona and at Université Libre de Bruxelles, I develop a clear and deep interest for Telecommunications and New Technologies law. My work within the Telecommunication, Post and Information Society Coordination Unit at the European Commission gave me the fundamental multilateral point of view about electronic communications regulation to approach the network neutrality principles in the European context. I started researching about the interconnection between competition law and IP in the technological environment, then I decided to let my research evolve towards net neutrality debate, moving from the content (IP) to the infrastructure (the networks).

In my PhD project I develop the network neutrality debate and its future in Europe, now that the new electronic communications framework is being discussed. My focus is on the regulation / antitrust solutions to the different contingences, comparing the American and the European perspectives.

I have published on issues related to IP, innovation and data protection. My publications include: "La Carta Adelphi y el caso Microsoft: la protección del software en un entorno de competencia" (The Adelphi Charter and the Microsoft Case: software protection in an environment of competition), edited at Revista de Derecho Mercantil; "Internet Service Providers' Responsibility for Hosted Material", edited at the E-commerce Law Bulletin; "New Spanish Regulations on exchange of information about financial solvency and creditworthiness, Bad Debtors' Data files", edited at BNA International World Data Protection Report.

Besides my academic work I have worked continuously in several law firms, to interconnect theory and praxis, to get a better approach of the fundamental issues of my research and my work.

Erica Johnson

Erica Johnson is a first-year PhD student at the Political Science Institute at the University of Lyon II in Lyon, France. She is working in collaboration with Vincent Michelot at the Political Science Institute and Donnagal Young, a communications professor at the University of Delaware.

After earning her BA in Computer Science/Mathematics and French from Bowdoin College (Brunswick, Maine), Erica moved to Clermont-Ferrand, France, to teach English as a Second Language at university level. She has also run a freelance website development company since 1999. Given her experience with technology, Erica thus chose to study new media and politics. Her research focuses on the ways in which Internet manifests itself as a form of media and the transformative power of Internet technology in American politics.

Her Masters research, done at Blaise Pascal University in Clermont-Ferrand, France, analyzed the role played by American political blogs in the 2004 presidential election. Her most recent research analyzed agenda-setting theory and to what extent American political blogs set the agenda for American print media during the 2004 presidential debates. By examining two high-profile bloggers and comparing them to an established newspaper, Erica concluded that certain political blogs are influencing the coverage of politics by conventional print media.

Lorraine Kisselburgh

Lorraine Kisselburgh is a PhD candidate in the Department of Communication, and a Research Assistant with Discovery Park and the Center for Education and Research in Information Assurance and Security (CERIAS), all at Purdue University. Her research interests include the social implications of emerging technologies, particularly privacy and digital identity, and the intersections of technology, organizations, and difference.

Her research has examined data aggregation and individual privacy; the boundaries of intrusiveness in geo-locational privacy in geospatial systems, and the balance between security, privacy, and public access in state-level government GIS systems. Current research examines cross-cultural influences of privacy attitudes, as well as cross-cultural and gender differences in the constructions of science and engineering careers in young girls. Her dissertation will examine the influence of privacy preferences on the social structure of networked communities (using social networking analysis), and the discursive constructions of privacy. She has received

research funding from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, the College of Engineering at Purdue University, and a Purdue University dissertation fellowship.

Her background includes the study of dance, kinesiology, psychology (information processing), and computer science. She worked in the Computer Science/IT industry for a number of years directing the development and use of emerging technologies and applications in higher education, and provided strategic planning and policy development for Purdue University. She is a member of the Public Policy committee (and privacy subcommittee) of the ACM, and received a Top Four Paper award for her work on privacy at the 2005 NCA conference. She holds a B.A. with honors from the University of Southern California, and an M.S. from Purdue University.

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Ralph Lengler

Ralph is a PhD candidate at the faculty of communication sciences, University of Lugano, Switzerland. He studied internet-psychology, cinema and business administration at the Universities of Zürich, Liège and the Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris. Ralph is Project Manager for the Swiss Virtual Campus e-learning project www.visual-literacy.org which aims to make university students more visually literate. Part of the project was the development of a periodic table of visualization methods which is currently the most bookmarked site on del.icio.us under the tag visualization.

