

PANEL

ICT and Global Development Research: Current state and Future Directions

Chair: Chrisanthi Avgerou, London School of Economics

Panelists:

Geoff Walsam, Cambridge University

S. Krishna, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore

Muhammadou Kah, American University, Nigeria

The launching of the AIS SIG GlobDev, is the latest recognition of the study of ICT and socio-economic development as an important subfield within IS. There are now 3 journals dedicated to this research area (IT for Development, Electronic Journal of Information Systems in Developing Countries, Information Technologies and International Development), special issues of major international journals (The Information Society, Information Technology and People, MIS Quarterly), several series of conferences (IFIP WG9.4, IEEE/ACM International Conference on ICT and Development) and regular tracks in the major IS conferences. In other words, the new SIG is entering a well established research field.

But what is the epistemological profile of this field, and what are its promising research directions? In particular, what is our current understanding of the relationship of ICT to socio-economic development? What relevant theory have we developed? What knowledge relevant for policy and action have we got to offer? And into what research agenda should we advise the newly formed SIG to channel its research energy?

The panelists have been asked to outline and discuss the following:

- a) two or three major contributions of IS and development research to our understanding of the role of ICT in the processes of socio-economic development;
- b) one or two insightful theoretical perspectives for the study of ICT innovation and development;
- c) one or two pressing research questions.