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PROCEEDINGS

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Edited by:

Nagib Callaos
José Vicente Carrasquero
Belkis Sánchez
Andrés Tremante
Friedrich Welsch



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Number of Papers Included in these Proceedings per Country (The country of the first author was the one taken into account for these statistics)

| Country | # Papers | % |
|--------------------|----------|--------|
| TOTAL | 43 | 100.00 |
| United States | 16 | 37.21 |
| Canada | 2 | 4.65 |
| Germany | 2 | 4.65 |
| Mexico | 2 | 4.65 |
| Russian Federation | 2 | 4.65 |
| South Africa | 2 | 4.65 |
| Australia | 1 | 2.33 |
| Bangladesh | 1 | 2.33 |
| Brazil | 1 | 2.33 |
| Bulgaria | 1 | 2.33 |
| Colombia | 1 | 2.33 |
| Cyprus | 1 | 2.33 |
| Czech Republic | 1 | 2.33 |
| France | 1 | 2.33 |
| Greece | 1 | 2.33 |
| Guam | 1 | 2.33 |
| Indonesia | 1 | 2.33 |
| Japan | 1 | 2.33 |
| Latvia | 1 | 2.33 |
| Peru | 1 | 2.33 |
| South Korea | 1 | 2.33 |
| Taiwan | 1 | 2.33 |
| Turkey | 1 | 2.33 |

Foreword

Informatics and Cybernetics (communication and control) are having an increasing impact on societies and in the globalization process that is integrating them. Societies are trying to regulate this impact, and adapt it to their respective cultural infra-structures. Societies and cultures are in reciprocal co-adaptations with Information and Communication Technologies. Synergic relationships might emerge in this co-adaptation process by means of positive and negative feedback loops, as well as feedforward ones. This would make the whole larger than the sum of its parts, generating emergent properties in the parts involved as well as in the whole coming forth. The academic, private, and public sectors are integrating their activities; multi-disciplinary groups and inter-disciplinary teams are being formed, and collaborative research and development projects are being organized in order to facilitate and adequately orient the design and implementation of the feedback and the feedforward loops, and potentially generating synergic relationships. This phenomenon persuaded the Organizing Committee to organize The 11th International Multi-Conference on Society, Cybernetics and Informatics (IMSCI 2017) in a multi-disciplinary context along with other collocated events. Consequently, participants may focus on one discipline, while allowing them the possibility of attending conferences from other disciplines. This systemic approach stimulates cross-fertilization among different disciplines, inspiring scholars, originating new hypothesis, supporting production of innovations and generating analogical thinking.

IMSCI 2017 was organized and sponsored by the International Institute of Informatics and Systemics (IIIS, www.iiis.org), member of the International Federation of Systems Research (IFSR). The IIIS is a *multi-disciplinary organization for inter-disciplinary communication and integration*, which includes about 4000 members. Consequently, a main purpose of the IIIS is to foster knowledge integration processes, interdisciplinary communication, and integration of academic activities. Based on 1) the transdisciplinarity of the systemic approach and its emphasis on *relationships* and *integrating* processes, and 2) the multi-disciplinary support of cybernetics' and informatics' concepts, notions, theories, technologies, and tools, the IIIS has been organizing multi-disciplinary conferences as a platform for fostering inter-disciplinary communication and knowledge integration processes.

Multi-disciplinary conferences are organized by the IIIS as support for both intra- and inter-disciplinary communication. Processes of intra-disciplinary communication are mainly achieved via traditional paper presentations in corresponding disciplines, while conversational sessions, regarding trans- and inter-disciplinary topics, are among the means used for intercommunication. Intra- and inter-disciplinary communications might generate co-regulative cybernetic loops, via negative feedback, and synergic relationships, via positive feedback loops, in which both kinds of communications could increase their respective effectiveness. Figure 1 shows at least two cybernetic loops if intra- and inter-disciplinary are adequately related. A necessary condition for the effectiveness of Inter-disciplinary communication is an adequate level of variety regarding the participating disciplines. Analogical thinking and learning processes of disciplinarians depend on it; which in turn are potential sources of the creative tension required for crossfertilization among disciplines and the generations of new hypothesis. An extended presentation regarding this issue can be found at www.iiis.org/MainPupose.