With work experience in graphic design, journalism and film directing, his research interests are threefold. Firstly he is deeply interested in how the web 2.0 is affecting life as we know it. How co-creational mechanisms, like voting, annotation and mash-ups are changing our experience of media consumption. Secondly he is interested in visual rhetoric or how one can best communicate visually not only to the head but also to the heart. Thirdly I see the vast databases of imdb, flickr or youtube also as a mine for research and I'm interested how one can exploit them for hypothesis generation and testing.

Karoline Lukaschek

Karoline Lukaschek is a PhD student at the university of Heidelberg (Germany), Department of Ethnology. She just finished her dissertation on "The constitution of community in an role playing and fantasy chat room". Karoline Lukaschek holds a Master of Arts from the University of Heidelberg where she majored in Archaeology and History. Her Master thesis was on "Lucifer/Phosphorus in Roman art and literature". She also holds a Master of Philosophy from the University of Cambridge

(UK) where she majored in Biological Anthropology with a thesis on “The History of Cannibalism”.

Having the opportunity to do her PhD with famous Prof. Klaus Peter Koepping, Karoline Lukaschek focused on internet studies, especially performance, self representation and community in the Internet. Her main interest is in communication and power in Cyberspace and the application of the concept of “imagined communities“ to internet communities.

Being ethnologist, Karoline Lukaschek is very interested in cultures and cultural exchange.

Believing in language as the first step towards the unknown realm of a new culture, Karoline Lukaschek studied e.g. Japanese, Finnish and Russian, to deeply immerse herself in a foreign culture. As winner of the essay competition of the Japanese embassy in 2005, she took part in a study trip to Japan. She also worked in Helsinki for a time.

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Daithí Mac Síthigh

I was born in Dún Laoghaire, Ireland in 1982, and grew up in County Wicklow (on the east coast) speaking English and Irish. I am a Foundation Scholar and graduate of Trinity College Dublin, where I am employed as a research assistant and am carrying out my PhD research in the School of Law. My thesis is on approaches to the regulation of 'new media' and combines elements of law, media studies and technology.

During my LL.B, I spent a year at Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto, Ontario where I specialised in the law of communications and technology. I worked as a full-time student representative after my law degree (in TCD and in the Irish national union of students), and took graduate courses with the Open University in the UK before commencing doctoral studies in January 2006. I previously worked as a library assistant in Toronto and Dublin, and currently give tutorials in constitutional and administrative law and carry out research for a review of the college statutes.

My media and technology interests have included work as an editor and administrator for the Irish Indymedia website, managing a student radio station, and being involved in free software and copyright reform activism. I blog at lexferenda.com, mostly on cyberlaw and related topics. I'm involved in social democratic politics, like Indian food and am a keen (if unskilled) cyclist.

Karen Mc Cullagh

Karen Mc Cullagh is a doctoral student at the Centre for Census & Survey Research, University of Manchester, UK. Karen also holds an MSc in Social Research Methods & Statistics from her current university and an LLM in Computers & Law from Queen's University, Belfast, Northern Ireland. Prior to commencing the PhD, Karen worked as a solicitor. Her research examines the “The Social, Cultural, Epistemological & Technical basis of the concept of Private data.” This involves:

- A theoretical review discussing the philosophical meaning of privacy and a critique of various legislative measures, which address the subject of data protection.
- Semi-structured interviews with privacy and data protection experts from around the world. These interviews examined understanding of, and satisfaction with current concepts such as personal and sensitive data. This phase of research also tested a proposed definition of private data.
- A telephone survey to examine the attitude of the British public towards sensitive data. It tested both satisfaction with the current categories of sensitive data and also attitudes towards new categories of sensitive data raised in expert interviews.
- An online survey was used to explore privacy attitudes of bloggers from around the world. They were asked to answer questions anonymously about their blogging practices and their expectations of privacy when publishing online.

Other research interests: identity cards, biometrics, surveillance, e-democracy, and a general interest in Media, IT and IP law.

