



UNESCO Chair in ICT for Development

established in 2007 at Royal Holloway, University of London, UK

UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs – Twinning networks and university networks



Community and Communications Workshop Presentations

Presenters: Avril McIntyre & Terri Cheshire

Title: LifeLine's Work

Recognising social enterprise and utilisation of ICT's on the ground are crucial to move from funding dependency to genuine sustainability, LifeLine Network International exists to connect and empower grassroots organisations that are developing innovative models of community development. The primary focus of these models is to address the core issues around economic, educational, health and social issues in a community and find solutions. This workshop will explore the lessons learned and outline the opportunity to maximize the use of ICT in the effective development of social enterprise, cross border communities. We will also explore the challenges of genuine 'global partnership' and the role ICT has played in our journey so far.

Presenter: Dr Josh Underwood, London Knowledge Lab

Title: Communities & Communications in VeSeL

Village e-Science for Life (VeSeL) is a 3 year EPSRC research project, part of the Bridging the Global Digital Divide network, which aims to help two rural communities in different areas of Kenya develop ways to use ICT to improve local livelihoods particularly through supporting learning. Researchers in Participatory Design, Education, ICT and Agriculture based both in the UK and Kenya are working with local farmer self help groups, community based organisations and schools (see <http://silanga.blogspot.com>).

The talk will outline current progress and the challenges we face as VeSeL enters its third year. I will describe this work in terms of the participatory design of learner centred ecologies of resources and highlight the role of existing communities, community formation and communication both at the local levels and within the multi-disciplinary and international research team. For more information about VeSeL see <http://www.veselproject.net>

Presenter: Dr Richard Duncombe, IDPM, The University of Manchester.

Title: Patterns of mobile adoption and use in two contrasting Ugandan communities

In response to the theme outlined above my contribution will use a livelihoods perspective to contrast patterns of mobile phone adoption and use in two contrasting Ugandan communities. First, in an agrarian community in the District of Kabale, and second, in a cattle herding community in the District of Mbarara. Preliminary analysis of qualitative data from these two communities will contrast how mobile phone applications are being linked to needs; how demand for applications differ; and differing patterns of adoption and impact. Further, the study will seek to demonstrate how contextual factors (social, economic and cultural) determine these observed differences in patterns of use. Whilst not providing any conclusive outcomes at this stage, it is hoped that this research will raise questions concerning the critical assessment of mobile phone applications in rural African communities.

Presenter: Shirin Madon, London School of Economics and Political Science

Title: Researching eGovernance for Development

eGovernance initiatives have proliferated in many parts of the developing world with new applications constantly being introduced in both urban and rural regions. In this talk, we consider eGovernance application that have an overtly 'developmental' objective for rural poor communities and consider the extent to which we understand the linkage between technology, improved governance and ultimately a better state of development. Focus will be on identifying macro-level biases which influence eGovernance policies and on the micro-level social, administrative and political systems which interface between formal governance structures and communities. Drawing on ongoing research in 3 states in India, we raise critical issues that move us beyond the conventional discourse on eGovernance for development.

