



The
more
things
change ...

CALL FOR PAPERS

IDIA | MACAU
2020

THE 11TH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
INFORMATICS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

MARCH 25 - 27, 2020
MACAU



UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY

UNU-CS

WWW.IDIA2020.COM

The 11th International Development Informatics Association conference (IDIA2020) is organized by the United Nations University Institute on Computing and Society and will be held in Macau from 25 - 27 March 2020. IDIA2020 is organized under the theme

The more things change ...

As the adage goes, "The more things change, the more they stay the same." Could the same be said of Information and Communication Technologies for Development (ICT4D)? To what extent has ICT4D over the years changed and/or not changed the global landscape of poverty and sustainable development? Have outcomes been positive, negative or mixed? Do strategies and interventions build in lessons from the past? What is the net contribution of ICT4D to the global development agenda?

Some would argue that technology has not altered the fundamental poverties and inequalities around the world - that despite the millions of dollars invested, social and economic inequalities remain too high. Furthermore, each new technology ascribed with "new promise" for the poor and marginalized of the world ends up unleashing new types and levels of disempowerment and unfreedoms: from increased invasion of privacy to the concentration of power and privilege in the hands of the few.

On the other hand, advocates point out that technology is having a substantial positive impact on the lives of many: FinTech has improved access to financial systems; social networking platforms are connecting people better; the data revolution is improving and enhancing monitoring and evaluation of the sustainable development goals; gig economy platforms are leveling the field and improving access to the labor market.

A third perspective contends that the answers are not so clear cut, arguing that ICT4D presents a reductionist view of the world, resulting in a tendency to oversimplify the pathways to impact of technology on the wicked and messy problems of human development. What are the underlying rationales for these differing viewpoints? How has ICT4D as a field and discipline changed over the years? And what changes are necessary for the field to meet the current and future demands presented by this evolving technology and society confluence?

We invite researchers to submit papers presenting original research on the following sub-themes.



ICT4D: taking stock

Evidence on the impacts (positive and negative) of ICT4D, with particular emphasis on the similarities or differences from previous research findings. Including but not limited to:

- Empirical research that illustrates the results of ICT4D projects across various domains such as education, health, governance, and finance; or in relation to specific Sustainable Development Goals;
- Reflections, lessons learned, and good practices in ICT4D projects;
- Empirical research that illustrates the impacts of ICT4D projects on different target populations, such as the youth, elderly, women, migrants, low-income workers, etc.;
- Longitudinal evaluations and systematic reviews of ICT4D project impacts.

Harnessing frontier technologies for sustainable development

Critical research on frontier technologies (such as Big Data, Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Blockchain) in the context of ICT4D, with particular consideration to how older technologies were perceived when they were also new. Including but not limited to:

- Opportunities and threats of frontier technologies for sustainable development;
- New technologies, old challenges;
- Exploring the new forms of marginalization, exclusions, poverties, unfreedoms that are created by the new frontier technologies.

ICT4D discourse, methodologies, and theoretical reflections

Theoretical reflections or new theoretical formulations on issues of ICT for Development in historical context; Including but not limited to:

- ICT4D - past, present, future formulations;
- Application of critical, emancipatory, decolonial, and feminist theoretical approaches in ICT4D;
- The evolution of the understanding of “development”;
- ICT4D research methodologies;
- Stakeholder engagement strategies;
- Partnership models in ICT4D.

The evolving global souths

Discussions of technology and development issues as they relate to marginalized populations around the world, including “developed” and “developing” countries. Including but not limited to:

- Evolving conceptualizations of target goals and target populations of ICT4D initiatives within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals
- Formulations and reformulations of the notion of “global south” within ICT4D discourse - e.g. geographically bounded, a transnational and socio-political collective of the marginalized, an emancipatory ideology;
- Impacts of ICTs on the power differentials between the haves and the have-nots and between the empowered and the disempowered around the world;
- Technology and social justice in the local and global context;
- New global challenges including risks and addictions of the dopamine economy, fake news and untruths, data injustice, etc.

Full papers

We invite submissions of full papers of between 12 to 15 pages, formatted according to the Springer's CCIS one-column page format template available on the conference website. Only original, unpublished, research papers in English can be considered. The technical program committee will evaluate papers on the basis of their originality, methodological rigour, significance, and clarity. We encourage submission of papers that draw out clear implications, and actionable guidance both to practitioners and policy makers within the ICT4D domain.

Full papers will undergo a double blind, peer review by at least 3 three reviewers with the possibility that accepted papers will be published in a Springer Communications in Computer and Information Science (CCIS) volume. CCIS is abstracted/indexed in DBLP, Google Scholar, EI-Compendex, Mathematical Reviews, SCImago, Scopus. CCIS volumes are also submitted for inclusion in ISI Proceedings. Previous years' conference proceedings have been published in a Springer CCIS volume.

Authors of accepted papers will be invited to submit 2-page policy briefs based on their paper. These will be reviewed by the conference organizers for possible inclusion in a United Nations University published policy brief volume.

Workshops

We also invite submission of proposals for workshops at IDIA 2020. Workshops offer a space for participants with shared common interests to meet for focused and interactive discussions of issues related to the conference theme and to the ICT4D domain. Each workshop proposal will undergo a peer review process. Workshop proposals must include: Title of the workshop; Description of the issues covered, emphasizing the significance and timeliness of the proposed workshop; Workshop organizers (names, affiliations and contact information); A short biography of the organizers (up to 200 words); Planned format of the workshop, including the scheduling (i.e. half day or full day, and tentative schedule); Clear indication of expected outcomes.

Important dates (Extended)

Paper submission: **6 Sep. 2019**
 Workshop submission: 13 Dec. 2019
 Notification of acceptance: 22 Nov. 2019
 Camera-ready papers: 10 Jan. 2019

Further details

Further details and submission instructions are available on the conference website at

<https://www.idia2020.com>

You can follow us on Twitter @idia2020 or you can email the conference organizers at info@idia2020.com

Venue

IDIA2020 will be hosted at Casa Silva Mendes, home of the UNU-CS in Macau.

Conference organization

Conference Chairs:

Hannah Thinyane & Mamello Thinyane (UNU-CS)

Program Chairs:

Araba Sey (UNU-CS) and Caroline Khene (RU)

Proceedings Chairs:

Don Junio (UNU-CS), Felistea Naude (UNISA) & Cecile Koopman (UNISA)

Local Organizing Chairs:

Ignacio Marcovecchio & Jenny Ju (UNU-CS)

Communications Chairs:

Francisca Sasseti & Qing Huang (UNU-CS)