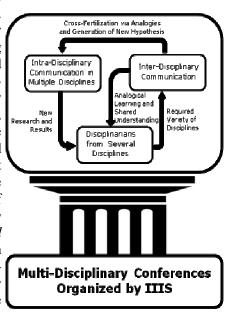


Figure 1

One of the main purposes of IMSCI 2017 is to bring together academics, professionals, and managers from the private and the public sectors, in order to share ideas, results of research, and innovative services or products, in a multi-disciplinary and multi-sector forum.

Educational technologies, socio-economic organizations, and socio-political processes are essential domains among those involved in the evolving co-adaptation and co-transformation between societies and cultures on the one hand, and between informatics and cybernetics (communication and control) on the other hand. Consequently, the main conference in the context of the IMSCI 2017 Multi-Conference is the 15th International Conference on Education and Information Systems, Technologies and Applications: EISTA 2017

The relationship between education/training and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) is quickly intensifying and sometimes appears in unexpected forms and in combination with original ideas, innovative tools, methodologies, and synergies. Accordingly, the primary purpose of EISTA 2017 has been to bring together researchers and practitioners from both areas together to support the emerging bridge between education/training and the ICT communities.

In the context of EISTA 2017, practitioners and consultants were invited to present case studies and innovative solutions. Corporations were invited to present education/training information systems and software-based solutions. Teachers and professors were invited to present case studies, specifically developed information systems, and innovative ideas and designs. Educational scientists and technologists were invited to present research or position papers on the impact and the future possibilities of ICT in educational systems, training processes, and methodologies. Managers of educational organizations and training consultants were invited to present problems that might be solved by ICT or solutions that might be improved by different approaches and designs in ICT.

EISTA 2017 provides a forum for the presentation of solutions and problems in the application of ICT in the fields of education/training. Authors of the papers included in the proceedings provided diverse answers to the following questions:

- What is the impact of ICT in education and training?
- How are ICTs affecting and improving education and training? What networks and models are emerging?
- How are universities, schools, corporations and other educational/training organizations making use of ICT?
- What electronic tools are there to facilitate e-learning, distance education and co-operative training?

On behalf of the Organizing Committees, I extend our heartfelt thanks to:

- 1. The 93 members of the Program Committees (including the events and the special tracks organized in the context of IMSCI 2017) from 28 countries;
- 2. The 287 additional reviewers, from 60 countries, for their double-blind peer reviews; and
- 3. The 115 reviewers, from 42 countries, for their efforts in making the **non-blind peer reviews**. (Some reviewers supported both: non-blind and double-blind reviewing for different

A total of 856 reviews made by 402 reviewers (who made at least one review), from 72 countries, contributed to the quality achieved in IMSCI 2017. This means an average of 8.15

reviews per submission (105 submissions were received). Each registered author had access, via the conference web site, to the reviews that recommended the acceptance of their respective submissions. Each registered author could also get information about: 1) the average of the reviewers evaluations according to 8 criteria, and the average of a global evaluation of his/her submission; and 2) the comments and the constructive feedback made by the reviewers, who recommended the acceptance of his/her submission, so the author would be able to improve the final version of the paper.

In the organizational process of IMSCI 2017, about 105 articles were submitted. These preconference proceedings include about 43 papers, from 23 countries that were accepted for presentation (52 countries taking into account the presentations in collocated events). We extend our thanks to co-chairs special tracks organizers for their support. The submissions were reviewed as carefully as time permitted; it is expected that most of them will appear in a more polished and complete form in scientific journals.