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Ismael Peña-López

Ismael Peña-López is Lecturer at the School of Law and Political Science, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC), where he works in the area of Public Policies and ICTs for Development, teaching Digital Literacy and e-Inclusion, Political Transformations in the Information Society (I & II), Technological Grounds Of The e-Administration and Introduction to Economics.

He holds a BSc in Economics (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, 1996), a MSc in Ecoaudit and Corporate Planning of the Environment (Instituto de Investigaciones Ecológicas de Málaga, 1998), a Postgraduate Degree in Knowledge Management (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, 2002) and a DEA in Political Science (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, 2005).

His research interests are twofold. On one hand, he is deeply interested in how the Information Society is affecting life as we know it and, in particular, life in developing countries, and whether this is a chance for them to take off (ICT4D). Under this light, he is reads and writes about the Digital Divide, e-Readiness and the measuring of the Information Society, ICTs in cooperation for development, nonprofit technology, online volunteering and e-Inclusion and digital capacitation. On the other hand, being teaching in a virtual university, constant reflection about one's work takes him to reflect on e-Learning, e-Portfolios and Instructional Technology. The meeting point of these two broad areas of knowledge brings also great interest on Open Access, Open Science and Access to Knowledge. Dealing with all these issues, he edits ICTlogy (ISSN 1886-5208).

As a practitioner, he founded and directed during five years UOC's Cooperation for Development Programme, focused to e-learning for development projects run by online volunteers.

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Ben Peters

Ben Peters hails from Iowa City, Iowa, USA, although his studies have taken him to the Mountain West (Brigham Young University, 2004 BA in International Studies and Russian), both coasts (Stanford University, 2005 MA in Russian, Eastern European, and Eurasian Studies; Columbia University, expected 2009 PhD in Communications), and Eastern Europe (volunteer service in Russia 1999-2001 with language study in Ukraine 2003, 2005 and Germany 2007). Interested in becoming a scholar engaged in the world of law and communications, he is currently attempting to focus his dissertation topic on the history of copyright and piracy in Russia and Ukraine with two analytic lens: one, the history of new media, which looks to cast and sober thought about present-day information and communication technologies (ICT) against a backdrop of history and, two, critical information studies, which sees in cultural policies (e.g. copyright) and cultural practices (e.g. piracy) a broad field for comparing mediated creativity and information regulation across states, societies, and cultures. These two lens focus the Soviet copyright history project by, on the one hand, elongating and narrowing study of ICT regulation to the terms that make media new, while, on the other, by providing the groundwork for reading the Soviet experience with authors' rights, state-owned media, and collective property as a challenge to the present Western configuration of ideas and ownership. After an initial two-week project test run in Kiev, Ben looks forward to sharing and sharpening these and other questions in Boston.

Daisy Pignetti

Daisy Pignetti is a doctoral candidate in the Department of English at the University of South Florida in Tampa. Having passed her comprehensive exams in the areas of Computers and Composition, Trauma Theory, and the History of Rhetoric, she expects to complete her Ph.D. in Rhetoric and Composition in 2008.

In recent months, Daisy's scholarship and teaching have evolved from highlighting the practical use of digital technologies in the writing classroom to discussing the healing ability of writing, although the focus is still on writing that "goes public" in various online spaces. This was less a gradual evolution than one precipitated by the event of Hurricane Katrina. When the storm hit and the levees broke, she, like many other New Orleans natives, lost the ability to communicate with friends and family via telephone. Transplanted in Tampa with no news networks offering coverage from her neighborhood, she turned to the Internet for more reliable information posted by locals. She also, more passionately than ever, wrote in her own weblog in order to alleviate stress and to take action.

Now, nearly two years after Katrina hit, Daisy has discovered a growing number of New Orleans bloggers who continue to document their frustrations daily on their blogs and thereby show outsiders world-wide what post-Katrina life is like in "the city that care forgot."

As a result, she now sets out to answer the following questions in her dissertation: 1) To what extent do these New Orleanians, who are increasingly anxious about the rebuilding of the levees and are plagued with high crime rates and still unfulfilled insurance claims, offer models of public writing that demonstrate the civic importance

of new media? and 2) How do times of crisis increase the likelihood that speaking, listening, and healing will occur in spaces other than those predicted?

