

RESEARCH CLUSTER OF DIGITAL INEQUALITY AND SOCIAL CHANGE (RC-DISC)

DIGITAL INEQUALITY AND SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Information and communications technology (ICT) has gained momentum as a vital strategic tool and enabler in modern society, giving rise to the information age. However, rapid growth in ICT has come with challenges. Digital inequality has severe implications for widening the gap between the haves and have-nots, whether in education, life expectancy or opportunity. Despite growing concern, there's a scarcity of research on digital inequality and the associated social transformation — a gap the Research Cluster for Digital Inequality and Social Change hopes to bridge.

Read [Why addressing digital inequality should be a priority \[Open access\]](#)

RESEARCH FOCUS

- Digital divide and inequality
- ICT for development (ICT4D)
- Antecedents of digital and social transformation
- Socio-cultural impact of IT
- Ethics, privacy, well-being and security
- ICT for marginalised and Indigenous societies.

OUR OBJECTIVE

- Assemble a team of interdisciplinary experts in the field of digital inequality and social change research
- Develop research schemes and cross-disciplinary initiatives to deal with complex and emerging societal problems driven by ICT
- Build local, national and international networks for further collaboration and joint research in the area.



**Donation and Support
our RC DiSC**

ABOUT US

RC DISC is built on the research strengths of a multi-disciplinary research group focussing on the digital divide and inequality, ICT for development (ICT4D), the socio-cultural impacts of ICT, and ICT for marginalised societies. Housed within the faculty of Sci-Tech, this initiative will depart from silo-based research at this critical juncture of the 21st century, where ICTs are pervasive and examined from various academic disciplines. The cluster endeavours to contribute to a critical knowledge gap and will have significant direct and far-reaching societal benefits through high-impact interventions. The cluster, which includes passionate researchers from different faculties, will collaborate closely with relevant international industry partners. The cluster will promote an inclusive culture of cross-disciplinary collaboration to create a locally anchored global hub for knowledge transfer.



First International Symposium on Digital Inequality and Social Change (ISDISC)

Bridging digital inequality for a better and inclusive society

28–29 March 2022

www.canberra.edu.au/ISDISC

The symposium offered an opportunity to initiate dialogue, share ideas and build collaborative networks with the international research community, relevant industries and policymakers on issues around digital inequality and social change and to build a network for future collaboration. The packed program for two days included four keynote addresses from highly acclaimed international scholars video message from the Hon Stuart Robert MP, The Minister for Employment, Workforce, Skills, Small and Family Business and the UC Vice-Chancellor Paddy Nixon. The program also included 13 research paper presentations, four industry case studies, two high-powered industry panels, academic panel and research Poster competition. About 75 participants from the UK, USA, Oman, Nigeria, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Bangladesh, Netherland, Malaysia, Samoa, KSA and Fiji and Australia joined the hybrid symposium.



www.canberra.edu.au/isdisc





CYBER SAFETY SEMINAR FOR PARENTS OF MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS CHILDREN

Parenting in a digital age presents a range of new challenges for many multicultural and Indigenous families. To help parents address some of these challenges, RC-DISC, in partnership with Fair Canberra and supported by the ACT Government and ACT Language School Association, held a seminar for approximately 75 parents in June 2022 at Lake Ginninderra College in Canberra. Presented by Dr Catherine Page Jeffery, Dr Ahmed Imran and Dr Suzi Keser, the seminar focused on parenting in a digital world and addressed issues including minimizing conflict and negotiating digital media use within the family and coping with stress in a digital age.

MOU SIGNED WITH UNESCO CHAIR ICT4D

An MoU initiated by RC-DISC between the UNESCO Chair in ICT4D, Royal Holloway, the University of London and the University of Canberra was signed on 28 March 2022. Agreed outputs for the partnership include high-quality publications on digital technologies, inequalities, social change and international development; joint workshops and conferences to explore aspects of the inter-relationships between digital technologies, inequalities, social change and international development and research visits and exchanges between partners and policy recommendations on areas of mutual interests.



CROWD FUNDING SCHEME LAUNCHED

RC-DISC has created a platform targeting strategically important non-traditional funding schemes and supporting research through crowdfunding. The platform has been developed in response to considerable interest from outside the academic research community and to reduce the cluster's reliance on traditional research funding, which is increasingly competitive.



CURRENT RESEARCH

- Indigenous children cyber safety framework
- Socio-technical solutions to bridge digital inequality amongst the aging population
- Measuring the societal impact of digital technology
- Inclusive technology application for homeless people
- Empowering people with disability through the inclusive design of digital products

MEMBERS

- Dr Ahmed Imran (Research Leader)
- Dr Maya Gunawardena
- Dr Dale Kleeman
- Dr Jee Young Lee
- Dr Shuangzhe Liu
- Adjunct A/Prof Cindy Michell
- A/Prof Riyana Miranti
- Professor Sora Park
- Dr Ibrahim Radwan
- Professor Dharmendra Sharma
- Farhan Shahriar

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

- Professor Ioana Chan Mow
- Professor Shirley Gregor
- Lt Col Sandeep Jadhav
- Dr Marjia Haque
- Dr Safiya Okai-Ugbaje
- Professor Olivera Marjanovic
- Dr Catherine Page Jeffery
- Professor Rhonda Wilson

ADVISORS

- Professor Janine Deakin
- Professor Dianne Gleeson
- Scott Cass-Dunbar

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Gunawardena, M., & Dhanapala, K. V. (2023). *Barriers to Removing Barriers of Online Learning*. Communications of the Association for Information Systems, 52, pp-pp.

Imran, A. (2022). *Why addressing digital inequality should be a priority*. The Electronic Journal of Information Systems in Developing Countries, e12255.

Imran, A, Quimno, V. & Gregor, S (2022). *Factors Influencing Digital Inequality: A Scoping Review*. Association for Information Systems Special Interest Group on ICT and Global Development's (SIG GlobDev's), Fourteenth Annual Pre-ICIS Workshop, Copenhagen.

Lee, J. (2022) *A qualitative study of latent reasons for internet non-and limited user*. Communication Research and Practice, 8(4). 364-382.

Jadhav, S., Imran, A. & Haque, M. (2022). *Application of six sigma and the system thinking approach in COVID-19 operation management: a case study of the Victorian Aged Care Response Centre (VACRC) in Australia*. Operation Management Research. Springer

Okai-Ugbaje, S., Ardzejewska, K., & Imran, A. (2022). *A mobile learning framework for higher education in resource constrained environments*. Education and Information Technologies, 1-23.

Page Jeffery, C (2021). *Digitally connected but personally disconnected? Crisis, digital media and the Australian family*. Journal of Children and Media.



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PARTNERS



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