



Communities and Action

PROSPECTS FOR COMMUNITY
AND DEVELOPMENT INFORMATICS
NOV 5-7 2007, MONASH CENTER: PRATO, ITALY
WWW.CCNR.NET/PRATO2007

Overview

The Internet has become a powerful community resource in many parts of the world. It is widely viewed as a device with capacity for incorporation into different forms of community action, including social change, community learning, community connection, community knowledge, and community well-being and community development. The concept of 'community' itself is itself interpreted in a multitude of ways, and the problem of definition of this (and other terms such as 'empowerment') was highlighted at the 2006 Prato conference. The 90 or so questions which were emphasised during the final plenary represent the eternal cycle of questions of community action and engagement. Whatever technology may be used to work with a community, the issues remain. At the forthcoming event, we will accept that the concepts of action and community are variable, and that the forms of action which have emerged over the past decade should be judged in terms of what they achieve for community and social good. Through learning about multiple forms of action and how action is understood, we should improve our grasp of the complexities of social-technical relations.

The Conference will feature a special stream led by the International Development Informatics Association of South Africa as part of its first conference, devoted to studying these, and related questions in relationship to development informatics.

The implementation of ICT in developing economies involves constraints not applicable in developed regions. Constraints cover a wide range from technologies and infrastructures (energy grids, networks) to human aspects such as poverty and illiteracy. The Conference aims to create a platform for exchanging experience and possible solutions to address such problems.

IMPORTANT DATES/PROCESSES:

1 April 2007: all 250 word abstracts due for consideration - the earlier the better.

1 May 2007 : acceptance/rejection of abstracts

1 July 2007 : papers due

1 September 2007 : final version of papers after refereeing for publication in the official conference proceedings.

STREAMS

- Refereed Papers
- Practitioner Stream
- PhD colloquium
- Poster displays
- Workshops

www.ccnr.net/prato2007 email: prato2007@fastmail.fm for submissions. Papers (up to 5,000 words) in the peer-reviewed streams will be blind peer reviewed by at least two referees and only accepted upon the recommendation of referees. The Prato campus is an exceptional environment in which to exchange ideas. It is close to Florence & Italian

transport hubs. Centre for Community Networking Research, Monash University. Registration will be in the region of 350eu with discounts for earlybird/student. Accommodation costs are reasonable.

SCHEDULED KEYNOTES

- Abdul Al-Kamilat, USA
- Sarai Lastra, Puerto Rico
- Krithi Ramamritham, India

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Don Schauder, Monash Univ., Chair
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Ann Bishop, Univ. of Illinois
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Graeme Johanson, Monash Univ., Chair, Reviews
Larry Stillman, Monash Univ., Conference Organiser



IDIA International Development Informatics Association