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Peter Malachy Ryan

I am currently a Rogers Fellow and a fourth-year doctoral candidate in the York/Ryerson Universities Joint Communication and Culture Programme in Toronto, Canada.

My dissertation research focuses on the topic of how literary fiction has influenced the creation of information and communication technology (ICT) through its research and development culture. This research has implications for North American "Creative Class" policy initiatives. The research is conducted mostly through interviews and surveys with writers of literary fiction and ICT R&D professionals.

Professionally, I am an instructor in Ryerson University's Department of Politics and Public Administration. I am also a research associate with Ryerson's Infoscape Lab, which is under the direction of Dr. Greg Elmer, Bell Globemedia Research Chair. The Infoscape Lab develops and maintains digital tools for on-line research, including the Webivore software application that archives websites and blog feeds for later analysis. To date, our research at the lab has focused on tracking Canadian Federal political party websites and blogs during elections.

I also work as a consultant to public and private businesses in the areas of educational development and ICT integration. My experience in consulting is based on my previous work in the international publishing industry and managing several private businesses. My research interests reflect these varying experiences, and include the diffusion of ICTs, instructional design, the military-entertainment-industrial complex, political economy, and twentieth century North American fiction, with an emphasis on Timothy Findley, Michael Ondaatje, Thomas Pynchon, and Philip K. Dyck. In my spare time, I am an active outdoorsman, creative writer, and musician.

Cuihua (Cindy) Shen

Cuihua (Cindy) Shen is a second year PhD student at Annenberg School for Communication, University of Southern California. Her fundamental research interest is to understand human activities in the new social spaces created by the Internet and new communication technologies. Specifically, she studies virtual communities that are created for information sharing, collaborative production, and entertainment, from both socio-psychological and sociological perspectives. Methodologically, she employs quantitative as well as social network analytic tools. Cindy comes from Suzhou, a beautiful city in southeast China. Before coming to USC, she earned her BA in English at Zhejiang University and her MA in Communication at National University of Singapore.

Rebecca Herr Stephenson

Rebecca Herr Stephenson is a Ph.D. candidate in the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Southern California and a graduate fellow at the Annenberg Center for Communication. For the past two years, she has been a member of the research team for a large-scale ethnographic investigation of kids' learning with digital media funded by the MacArthur foundation. Her research interests include media literacy, youth media production, and youth culture. Her dissertation investigates issues of access, literacy, and learning through ethnographic studies of media production by adolescents in school settings and in interest-driven online communities.

Previously, Becky worked as a production manager for companies producing original content for the web and multimedia museum exhibits. She holds a B.A. in video production from Emerson College (Boston, MA), a M.A.T. (Master of Arts in Teaching) from the School of Education at Loyola Marymount University, and a M.A. in Communication from the Annenberg School.

Fred Stutzman

Fred Stutzman is a Ph.D. student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's School of Information and Library Science, and co-founder of ClaimID.com, the identity-management site. His research interests include identity, social software and networks, and the effects of social technologies. Fred's main ongoing research initiatives include the analysis of online social network sites, as well as the creation and presentation of online identity. Prior to entering graduate school, Fred worked for Ibiblio.org (formerly SunSITE), the large digital repository of open-source, open-access content. While at Ibiblio, he proposed and managed the development of Lyceum, the open-source blogging platform. He has previously worked in technical and project management roles for The Motley Fool and Nortel Networks.

Fred's research on social networks and identity is frequently cited by local, national and international media. He is often asked to speak about his research, presenting to Google, Yahoo and the TTI/Vanguard organization. He has organized the Social Software Symposium and BarCampRDU. He is currently a contributing organizer of the upcoming 2008 ASIST Social Software Summit. In addition to his research work, Fred has provided consulting to a number of companies, including members of the Fortune 500, established consumer-oriented software and telecommunications firms, web 2.0 startups, and the presidential campaigns of John Kerry and Wesley Clark. He currently sits on the board of advisors of a number of start-up companies, and is a social media advisor to the presidential campaign of John Edwards. Fred maintains the research blog Unit Structures (<http://chimprawk.blogspot.com>) and is a contributing author to techPresident (<http://techPresident.com>), a group blog examining how presidential candidates use technology. Additionally, he is the author of an ongoing series of articles examining Web 2.0 technology, published by O'Reilly.

