



ICEL 2008



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

3rd International Conference on e-Learning

**University of Cape Town, Rondebosch, Cape Town, South Africa
26-27 June 2008**

Conference Chair: **Laura Czerniewicz**, Centre for Educational Technology, University of Cape Town, South Africa
Programme Chair: **Tony Carr**, Centre for Educational Technology, University of Cape Town, South Africa
Keynote Speakers: **Dr. Max Price**, Vice-Chancellor Designate, University of Cape Town, South Africa
Martin Owen, Smalti, UK

Mini Track Call for Papers



Mini Track on Educational technology and the digital divide

Chair: **Laura Czerniewicz**, University of Cape Town, South Africa

Globally, the take up of ICTs in higher education is shaking up complex institutions from the inside while provoking larger questions about the overall role of higher education itself. The rapid worldwide social and economic transformation that is captured in the notion of globalisation has had an impact on HEIs with increased pressure to produce more graduates with high-level knowledge skills. The concepts of globalisation and ICTs often are often twinned in the discourse of the new world order known variously as 'the knowledge society', and 'the information age'. The centrality of the Internet to many areas of social, economic and political activity is tantamount to marginality for those without, or with only limited access to the Internet, as well as for those unable to use it effectively (Castells 2001 p. 247). Others have been even more forceful arguing that exclusion will mean severely limiting life chances (Burbules & Callister 2000 p.19). Inclusion does not simply mean access to a computer; it requires a deeper notion of access, one that incorporates the full gamut of resources required for meaningful value. It also means an informed understanding of the factors which enable and constrain ICT take up within higher education.

A body of recent literature is building a convincing argument that despite the diminishing access gaps and advanced use of the Internet differences, inequalities continue to be manifest. Thus, differences are perpetuated in both developed and developing countries, albeit in subtle or unexpected forms.

Burbules, N. & Callister, C. (2000) Universities in transition: The promise and the challenge of new technologies Teachers College Record, 102(2), pp. 271-293.

Castells, M. (2001) Information technology and global development, in: Muller J, C. N & S. Badat (Eds) Challenges of globalisation, South African debates with Manuel Castells (Cape Town, Centre for higher education Transformation and Maskew Miller Longman,).

Papers are invited for this track which deal with issues such as

- Do ICTs exacerbate or ameliorate existing societal divides especially in educational settings?
- Are existing concepts of the digital divide useful to understand current changes in higher education?
- How can the digital divide be understood in relation to teaching and learning practices?
- Why do some students engage successfully with ICTs irrespective of levels of access and others do not?
- Why are students with equally high access using ICTs to such different extents and in such different ways?

Submission details:

Please submit an abstract of a minimum of 300 and no more than 500 words including up to five keywords and key phrases to be submitted via [online form](#) and received by **6 December 2007 (extended until 20 December 2007)**. Abstracts must include the proposed title for the paper, the full names (first name and surname, not initials), postal addresses and email addresses of all authors and a telephone number for at least one contact author. **Please indicate clearly if the contact author is not the lead author.**

Full papers will be required only when the abstract has been selected and not to be more than 5,000 words including abstract, keywords and references (the Harvard referencing rules need to be followed). Submission date will be no later than **6 February 2008**. Papers should be submitted as .doc or .rtf file attachments by email to the Conference Manager, [Elaine Hayne](#).

Important information:

- The selection panel of the conference committee will consider all paper abstracts received by the submission deadline to ensure that the proposed paper is relevant to the Conference.
- The authors of abstracts that describe a relevant paper will receive a notification of abstract selection.
- All submissions for demonstrations will be reviewed by the conference organisers to ensure that the proposed demonstration is likely to be of interest to the conference participants.
- All full papers will be double-blind reviewed by members of the conference committee to ensure an adequate standard, that the proposed subject of their abstract has been followed, that the paper is of a suitable length, the standard of English is adequate and the paper is appropriately referenced.
- For authors whose first language is not English we request that you have your work proof read prior to submission by a native English speaker (or at least a fluent English speaker). Papers can be rejected due to a poor standard of English.
- Papers that are accepted will be published in the conference proceedings providing at least one author registers and presents the work at the Conference (see the registration section of the conference website for more information about registration).
- Due to the large number of papers expected for this conference, the committee only allows an author to present one paper. Therefore if multiple papers are accepted for presentation different co-authors need to present each paper.

Important Dates

Abstract submission deadline:	6 December 2007	Extended until 20 December 2007
Notification of abstract acceptance:	13 December 2007	
Full paper due for review:	6 February 2008	
Notification of paper acceptance(with any requested changes):	3 April 2008	
Earlybird registration closes	17 April 2008	
Final paper due:	1 May 2008	
Final author registration date	22 May 2008	

For operational reasons we have had to alter the submission dates for this conference. However, as we are aware that a considerable amount of literature was in circulation before we did this we will honour all submissions that arrive by the original dates (17 January for Abstracts and 6 March for papers). We would ask that you strive to meet the new dates as these have been arranged to allow a longer paper review period which we hope will give authors more time to arrange travel and registration after receiving reviewer feedback.

This call for papers can be found at <http://academic-conferences.org/icel/icel2008/icel08-minitrack.htm>

Enquiries can be directed to the Submissions Manager at Elaine@academic-conferences.org