



IEEE SSIT Australia Newsletter

Issue 4
November 2009

**Wollongong 7-9 June 2010:
Put SSIT's leading 2010 international event in your calendar now
... and why not submit a paper on your research interests?**

Full/Short paper submission (5000/2000 words): December 16, 2009
 Author notification: February 26, 2010
 Final camera-ready copy: March 26, 2010
 Final call for papers:
<http://www.uow.edu.au/conferences/2010/ISTAS/index.htm>

The IEEE International Symposium on Technology and Society (ISTAS) is an annual international forum exploring the social implications of technology. ISTAS '10 will be a multi-disciplinary event for engineers, scientists, researchers in the social sciences, arts/law and humanities, and decision makers in the public and private sectors, including:

Automatic Identification: Automatic identification technologies including biometrics (DNA), RFID; Surveillance, dataveillance, sousveillance, anti-surveillance, uberveillance; National security, emergency response, border control, e-tollways, e-passports

Location-Based Services: Geographic information systems, digital mapping, geotagging, street view, CCTV; Location-based services, global positioning systems (GPS), tracking, monitoring

Social Networking: Social networking applications, blogs, glogs, cyberstalking, collaboration; Data collection, data merging, data matching, data mining, disclosure; Mobile comms, wearable computing, ubiquity, context-aware applications

Nanotechnology: Microchip implants, biomedical

solutions, diagnostics, drug delivery; Nanotechnology, bionics, transhumanism, artificial intelligence, robots, cyborgs

Privacy, Security & Human Rights: Cyberethics, privacy, data protection, trust, control, consent, transborder flows; Security, law enforcement, covert/overt policing, laws, regulations, public policy; Social implications, registers, human rights, intellectual property, social equity

Papers on other traditional fields of interest to SSIT

All submissions to <http://www.easychair.org/conferences/?conf=ieeeeistas10>
 OR katina@uow.edu.au

We already have some advance notice on keynote and plenary Speakers:
Professor John Weckert, IT and Nanotechnology: Ethics of Emergent Technology, Centre For Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics. John Weckert researches mainly in the areas of ethics and new technologies, concentrating on information and communication technology and nanotechnology. He is founding Editor-in-Chief of the journal

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Renew your IEEE SSIT membership for 2010

With IEEE renewals for 2010 due in the next few weeks, don't forget to include SSIT in your society memberships. Not already an SSIT member? For those receiving this newsletter who are not already IEEE members, membership is open to professionals (and students) in the Engineering, Computer Science & Information Technology, Physical Sciences, Biological & Medical Sciences, Mathematics, Technical Communications, and related Education, Management, Law, and Policy. Alternatively those with another degree and three years professional work experience teaching, creating, developing, practicing or managing in these fields (or six years professional work experience without a degree). Affiliate membership is also available to those not eligible for IEEE membership.

Rates: Membership rates are in US dollars: \$US139 IEEE plus \$US27 SSIT. Discounted membership fee options:
 Students (including graduates carrying a 50% study load): \$US28 IEEE plus \$14 SSIT
 Retired: \$US69.50 IEEE plus SSIT US\$27, or plus \$0 if a society members for 5 years
 Follow the link: <http://www.ieee.org/web/membership/join/join.html>

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Slade Beard on "Chaos, Hope, Privacy and the Rights of the Individual in an Online World" Wednesday 25 November,
 (see details page 3)
Followed by SSIT Annual Dinner
 Our (very informal) end of year Melbourne dinner will be held at a Lygon Street restaurant after the forum (approximately 7.30pm). For details call Greg on 0423 783 527, or just come along to the forum and join us afterwards.

ISTAS 2010, Wollongong 7-9 June 2010

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Nanoethics: Ethics for Technologies that Converge at the Nanoscale. He currently holds an ARC Linkage grant with the Australian Computer Society on ethics and regulation in the ICT industry and a National Science Foundation (US) grant on nanotechnology and human enhancement.

Professor Rafael Capurro, Professor of Information Management and Information Ethics at Stuttgart Media University Germany (1986-2009). Founder and Director of the International Center for Information Ethics (since 1999). Member of the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies (EGE) and the European Commission (2001-2004; 2005-2009). Editor in Chief of the International Review of Information Ethics (IRIE) (2004-).