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Chintan Vaishnav

I decided to come to MIT in the fall of 2003 for a master's degree in the Technology and Policy Program (TPP). I had come here after six years at Bell Labs and its subsequent incarnation, Avaya Labs, where I had worked at the forefront of Information Technology research. The disappointment that compelled me to leave behind purely engineering-focused corporate research to become a "penniless graduate student" of interdisciplinary studies was the observation that the plethora of technology we have produced has had a very marginal effect on people's lives.

Having completed my M.S. in TPP, as I embark upon my Ph.D. in Engineering Systems, I am convinced that technology has an important role in bridging today's stark social and economic gaps. My goal is to bring technology closer to people, especially those in emerging economies. To achieve this goal, it is necessary to obtain the knowledge and experience to become an objective evaluator of technology, policy, and the changing industry structure in the industrialized as well as the emerging economies.

My current research concerns understanding the information and communications systems from the perspective of complex systems. I am interested in the full spectrum of technology and development; as an engineer creating high-end to grassroots innovations, as an analyst observing the socio-economic impact and as a systems thinker interested in the policy implications and possible interventions. A parallel, and inextricable, interest I have is in developing ways to observe, measure and analyze complex, socio-technical systems.

Joris van Hoboken

Joris van Hoboken is a PhD candidate at the Institute for Information Law at the University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands. His dissertation research aims to provide a better understanding of the freedom of expression perspective in search engine law. He holds a Master degree in Mathematics (2002, cum laude) and in Law (2006, cum laude). During his graduate studies and as a co-director of Dutch digital civil rights organization Bits of Freedom, Joris has written about the implications of new IT's, business practices, and legislation for civil rights in the digital environment. Recently he advised the Open Search project about the development of an open source peer to peer search engine. Joris is also a musician and composer and toured with his band in Europe, the U.S. and Russia.

In his PhD thesis, with working title 'Search Engine Freedom and Search Engine Accountability. A Freedom of Expression Perspective in Search Engine Law.', Joris will analyse the implications of the freedom of expression for government involvement with search engines. At the time of writing he is drafting work on freedom of expression claims in search engine case law across Europe, the feasibility of introducing safe harbours for liability of search engines in European Law and the implications of search engines data collection practices for the right to privacy of search engine users. Joris would like to see the legal discipline as open as possible to input of various other sciences and enjoys interdisciplinary working environments.

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Aaron S. Veenstra

Aaron S. Veenstra is a doctoral student in the School of Journalism & Mass Communication at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research focuses on political communication and the Internet, particularly political blogs and the impact of blog reading on attitudes and behaviors. He has an extensive background in online data gathering and analysis of patterns of Internet use, and has conducted multiple studies involving online communities and web content. During the past year, he has led a graduate student research group in a survey-based study of the interaction between political bloggers, their readers and their content. He has presented his research at the annual AEJMC and ICA conferences and published it in the Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication.

Joseph Muliaro Wafula

Joseph Muliaro Wafula was born in Kenya-Africa in the year 1969. He is a Christian and married with three children two daughters and a son. Wafula holds a Bachelor of Science honours degree of Kenyatta University (1993) (Kenya), Master of Science in Physics of University of Nairobi (1997) (Kenya), and a Master of Philosophy in Microelectronics Engineering and Semiconductor Physics from University of Cambridge (1998) (UK). On March 20th 1998, the Trustees of the Cambridge Commonwealth Trust admitted **Mr. Joseph Muliaro Wafula** of Fitzwilliam College of the University of Cambridge to the status of Fellow of the **Cambridge Commonwealth Society**. Wafula is currently finalizing this year his PhD thesis on regional and national ICT Policy and Strategies for good governance and sustainable development.

Wafula is the immediate director of the Institute of Computer Science and Information technology of Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology-Kenya where he is a lecturer. Wafula was appointed Kenya Government lead consultant on National ICT Policy Research Project under the ministry of Planning and National Development in 2005.

