Introduction to the Diffusion, Impacts, Adoption and Usage of ICTs upon Society Mini-track

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The aim of this mini track is to provide an opportunity for researchers to share and discuss their work related to ICTs adoption, use and diffusion within society including households, organizations and social communities around the world. By undertaking this research academics, industry and government agencies will learn of how ICTs are being utilised by various societies and what measures are being undertaken to have households and the various social communities adopt and use the ICTs with a further consideration of the impacts of the ICTs.

This mini track has continually attracted researchers in the area of ICT adoption and diffusion and this is reflected within the selected publications of this mini-track.

The first paper, Theories of the Digital Divide: Critical Comparisons uses four well known IS theories to examine and explain the digital divide. Namely, the Adoption-Diffusion Theory (ADT), van Dijk’s Theory of Digital Technology Access and Societal Impacts, Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology (UTAUT), and Spatially Aware Technology Utilization Model (SATUM).

The second paper, Affordable Broadband: Bridging the Global Digital Divide, A Social Justice Approach uses the social justice approach to examine the global broadband digital divide in 146 countries. Particularly, they examine the factors that hinder and enable people from being able to afford broadband accessibility.

The third paper, Unfolding the Types of Organizational Inertia in Information Systems Adoption uses seven case studies to examine organizational inertia in IS adoption and they discuss the discovery of two new types of inertia.

The fourth paper, The Adoption of IBM’s Spoken Web in Informationally Disadvantaged Communities: A Pilot Study with Farmers in Gujarat, India discusses the adoption of IBM’s Spoken Web in a community of farmers in India using a grounded theory approach.

The fifth paper, Gender Differences in Online Dating: What Do We Know So Far? A Systematic Literature Review presents a meta review of existing research in the online dating domain. In particular they examine gender differences in online dating.

The final paper of the mini-track, Understanding the Pain: Examining Individuals’ Online Reputation Management Behaviour and its Obstacles – A Grounded Theory uses a grounded theory approach to understand personal online reputation management of individuals, in particular digital natives.