Professor Gordon Wallace, Director of the Intelligent Polymer Research Institute, University of Wollongong. Professor Gordon Wallace's research interests include organic conductors, nanomaterials and electrochemical probe methods of analysis and the use of these in the development of intelligent polymer systems. A current focus involves the use of these tools and materials in developing biocommunications from the molecular to skeletal domains in order to improve human performance via medical Bionics. Gordon is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science, Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE), Institute of Physics, and Royal Australian Chemical Institute (RACI). He received the SPIE Smart Materials Research Lifetime Achievement Award in the USA in March 2009 and was

honoured with the 2009 Smart Structures and Materials Lifetime Achievement Award.

Professor Kevin Warwick, is Professor of Cybernetics at the University of Reading, England, where he carries out research in artificial intelligence, control, robotics and biomedical engineering. He is also Director of the University KTP Centre, which links the University with Small to Medium Enterprises and raises over £2 Million each year in research income for the University. Kevin has carried out a series of pioneering experiments involving the neuro-surgical implantation of a device into the median nerves of his left arm in order to link his nervous system directly to a computer in order to assess the latest technology for use with the disabled. He has been successful with the first extra-sensory (ultrasonic) input for a human and with the first purely electronic communication experiment between the nervous systems of two humans. His research has been discussed by the US White House Presidential Council on BioEthics.

Dr Mark Gasson, is a Research Fellow, at the University of Reading, England, where he carries out research in the Cybernetic Intelligence Research Group. Some of Mark's most recent publications include: A J Spiers, K Warwick, M N Gasson, V F Ruiz : "Issues impairing the Success of neural implant technology", Applied Bionics and Biomechanics, Vol.3, Issue.4, pp.297-304, Dec (2007) and K Warwick, M N Gasson, A J Spiers: "Therapeutic Potential of Computer to Cerebral Cortex Implantable Devices", Acta Neurochirurgica, Suppl. Vol.97, Issue.2, pp.529-535, Springer-Verlag (2007); K Warwick, M N Gasson, A J Spiers : "Brain-

Computer Interfacing: An Overview of Recent Studies", CSI Communications, Vol.31, Issue.1, pp.1-14, Apr.2007, also BioSystems Review, Vol.1, no.3 (2006).

Dr Roger Clarke, is Principal of Xamax Consultancy Pty Ltd, Canberra. He is also a Visiting Professor in the Cyberspace Law & Policy Centre at the University of N.S.W., and a Visiting Professor in the Department of Computer Science at the Australian National University. He was for a decade the Chair of the Economic Legal and Social Implications Committee of the Australian Computer Society, and spent some time as the ACS Director of Community Affairs. He holds degrees from UNSW and ANU, and has been a Fellow of the ACS since 1986. He has been a Board-member of the Australian Privacy Foundation since its foundation in 1987, and its Chair since 2006. He has undertaken research, consultancy and public interest advocacy, and published extensively in Australia and overseas for over 30 years, in the areas of identification, security, dataveillance and social impacts and implications of information technology. His website is one of the most extensive and most used resources in these areas.

Mr Amal Graafstra, is the Director of Information Technology for OutBack Power Systems. He is also the author of RFID Toys, and one of the most prominent 'do-it-yourselfer' chip implantees in the world. He is the owner of several technology and mobile communications companies. Amal loves thinking up interesting ways to combine and apply various technologies in his daily life.



Call for committee volunteers for 2010

Interested in volunteering for the Australian SSIT committee for 2010? The work of SSIT is entirely voluntary, and depends on volunteers to put in time and ideas. The committee currently has members in Melbourne, Perth, Sydney, Wollongong and Canberra. We meet two-monthly via teleconference, at a time negotiated to suit most people. If you are interested in helping out we would welcome your involvement. Please contact ssit.australia@ieee.org.

Wednesday 25 November: Chaos, Hope, Privacy and the Rights of the Individual in an Online World

**Slade P. Beard, Director
EcoThought Pty Ltd
6:00pm, Wednesday 25
November**

**Theatre 1, Ground Floor,
ICT Building, Melbourne
University, 111 Barry St,
South Carlton**

The internet has rewritten the rules on so many aspects of modern social life, and has raised so many new questions that we are struggling to understand and to deal with. What is the right of the individual in an online world? What protections should we expect? How much of the responsibility rests with Government? How much is the responsibility of the individual? How much privacy are we prepared to give up in order to enjoy the convenience of knowing where the nearest Thai restaurant is located? Do parents have the right to track the lives of their children through social websites and mobile service tracking? On the inverse side of the same coin, so many developments seem to proffer hope for the future.

