

Call for Participation – Approaching Reality Theme

<http://www.itrevolutions.org/>

Conference Theme: Mitigating Paradox at the eSociety Tipping Point

The Institute for Computer Sciences, Social-Informatics and Telecommunications (ICST) IT Revolutions 2008 conference invites scholars, researchers, government officials, and industry leaders to participate by submitting position papers. Papers should address strategic directions in eHealth by outlining the major issues and identifying the gaps between the traditional and new ways thus ensuring a smooth transition towards an information and communications technology (ICT) driven future.

Today technology is getting ahead of society - the old ways, although still dominant, are becoming more and more dysfunctional and we are experiencing an “Age of Paradox” as the new ways disrupt how we used to do things and the traditional way we used to view the world. Just as the major inventions that shaped past Century were made by 1920 – it is expected that the major innovations that will shape the 21st Century are going to be made by 2020.

The IT Revolutions conference is clustered around major themes each championed by a prominent theme leader. Authors of accepted papers will meet in Venice to participate in theme workshops being held as part of the conference. Each workshop will:

- Evaluate where we are on the path to turnover.
- Exploring the core elements needed to encourage sustainable change Ensure a smooth transition.
- Point to the Future by underlining the factors enabling the IT revolution to redesign the world economy and society.

Approaching Reality Theme

Description

To truly make use of existing innovative technologies and technologies that will be developed in the coming decades, will require a fundamental change in modern paradigms by which we conceive of reality. In fact, until such a change occurs, we will not even recognize the potential that we have at our disposal.

In the 1st century AD, Heron of Alexandria invented the Aeolipile; the first steam turbine; a technology that was not recognized for what it was or what it could do due to the prevailing dispositions; not unlike modern information communication technologies (ICT). It took visionaries such as Thomas Aquinas and Roger Bacon in the 13th century to set the stage for the modern scientific age and consequently the industrial era for Heron’s invention to fulfill its true potential.

We presently face mounting anxiety caused by the perceived increases in complexity and uncertainty. This anxiety is a result of having pushed our existing paradigms to their fundamental limits. These paradigms, that were so adequate in dealing with the industrial advances of the last two centuries, are incapable of dealing with the non-monotonic condition that we now face. Our Achilles Heel may be the knowledge-based society that we so strive for; embedding the ideologies that are at the root of the paradoxes that we face. Paradoxes in which increases in knowledge do not yield greater understanding, and more information does not yield improved communication. A revolution is necessary to establish a new paradigm that liberates the potential of modern information communication technologies.

The Approaching Reality Theme will focus on the use of “Environments” in all of their forms (decision spaces, C2 battlelabs, training labs, exercises, DSS, ESS, Knowledge

Management Systems, etc.) to gain an understanding of the epistemic, ontological and methodological principles that will effectively allow us to deal with and leverage existing ICT.

Areas of Interest

- The role of environments in the facilitation of
 - learning
 - decision making
 - C2
 - collaboration
- The conceptual design of environments to be able deal with the inherent:
 - Characteristics of complex situations:
 - Epistemic and Aleatory Uncertainty, Non-ergodicity, Non-monotonicity, Emergence, etc.
 - Paradoxical nature of complex situations:
 - Universalist-Particularist, Sociotechnical, Continuity-Discontinuity, Participant-Observer, Duality of Understanding, etc.
 - Irreducible problems that we face:
 - Security, Sustainability, Quality of Life, etc.
- Environments in
 - Military, Health, Security, etc.
- Taxonomical models or construct classifying different environments
- Epistemic, Ontological, and Methodological precepts guiding the development of Environments
- Other topics related to environments, approaching reality and
 - the implications that this has on ICT, or
 - the influence of modern ICT on environments

Important Dates

Submission deadline: September 30, 2008

Notification of acceptance: October 31, 2008

Conference: December 17-19, 2008 (Approaching Reality workshop: December 18)

Paper Format, Submission and Publication

Position papers can range from 2-8 pages. See the ICST IT Revolution Web site <http://www.itrevolutions.org> for details on format, submission and publication.

Approaching Reality Organization

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