This information about IMSCI 2017 is summarized in the following table, along with the other collocated conferences:

| Conference | # of submissions received | # of reviewers that made at least one review | # of reviews made | Average of reviews per reviewer | Average of reviews per submission | # of papers included in the proceedings | % of submissions included in the proceedings |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--|----------------------|---------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| WMSCI 2017 | 240 | 805 | 1253 | 1.56 | 5.22 | 142 | 59.17% |
| IMSCI 2017 | 105 | 402 | 856 | 2.13 | 8.15 | 43 | 40.95% |
| WMSCI & IMSCI 2017 | 345 | 1207 | 2109 | 1.75 | 6.11 | 185 | 53. 62% |
| CISCI 2017 | 181 | 542 | 1305 | 2.41 | 7.21 | 82 | 45.30% |
| TOTAL | 526 | 1749 | 3414 | 1.95 | 6.49 | 267 | 50.76% |

We extend our gratitude to the co-editors of these proceedings for the hard work, energy and eagerness they shown preparing their respective sessions. We express our intense gratitude to Professor William Lesso (1931-2015) for his wise and opportune tutoring, for his eternal energy, integrity, and continuous support and advice, as the Program Committee Chair of past conferences, and as Honorary President of WMSCI 2017, as well as for being a very caring old friend and intellectual father to many of us. We also extend our gratitude to Professor Belkis Sánchez, who brilliantly managed the organizing process.

We would like also to extend our gratefulness to Professor Gradon Gill and Dr. Jeremy Horne for their continuous support in the conferences they participated in along the last 12 years as well as in the conferences they were not able to participate. In both cases: their advices and the kind of care they provided us with are highly valued and appreciated.

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We also extend our gratitude to the following scholars, researchers, and professionals who accepted to deliver plenary workshops and/or to address the audience of the General Joint Plenary Sessions with keynote conferences.

Workshops and Conversational Sessions

Professor Thomas Marlowe, Seton Hall University, USA, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, Program Advisor for Computer Science, Doctor in Computer Science, and Doctor in Mathematics.

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Professor Thomas Marlowe, Seton Hall University, USA, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, Program Advisor for Computer Science, Doctor in Computer Science, and Doctor in Mathematics.

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Professor Andrés Tremante, and Professor Nagib Callaos (www.iiis.org/Nagib-Callaos)

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The 15th International Conference on Education and Information Systems, Technologies and Applications: EISTA 2017
Special Track on Social and Organizational Informatics and Cybernetics: SOIC 2017

CONTENTS

| Contents | i |
|---|----|
| Educational Research, Theories, Practice and Methodologies (EISTA 2017) | |
| Karulis, Miervaldis (Latvia): "Perspectives in the Medical Latin Language E-Testing" | 1 |
| LaValle, Joe (USA): ""Real Language": Combining Intermediate Spanish Language Learners and ESOL/Native Speakers for Vernacular Language Acquisition" | 6 |
| Peng, Michael Yao-Ping; Ho, Sophia Shi-Huei (Taiwan): "Study on the Influence of Students' Social Capital and International Mindset on Employability: Taking Students' Learning Outcomes as Mediator" | 12 |
| eHealth | |
| Sprick, Ulrich; Köhne, Martin (Germany): "Internet Psychotherapy with "Net-Step" - A Therapist Delivered Tool for the Treatment of Depression and Anxiety Disorders in Primary Care Patients Tested in a Pilot RCT" | 18 |
| Impact of Informatics and Cybernetics on Societies and Cultures | |
| Figueroa-Tejada, Gisella; Sotil, Andrés; Un Jan, Alberto (Peru): "Reducing the Effect of Local Conditions on the Capacity Intersection Approaches with the Support of Intelligent Transportation Identification Software" | 24 |
| Information Society Technologies | |
| Orantes-Jiménez, Sandra-Dinora; Vázquez-Álvarez, Graciela; Tejeida-Padilla, Ricardo (Mexico): "Impact of Customer Relationship Management on Customer Loyalty, Customer Retention and Customer Profitability for Hotelier Sector" | 28 |
| Integrating Research, Education, and Problem Solving | |
| Bernikova, Olga; Redkin, Oleg (Russian Federation): "The Use of the Media in Arabic Language Teaching and Research" | 34 |
| Braman, James; Yancy, Barbara (USA): "Infusing Writing and Research in Technology Courses through Multi-User Virtual Environments" | 40 |
| Natale, Kirstin; Servilio, Kathryn (USA): "The Integration of Research and Education: Graduate Research Assistantship" | 44 |

