

# SICSA Distinguished Visiting Fellow report: Apu Kapadia

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Dr Apu Kapadia, Assistant Professor of Computer Science and Informatics at Indiana University Bloomington, visited Scotland through the SICSA Distinguished Visiting Fellows programme in August 2012. His research interests include network security, human factors and usable security, privacy policies, security and privacy in pervasive and mobile computing, accountable anonymity, anonymizing networks and applied cryptography. Rather than a set of seminars, we chose to take advantage of his visit to give a masterclass in mobile computing user studies. The classes were split across two sites, Glasgow and St Andrews, so that students from any SICSA institution could easily access the classes. Each class included one standalone seminar by Dr Kapadia which was open to all.

12 PhD students from six SICSA institutions (Abertay, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Glasgow Caledonian, St Andrews and Strathclyde) attended the classes, although there were two no-shows. One attendee was 50% in Informatics at Edinburgh and 50% in the Edinburgh College of Art, which showed the wider appeal of the classes beyond straight Computer Science.

The classes were designed to teach PhD students about designing a mobile user study, and to have the students actually participate in a practice study to have them understand some of the pitfalls. Day 1 in Glasgow revolved around planning and designing a study. Attendees were then given a mobile phone, which they carried for a week, and participated in a mobile experience sampling method (ESM) study. On return to St Andrews the following week for the second class, we covered data analysis and reflected on participating in the study.

Informal feedback indicates that the classes were popular. Dr Kapadia is about to release his mobile ESM software as open source, and several students were interested in using it for their own mobile studies. A mailing list will be set up to allow students to share experiences and follow up. Dr Kapadia and myself also plan to refine the masterclass programme so that it is suitable for other venues, e.g., a tutorial at a conference, or extending it into a summer school.

To maximise the appeal of the masterclasses beyond PhD students, each day also included a standalone seminar to which all were invited. In Glasgow, Dr Kapadia gave a seminar entitled *Enhanced Privacy Through Exposure Control*, and in St Andrews, a seminar entitled *Soundcomber: A Stealthy and Context-Aware Sound Trojan for Smartphones*. Both were well attended, with the St Andrews seminar being standing-room only.

We thank SICSA for funding Dr Kapadia's visit through the DVF programme, and the MMI and NGI themes for co-funding the masterclasses.



Lunch in Glasgow.



Class in Glasgow.



Seminar in Glasgow.



Data analysis discussion in St Andrews.



Seminar in St Andrews.



Class in St Andrews.