This presentation is intended to highlight some of the social impacts, both positive and negative, of our online interactions and to discuss some of the questions that need to be debated openly in Australian society as we incorporate online life into our daily existence. Privacy appears to be

disappearing and the rights of the individual seem to be increasingly diluted as Governments grapple with the need to ensure peace, security and safety of the public; and corporations battle for your information to assist in the sale of goods and services. At the same time the internet proffers the opportunity to actually share ideas in the context of enhanced understanding of beliefs and world views.

There are no easy answers to many of these questions, but they nevertheless need to be asked. The SSIT needs to actively contribute to the debate. The presentation will draw on case notes and other sources to discuss a range of considerations. Few answers will be presented, but a foundation for further debate will be established.

The speaker: Mr. Slade Beard is the Director of EcoThought Pty Ltd, a company established to apply systems and human factors based analysis to complex problems in security, defence and sustainability. He has worked closely with a number of Australian Government agencies on the development of methods and frameworks to integrate human factors into the design of systems operating in high intensity decision making environments such as operations centres and disaster zones. In addition he has worked closely with sev-

eral US Government agencies on the integration of human factors and human behavioural analysis in the design of civil / military disaster response systems. He has previously worked for 10 years in the development of military command support systems. Mr. Beard is also a PhD candidate at UNSW @ ADFA. He is currently working closely with an Australian Government law enforcement agency on the development of an Enterprise wide architecture and capability development framework.



SSIT 2009 COMMITTEE

Greg Adamson

(Chair)

Cam Kiley

(Membership, Web site)

Michael Arnold

(Secretary)

Holly Tootell

(ISTAS logistics)

Martin Gibbs

(technical meetings)

Mary Hawkins

(non-SSIT liaison)

Graeme Hart

(publicity)

Valerie Maxville

(Perth)

Anna Yang

(Canberra)

Gabriele Hermansson

(planning facilitator)

Remote Technology

SSIT had been planning to hold a conference on Remote Technology at the end of 2009. While we had many expressions of interest in the project, there were insufficient papers and registrations to proceed at this time. We are hoping to review this in 2010, and determine whether the basis for a successful conference exists. Thanks to all those who submitted papers, and please consider submitting them to the SSIT ISTAS conference taking place in Wollongong next June.

Visit our Web site

The SSIT web site provides a range of topics and talks that have been delivered to SSIT Australia technical meetings over the past four years. It can be found at <http://ssit.ieeevic.org/>. Send any announcements, suggestions or links to ssit.australia@ieee.org



About SSIT Australia Newsletter

The SSIT Australia Newsletter is an electronic newsletter published occasionally by the IEEE Society on Social Implications of Technology Australia. Please let us know if this newsletter is useful to you, and any information you would like it to include. Responsibility for all content in this newsletter is taken by Greg Adamson. Please send correspondence to ssit.australia@ieee.org.

Please let us know if you don't want to receive this newsletter.

SSIT Australia 2009 Annual Report

SSIT Australia 2009, our most active year yet!

With six Technical meetings, a planning day, five national teleconferences, the revamp of our Web site, and extensive networking, 2009 has been a landmark year for IEEE's Society on Social Implications of Technology in Australia. Here is a summary of the highlights:

The year started with our second planning day, in Melbourne in January. The focus was to review every activity that SSIT Australia has undertaken in the three years since it was established, understanding what worked well, and what could have been improved. The session was facilitated by professional facilitator and committee member Gabriele Hermanson, and laid the basis for our subsequent work of the year.

March saw the launch of our redesigned Web site, thanks to committee member Cam Kiley. Cam has also taken the lead in experimentation, including per-word advertising on Google for our seminars, and looking at on-line communities through FaceBook and LinkedIn. Cam is also committee treasurer, and assisted in ensuring that SSIT Australia kept well within the funding provided by IEEE Victoria.

In March we also kicked off the first of our five bi-monthly national teleconferences for the committee. These provide us with a way of involving committee members from Melbourne, Perth, Canberra, and Wollongong (and we are looking for volunteers in other cities). Thanks to committee secretary Dr Michael Arnold, who provided a guiding hand through much of the committee's work.