| Suzuki, Akiyoshi; Nakamura, Norio; Kurata, Shin; Matsumoto, Kōichi (Japan): "Using Modern Technology to Address Traditional Geographic and Economic Limitations in Education" | 50 |
|--|-----|
| Vera, Ricardo; Nuño, José Pablo (Mexico): "A Transcendental Decision Making Model" | 56 |
| Interdependencies between Society and Information and Communication Technologies | |
| Baybars Hawks, Banu (Turkey): "Assessing Changes in Turkish Public Opinion: Current Trends and Future Prospects" | 62 |
| Social and Societal Roles of Information and Communications Technologies | |
| Ndwe, Tembalethu J.; Jumbam, Ndze D.; Isabirye, Naomi (South Africa): "UCD Pre-Design Research Methods in ICT for Development" | 67 |
| Rustanta, Agustinus; Kali Palindangan, Linus (Indonesia): "Therapeutic Communication: Phenomenology Analysis to Former Mental Disorder Survivors in Recovering Mental Illness Patients" | 73 |
| Informatics and Society | |
| Gribanova, Galina; Nevzorov, Maxim (Russian Federation): "Virtual Ethnic Communities as Political Actors – The Case of Sami People" | 77 |
| Peicheva, Dobrinka; Milenkova, Valentina; Manov, Boris; Raycheva, Lilia (Bulgaria): "The ICT, E-Reading and Media Ecosystem" | 83 |
| Application of Education Technologies | |
| Garcia Quan, Clarisa (Guam): "The Pros and Cons of Requiring SCRATCH in the Applied Linguistics Classroom: Student and Student-Teachers' Reactions and Recommendations, Instructor's Observations" | 87 |
| Molinsky, Rivka (USA): "Student Satisfaction and Outcomes of the Touro College iPad Program" | 93 |
| Sharmin, Aklima *; Lutfeali, Shirin ** (* Bangladesh, ** USA): "A Journey to Reading Hub: A Repository of Bangla Reading Skill Development through Technology" | 97 |
| Trudel, Louis; Métioui, Abdeljalil (Canada): "Participation of Student Teachers in a Video-Based Laboratory in Kinematics: A Multimodal Case Study" | 103 |
| Zhang, Lei; Sharma, Dinesh; Whiteley, Benjamin; Dabipi, Ibibia (USA): "Design and Develop of Virtual Reality Game Based Examination for STEM Education" | 109 |

Applications of Information and Communication Technologies in Education and Training

