REPORT
Richard Baskerville Visit
SICSA Funded Distinguished Visiting Fellow

Hosted by Karen Renaud & Jacques Ophoff
University of Strathclyde & Abertay University

7-10 June 2022

Talks

Both talks were hybrid, so that people could attend in person or join via Zoom. Talks were advertised locally at the two Universities, and via the SICSA mailing list as well as personal contacts of the two hosts (Renaud & Ophoff)

Strathclyde: 8th June 1-2pm

Title: Digital Reality First

Abstract
Classical information systems maintained digital reflections of "living" reality. Increasingly digital technologies create and shape living reality. It is an ontological reversal: the digital version is created first, and second the version in living reality (if needed). This ontological reversal challenges us to think about the role of humans and technology in society. Science and engineering are rapidly advancing this reversal with in silico research and digital twins. We are challenged to think about our role as IS scholars in this digital reality and what it means for our research agendas. Cybersecurity research is examined as an example.

Abertay: 9th June 1-2pm

Title: Information Systems as a Nexus of IT Systems

Abstract
The concepts of information systems and information technology are overlapping in a way that creates issues for researchers. Usefully distinguishing between the concepts is problematic. The author reports on an investigation of the use of the systems concept in practice. This research finds a pragmatic distinction between an information system (IS) and an information technology system (IT system). In a practice view, an IS incorporates an emphasis on both a technical and a social subsystem, while an IT system predominantly emphasizes the technical elements. This distinction becomes useful in practice because contemporary IS practitioners are often involved in acquiring and integrating IT systems into an organizational IS. This involvement leads to a viewpoint on the organizational IS (including the social subsystem) as a nexus of multiple IT systems. This nexus creates issues in practice for not only integrating IT systems into the organizational IS, but also integrating multiple IT systems with each other in the context of the organizational IS. These issues lead to research opportunities such as the need for new methodologies for IT system acquisitions and new theories that accommodate the social integration of IT systems and IS.

Attendees

Academics and students attended these talks in person, and there was a lively discussion after each of these. People joined remotely from across the UK, from South Africa, and also Strathclyde and

Abertay PhD students who have not yet returned to the UK. There were 45 combined attendeees for the Abertay talk.

One-to-One Discussions with Staff & Students

Richard had one-to-one meetings as enumerated below. The two hosts also had a meeting with Richard, and have formulated plans to work together on a research project.

Name	University	Staff/Student
Chelsea Jarvie	Strathclyde	PhD Student
Amel Attatfa	Abertay	PhD Student
Rufai Ahmed	Strathclyde	PhD Student
Suzanne Prior	Abertay	Academic
Daniel Thomas	Strathclyde	Academic
Salim Awudu	Strathclyde	PhD Student
Nwanneka Eya	Strathclyde	PhD Student
Paul van Schaik	Teesside	Academic

Social & Cultural Events

We hosted a dinner with Richard at a Scottish Restaurant on Wednesday evening, attended by Karen, Jeff Yan, Mujeeb Ahmed, Rufai Ahmed and Rosalind Searle (University of Glasgow).

Richard went to lunch with Jacques and Daniel Thomas on Wednesday.

We ensured that he saw Scottish highlights such as the Glasgow Cathedral, The Transport Museum and the Kelvingrove Museum. In Dundee he visited The McManus, V&A and waterfront.

Conclusion

This was a successful visit, with everyone benefitting from discussions with Richard, and from his talks. We thank SICSA for funding the visit.