May saw our first technical meetings, in both Perth and Melbourne. On May 8 committee member Valerie Maxville organised "An Industry Breakfast with Peter Coroneos" in Perth. Peter is the Chief Executive of the Internet Industry Association. This was the first ever Perth SSIT technical meeting with approximately 50 people were in attendance, co-sponsored with WA Internet Association and IVEC.

In Melbourne on the 125th anniversary of the founding of IEEE, 13 May, Dr Jeffrey Brand spoke on "WOW, they're uncontrollable: Online games, censorship & the crisis of control". Jeffrey is Associate Dean and Head of School, Communication and Media, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Bond University. Attendance was great with 45 people, including a large contingent of on-line gamers with strong concerns about the way these are dealt with in Australia. This issue is at the forefront of the protection of civil liberties in publishing in Australia. The forum was organized by committee member Dr Martin Gibbs, and set a trend for three later technical meetings: co-sponsorship of our events by the University of Melbourne. (For those not in the know, WOW is a reference to World Of Warcraft.) This was the second activity in a year where the press attended, an area of work which is being developed thanks to committee member Graeme Hart.

On 30 June SSIT together with Women In Engineering and ComSoc organised an official Victorian Section activity for IEEE 125 Years, entitled "1884 - 2009: Has 125 years of technology innovation created a better world or just a more complicated one?" with Prof Rod Tucker (University of Melbourne), Prof Jean Armstrong (Monash University), Gavan McCarthy (Australian Science and Technology Heritage Centre) and Prof Ian Burnett (RMIT University). This was highly successful, with more than 60 attendees at the State Library of Victoria Theatre, and a wide range of questions.

Our fourth activity for the year was on 30 July when Dr Katina Michael from University of Wollongong, gave an interesting and provocative presentation in Melbourne on "The language and meaning of implantables for humans" to the 20 attendees. After the session several participants went on to dinner, and held a long and lively discussion on organising the ISTAS conference in Wollongong next June. Katina and committee member Dr Holly Tootell have been leading the SSIT's work in building what promises to be a highly successful conference next year, definitely something to put in the calendar now.

Our next technical meeting was on 3 September at University of Melbourne on the topic: "Moving to a low carbon economy: Whose job is it?" Speakers were: Megan Wheatley, Suzlon Energy; Craig Mermery, Alternative Technology Association; Paul Murfitt, CEO Moreland Energy Foundation. Thanks to Kam Ho for the excellent job of organising the meeting, which attracted 40 people. The discussion took a decidedly practical turn, as both speakers and audience moved beyond the problem in general terms to look at the actual possibilities and blockers to addressing climate change.

Our final technical meeting for the year will be on Thursday 26 November, on the subject "Chaos, hope, privacy and the rights of the individual in an on-line world", with Slade Beard speaking from Canberra. Slade has worked for several government organisations providing advice in this field. The meeting is also being publicised by OZCHI, continuing a trend of networking that has begun in this area. This will be followed by our annual very informal dinner (pizza and red wine at a restaurant on Lygon Street).

One planned event that we didn't manage to hold, but which laid the basis for future collaboration, was the planned ElectroRem09 conference. While the number of submitted papers and registrations was insufficient to guarantee a successful conference, during the process of organising this we had discussion with the Indigenous Remote Communications Association, Engineers Without Borders, Telstra, the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the Australian Taxation Office and other organisations which expressed interest in participating. We hope that in the next year or two we will be able to achieve a successful conference in this important field. Special thanks to committee members Mary Hawkins and Dr Anna Yang who established some of these key engagements.

Alongside all these successful activities there are some opportunities for improvement. The leading two are: How do we involve more SSIT members, beyond the committee, in the activities of SSIT?, and, How do we effectively communicate and publicise the work of SSIT, including the highly successful and interesting technical meetings?

To finish off, our membership continues to grow, with 81 current members and a further 100 on our contacting list (mainly people who have attended technical meetings). We continue to publish our newsletter annually. And we will be holding our third planning day in January 2010. As well as planning events and our budget and electing a committee for 2010, this time we hope to focus on our strategy, and how to achieve a more effective result in a field where we have seen so much interest, technologists thinking about and influencing the societal aspects of our work.

Dr Greg Adamson, Chair, SSIT Australia



Photo: Our Western Australia breakfast