| Adadi, Elizabeth (USA): "Mobile Technologies and MotivationInfluential Drivers of Learner Control?" | 112 |
|---|-----|
| Ilunga, Masengo (South Africa): "An Approach for Achieving Matrix Consistency in AHP for an Online Module Evaluation" | 117 |
| Mao, Weihsun (USA): "Teaching and Learning Chinese Language on CMS" | 121 |
| Vogelsang, Kristin; Hagerer, Ilse; Liere-Netheler, Kirsten; Hoppe, Uwe (Germany): "Analysis of the Use of Digital Media to Design a Blended Learning Environment by the Example of a Master Course Lecture" | 127 |
| Education and Training Systems and Technologies | |
| Beranek, Marek; Kovar, Vladimir (Czech Republic): "Cloud-Based University Information System" | 132 |
| Candalh-Touta, Ninon; Szewczyk, Jérôme (France): "How Can We Improve the Training of Laparoscopic Surgery Thanks to the Knowledge in Robotics?" | 137 |
| Javidi, Giti; Sheybani, Ehsan (USA): "Empowering Teachers to Raise Career Awareness in Computing: Lessons Learned" | 143 |
| O'Sullivan, Jill Anne (USA): "Social Media Integrated into ERP Undergraduate Curriculum at Farmingdale State College for Student Preparation into the Workforce" | 149 |
| Shahzad, Farrukh *; Alwosaibi, Fathi M. ** (* USA, ** Saudi Arabia): "Development of an e-Library Web Application" | 153 |
| Stokes, Jennifer; Price, Bianca (Australia): "Social Media, Visual Culture and Contemporary Identity" | 159 |
| Education in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics | |
| Smyrnaiou, Zacharoula; Georgakopoulou, Elena; Sotiriou, Menelaos; Sotiriou, Sofoklis (Greece): "The Learning Science through Theatre Initiative in the Context of Responsible Research and Innovation" | 164 |
| Trudel, Louis; Métioui, Abdeljalil (Canada): "High School Students' Understanding of the Concept of Relative Motion Using a Video-Based Laboratory in Physics Education" | 170 |
| Zhou, Bin (Brenda); Anderson, Clifford; Wang, Feng; Li, Lin (USA): "Perceptions and Preferences of High School Students in STEM: A Case Study in Connecticut and Mississippi" | 175 |

Educational Research, Theories, Practice and Methodologies

| De Souza Martins, Marlucio; Posada-Bernal, Sandra; Lucio-Tavera, Paula Andrea (Colombia): "Physical Education in the Early Childhood: A Perspective of Investigation in Education from the Neuroscience" | 181 |
|---|-----|
| Hendel, Russell Jay (USA): "Are We Meeting Pedagogic Requirements? – The Quadratic Equation" | 185 |
| Iordanou, Kalypso *; Kuhn, Deanna ** (* Cyprus, ** USA): "Examining Collaborative and Adversarial Argumentation on the Computer in Supporting Students' Ability to Construct Evidence-Based Arguments" | 191 |
| Lee, Kwanchun; Choi, Soo Yeon; Choi, Un Shil (South Korea): "A Study on the Meaning of the 'Lifelong Learning to Be' Implicated in the Philosophy of Nietzsche" | 195 |
| Maciel, Flaviana; Acioly, Mariana; Fragoso, Viviane; Santos, Thalita; Martins, Carolina (Brazil): "Tutorial Continuing Education: Innovative Strategy in a Tertiary Specialized Health Unit" | 201 |
| Innovative Curriculum and Teaching Techniques | |
| Budnik, Mark M.; Thomas, Rebecca; Rosasco, Nicholas; Thomas, Stewart (USA): "An Active Learning Module to Introduce Students to the Importance of Flowcharts and Technical Documentation" | 207 |
| Islam, Rafiqul; Jannik, Adam; Al Sharab, Jafar; Benalla, Mohammed (USA): "Curriculum Development of an Enhanced Automation and Control Course by Emphasizing on Programmable Logic Controllers in Electronics Engineering Technology Program" | 213 |
| Xu, Wenjuan; Pan, Xunyu (USA): "Teach Network Forensics Course with Experiential Learning" | 218 |
| Relations between Society/Organizations and Cybernetics/Cyber-Technologies | |
| Leclerc-Sherling, Christine (USA): "Macro, Meso, and Micro Impact of Terrorism" | 223 |
| Authors Index | 227 |



Pages 1-226 are not included in this book preview.

To view the papers, please, click the "Home" button at the top of this page, and then, click the "Papers" link for this volume.

