



News

Workshop on Information Technologies and Systems (WITS 2K)

The 10th Workshop on Information Technologies and Systems (WITS 2K) will be held 9–10 December 2000 in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

The use of IT in the world of business continues to intensify. Many firms of today are being radically transformed by information technology and the internet. As a firm moves more of its activities into the internet, its existing systems may not remain optimal. The WITS 2K conference theme is Designing Information Systems in the e – Business Era.

Website: <http://mookerjee.badm.washington.edu/wits2k/index.htm>

International Conference on

CULTURAL ATTITUDES TOWARDS TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATION (CATaC'00)

Conference Theme: Cultural Collisions and Creative Interferences in the Global Village
12–15 July 2000, Perth, Australia

<http://www.it.murdoch.edu.au/~sudweeks/catac00/>

<http://www.drury.edu/faculty/ess/catac00>

Computer-mediated communication networks, such as the Internet and the World Wide Web, promise to realise the utopian vision of an electronic global village. But efforts to diffuse CMC technologies globally, especially in Asia and among indigenous peoples in Africa, Australia and the United States, have demonstrated that CMC technologies are neither culturally neutral nor communicatively transparent. Rather, diverse cultural attitudes towards technology and communication—those embedded in current CMC technologies, and those shaping the beliefs and behaviours of potential users—often collide.

This biennial conference series aims to provide an international forum for the presentation and discussion of cutting-edge research on how diverse cultural attitudes shape the implementation and use of information and communication technologies. The first conference in the series was held in London in 1998. For an overview of the themes and presentations of CATaC'98 and links to the papers, see http://www.it.murdoch.edu.au/~sudweeks/catac98/01_ess.html.

Ionian Centre for Research and Technology

There is to be a new Ionian Centre for Research and Technology, established with European structural funds on the island of Kefalonia, one of whose themes will be science policy studies.

One part of the Centre's programme is likely to be one or more summer schools each

year where academics can meet, or initiate exchanges with policymakers and practitioners in industry, government or academic management. Moses Boudourides of the University of Patras in Greece and Peter Healey of the Science Policy Support Group in London will be working together to organise the programme, in collaboration with colleagues who have particular meetings to offer. It is hoped to organise at least one such summer school in September 2000 although the Centre itself may not yet be open.

If you are interested in holding a meeting under the auspices of the Ionian Centre either this year or in 2001 or 2002 in the first instance you should send an e-mail to either: mboudour@upatras.gr or Peter.Healey@spsg.org