

Call for Participation

ICTD Curriculum: A Conversation on the Challenges of Teaching ICTD Across the Academic Spectrum

Friday 17 April 2009

in conjunction with
3rd IEEE/ACM International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies
and Development (ICTD2009)
17 – 19 April 2009
Doha, Qatar
<http://www.ictd2009.org>

This half-day workshop is intended to gather ICTD instructors to:

1. Discuss current efforts in ICTD teaching
2. Begin a conversation on the content and issues that ICTD instructors think should be taught at the undergraduate and graduate level for future researchers and practitioners.

Faculty around the world are offering ICTD courses. These have generally been independent efforts, with courses put together from scratch based on local expertise. The purpose of this workshop is to bring together faculty who have taught ICTD courses to share ideas on what works well in these classes, and to discuss the challenges faced. One major issue is choice of course content and background references.

Curriculum: What are the canonical papers for individual topics - papers that should be known by students working in the area? The multidisciplinary nature of ICTD means that it is necessary to draw material from different areas and to quickly provide background in areas where students have little background. How much development theory and development economics should students know across various disciplines, what basics of technology should they be introduced to, and how can that be integrated into the ICTD curriculum to teach students about the interconnected nature of development work? What is the role of project based learning in ICTD courses, and how can we monitor the quality of projects in the field being conducted by students?

Format: The workshop will have a discussion format with the workshop organizers moderating the discussions and reporting on the outcomes. Participants who have taught ICTD courses will be asked to submit one page papers prior to the workshop describing aspects of their courses that they consider to be successful and challenges that they face when teaching the course. Participants will also be asked to identify literature that they find to be particularly helpful in supporting their courses.

The workshop will be divided into three parts. The first part will be presentations of the papers by the participants, the second part will be a moderated discussion around the papers, and the third part will consider what actions the participants could take to support the offering and adoption of ICTD courses, including the degree to which resources can be shared across institutions.

Intended Audience: The workshop will be open to faculty and instructors who have taught or are in the process of putting together teaching plans for ICTD.

Outcomes: Expected outcomes include a compendium of existing efforts, open issues, and contributions that participants commit to provide to the ICTD academic community.

Participation: To participate, please send an email copied to both organizers Richard Anderson (anderson@cs.washington.edu) and Revi Sterling (revi.sterling@colorado.edu) with a brief description of your interest in workshop and state if you have already taught an ICTD class in the past. Participants who have taught ICTD courses will be asked to submit one page papers prior to the workshop describing aspects of their courses that they consider to be successful and challenges that they face when teaching the course. Please email your interest as soon as possible because participation will be capped at a first-come-first-selected basis to 50 participants to ensure a manageable and insightful conversation.

Cost: Workshop attendance is free for ICTD2009 conference attendees. Attendees however have to be registered for ICTD2009 to attend the workshop, or apply for a waiver.

Attendee Sponsorships: There are very limited sponsorships and waivers for workshop participants. If you need these, you have to apply directly through the website at: <http://www.ictd2009.org/scholarships.html> Note -- the deadline is Feb 25, enforced strictly.

Organisers:

Richard Anderson, University of Washington, USA
Sarah Revi Sterling, University of Colorado, USA
Melissa Ho, University of California at Berkeley, USA
Julie S. Weber, University of Michigan, USA
Ruth Anderson, University of Washington, USA
John K. Bennett, University of Colorado, USA