

Prof Eswaran Subrahmanian
SICSA DVF Report

Eswaran Subrahmanian is a research professor at the Institute for Complex Engineered Systems and an adjunct professor in the department of Engineering and Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh. He has more than 80 publications, three edited books on engineering design, and a book on ICT for development. He was member of the Design Research Centre and subsequently in the NSF Engineering Design Research Centre at Carnegie Mellon University. He is a Fellow of American Association for Advancement of Science and an ACM Distinguished Scientist.

Prof Subrahmanian visited Scotland from 13th to 26th May 2014. He gave three talks during his visit at University of Edinburgh, University of Dundee and Robert Gordon University (as well as a separately funded public lecture at the University of Bristol). The talks were advertised primarily using widely circulated emails lists. The talks were attended, in each case, by 15-20 staff and students.

University of Dundee

Monday 19th May 2014

Title: Games for designing and designing for games. (with Sebastian Meijer)

Game theory in economics characterizes the behaviour of the participants from co-operative and competitive stances and has informed strategic thinking and design of economic mechanisms to align incentives in multi-party interactions. This talk explored the relationship between games and design and vice versa through examples. The talk made the case that games are a good method for understanding and framing the design problem and potential solutions.

University of Edinburgh

Tuesday 20th May 2014

Title: Design(ing) Science and Design(ing) Theories

This talk made the case that the science of design is more akin to climate change science or material science and biological sciences in that it is a multi-phenomena complex science. This stands in contrast to an earlier conception as science as the study of a single phenomenon. The implications of this rethinking are quite significant from the point of view of both design research and the practice of designing. This talk will conclude with a call for a pluralistic view of designing and rethinking design as dialogue using models and theories across and within disciplines.

Robert Gordon University

Friday 23rd May 2014

Title: Economic Development, Technology, and Design

This talk considered design in the social context of international socio-economic development. In particular, the talk focused on using the capabilities approach and institutions theory to understand the context around technical design for economic development. This talk was included as a keynote talk in the IFIP European Workshop on Iterative and Incremental Approaches to ICT4D. Further details of the workshop are [available here](#) (notice SICSA logo in acknowledgement of support) and a video of the talk is [available on YouTube here](#).

Prof Subrahmanian is working with collaborators at RGU to establish an ICT4D design methodology based on these ideas. A joint authored article for submission to Communications of the ACM is in preparation.

Julian Bass
24/09/2014