Wafula has published widely and some of his latest publications include:

- A paper entitled "Conceptual ICT tool for Sustainable Development: The Community Development Index (CDI)".(2007)
- A chapter in a book published entitled: Measuring Computing Research Excellence and Vitality a chapter entitled "Sub-Region ICT Policy: Case of EAC Headquarters and Autonomous Institutions".
- A chapter in a book published entitled: Advances in System Modelling and ICT Applications. (2006). Co-authored a chapter entitled "Informing Regional ICT Policy: Case Study of Trends in ICT Indicators of OECD, EU, COMESA and EAC".
- A chapter in a book published entitled: At Cross Roads: ICT Policy Making in East Africa/Kenya – East African Educational Publishers/IDRC 2005. Contributed a chapter entitled "ICT Policy and ICT Initiatives: What linkages?"
- A book Chapter entitled "An Overview of ICT Initiatives in Kenya" to be published jointly by the Ministry of Planning and National Development KIPPRA. (in press).

Wafula's current research interests include regional, national and local authorities ICT policy and strategies for good governance and sustainable development, ICT Legal and Regulatory regime reform in Africa, and Internet governance Issues.

Mena, Ning Wang

I was born in Beijing, China. In 1997, I was accepted by Peking University and got two bachelor degrees respectively in information science and economics after four years of study there. After graduation, I stayed in Peking University for another three years for my master studies. During this period, I became more and more interested in the social implications of the Internet and wrote a paper on Internet adoption in China's smaller cities (co-authored with Prof. Guo Liang in Chinese Academy of Social Sciences). I also participated in FACES (Forum for American/Chinese Exchange at Stanford University) during Apr. 2004 – Aug. 2004 and afterwards wrote my master thesis on media (including the Internet) usage and the American university students' perception of China. I am currently a Ph.D candidate in the Journalism Department of Hong Kong Baptist University. I plan to study the dynamic relationships between individuals' perception of opinion climate, use of online discussion, own opinion and expression of own opinion. On one hand, the content of online fora may exert influence on its readers' perception of societal level opinion distribution; on the other hand, these readers contribute to the content while influencing and being influenced by each other on their private attitude and expressive behavior. Therefore, I think my research subject calls for the integration of theories and methods from both media effect tradition and interpersonal/group influence literature, which is not easy but I am working hard on it. Feel free to discuss with me if you share my interests.

Michael Zimmer

Michael Zimmer is a Microsoft Fellow at the Information Society Project at Yale Law School. With a background in media ecology, the philosophy of technology, and science and technology studies, Zimmer's research explores the complex interrelationships among technology, communication, and culture, with particular focus on the ethical and value dimensions of new media and information technologies. He has published and delivered talks across North America and Europe on the ethical and value implications of web search engines, networked vehicle information systems, and other new media technologies. Zimmer recently completed his Ph.D. in the Department of Culture and Communication at New York University under the direction of Profs. Helen Nissenbaum, Alex Galloway, and Siva Vaidhyanathan. Zimmer's dissertation, "The Quest for the Perfect Search Engine: Values, Technical Design, and the Flow of Personal Information in Spheres of Mobility," investigates of how the quest for the "perfect search engine" empowers the widespread capture of personal information flows across the Internet, threatening the ability to engage in online social, cultural, and intellectual activities free from answerability and oversight, thereby bearing on the values of privacy, autonomy, and liberty.

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Alla Zollers

Alla Zollers is a PhD candidate at the University of California, Los Angeles in the department of Information Studies. Her research specialty is social software, specifically concentrating on social tagging and social network sites. Her dissertation will focus on user motivations for utilizing social tagging systems, specifically concentrating on the social, alternative, and activist motivations for tagging. She has presented her work at the World Wide Web conference, The American Society for Information and Technology conference, as well as numerous workshops and symposium.

Alla also holds a Masters' in Human-Computer Interaction from the School of Informatics at Indiana University, as well as a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. Her masters' thesis concentrated on leveraging social networks for website trust assessment. She has presented her work at the Sunbelt Social Network Conference, as well as at the Stanford Trustworthy Interfaces for Passwords and Personal Information Workshop.

Alla's broad research interests include social software, social networks, sociology of information, alternative and activist media, trust, social informatics, online cultural studies, and digital copyright.