IMSCI¹⁷

AUTHORS INDEX

| Acioly, Mariana | 201 | Lucio-Tavera, Paula Andrea | 181 |
|-----------------------------|-----|--------------------------------|----------|
| Adadi, Elizabeth | 112 | Lutfeali, Shirin | 97 |
| Al Sharab, Jafar | 213 | Maciel, Flaviana | 201 |
| Alwosaibi, Fathi M. | 153 | Manov, Boris | 83 |
| Anderson, Clifford | 175 | Mao, Weihsun | 121 |
| Baybars Hawks, Banu | 62 | Martins, Carolina | 201 |
| Benalla, Mohammed | 213 | Matsumoto, Kōichi | 50 |
| Beranek, Marek | 132 | Métioui, Abdeljalil | 103; 170 |
| Bernikova, Olga | 34 | Milenkova, Valentina | 83 |
| Braman, James | 40 | Molinsky, Rivka | 93 |
| Budnik, Mark M. | 207 | Nakamura, Norio | 50 |
| Candalh-Touta, Ninon | 137 | Natale, Kirstin | 44 |
| Choi, Soo Yeon | 195 | Ndwe, Tembalethu J. | 67 |
| Choi, Un Shil | 195 | Nevzorov, Maxim | 77 |
| Dabipi, Ibibia | 109 | Nuño, José Pablo | 56 |
| De Souza Martins, Marlucio | 181 | O'Sullivan, Jill Anne | 149 |
| Figueroa-Tejada, Gisella | 24 | Orantes-Jiménez, Sandra-Dinora | 28 |
| Fragoso, Viviane | 201 | Pan, Xunyu | 218 |
| Garcia Quan, Clarisa | 87 | Peicheva, Dobrinka | 83 |
| Georgakopoulou, Elena | 164 | Peng, Michael Yao-Ping | 12 |
| Gribanova, Galina | 77 | Posada-Bernal, Sandra | 181 |
| Hagerer, Ilse | 127 | Price, Bianca | 159 |
| Hendel, Russell Jay | 185 | Raycheva, Lilia | 83 |
| Ho, Sophia Shi-Huei | 12 | Redkin, Oleg | 34 |
| Hoppe, Uwe | 127 | Rosasco, Nicholas | 207 |
| Ilunga, Masengo | 117 | Rustanta, Agustinus | 73 |
| Iordanou, Kalypso | 191 | Santos, Thalita | 201 |
| Isabirye, Naomi | 67 | Servilio, Kathryn | 44 |
| Islam, Rafiqul | 213 | Shahzad, Farrukh | 153 |
| Jannik, Adam | 213 | Sharma, Dinesh | 109 |
| Javidi, Giti | 143 | Sharmin, Aklima | 97 |
| Jumbam, Ndze D. | 67 | Sheybani, Ehsan | 143 |
| Kali Palindangan, Linus | 73 | Smyrnaiou, Zacharoula | 164 |
| Karulis, Miervaldis | 1 | Sotil, Andrés | 24 |
| Köhne, Martin | 18 | Sotiriou, Menelaos | 164 |
| Kovar, Vladimir | 132 | Sotiriou, Sofoklis | 164 |
| Kuhn, Deanna | 191 | Sprick, Ulrich | 18 |
| Kurata, Shin | 50 | Stokes, Jennifer | 159 |
| LaValle, Joe | 6 | Suzuki, Akiyoshi | 50 |
| Leclerc-Sherling, Christine | 223 | Szewczyk, Jérôme | 137 |
| Lee, Kwanchun | 195 | Tejeida-Padilla, Ricardo | 28 |
| Li, Lin | 175 | Thomas, Rebecca | 207 |
| Liere-Netheler, Kirsten | 127 | Thomas, Stewart | 207 |

| Trudel, Louis | 103; 170 |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Un Jan, Alberto | 24 |
| Vázquez-Álvarez, Graciela | 28 |
| Vera, Ricardo | 56 |
| Vogelsang, Kristin | 127 |
| Wang, Feng | 175 |
| Whiteley, Benjamin | 109 |
| Xu, Wenjuan | 218 |
| Yancy, Barbara | 40 |
| Zhang, Lei | 109 |
| Zhou, Bin (Brenda) | 175 |