



## From the Editors

With this last issue of our ninth volume, we are thrilled to welcome Renee Wittemeyer as *ITID*'s new Book Reviews Editor. Many of our readers know Renee as the Director of Social Impact in Intel's Corporate Responsibility Office. She brings rich and diverse experience to the task, having worked on technology and development projects in emerging economies with the World Bank, United Nations Development Programme, and Microsoft Research India, among others. Renee takes over from our inaugural Book Reviews Editor, Jonathan Donner, who served in that position for the past three years. We are grateful to Jonathan for having launched our book reviews section, which has now become an essential part of the journal. As he passes the baton to Renee, Jonathan transitions to a new role as Associate Editor. In turn, Jenna Burrell steps down after two years as Associate Editor—but she remains on our Editorial Board. Our heartfelt thanks to Jenna for these two years of service, helping to triage submissions, oversee reviews, and make acceptance decisions. Associate Editors play a special role within *ITID*, and we are grateful for the great care Jenna brought to the task.

In contrast to our eighth volume, in which three out of four issues were special issues, the current issue is the third general issue of Volume 9. It brings together four diverse research articles whose focuses range from the growth of China's software industry, the social support migrant workers in Singapore receive through mobile phones, community multimedia centers in Mozambique, and ICTs' collective role in the current pursuit of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The authors' methods range from quantitative analysis of survey responses to interviews based on social representation theory, case studies, and critical review of ICT projects.

Mita Takahashi and Nobuhiro Takahashi explore some of the factors leading to the current growth of the Chinese software industry. They focus on Japanese offshore software development partnerships with Chinese firms. Through detailed interviews with 50 Chinese software firms, the authors show how these partnerships have led to unintended technology transfer, playing a key role in helping Chinese software firms move beyond simple coding and testing to acquire strong software design skills. While Japanese firms initially entrusted their Chinese partners with software design primarily in pursuit of quality control and cost reduction, this resulted in significant technology transfer and also strengthened trust between the partners. These mechanisms, the authors argue, suggest that a dual focus on the Chinese domestic supply and export of software services constitutes a promising development strategy for China's software industry.

Arul Chib, Holley Wilkin, and Sri Ranjini Mei Hua study whether mobile phones help migrant workers in Singapore cope with stress resulting from separation from their loved ones and alienation in their host country. A survey conducted with 116 migrant workers finds divergent impacts for female and male respondents. For female migrant workers, mobile phones alleviate stress, in particular by providing emotional social support. In contrast, for male workers, increased mobile phone use and

## FROM THE EDITORS

increased emotional support paradoxically lead to higher stress levels. While the study's design does not allow the authors to pinpoint the reasons behind such gender differences, they caution against treating migrants as a homogeneous group. The findings argue for the creation of alternative coping strategies for migrants, such as the males in this study, for whom mobile communication creates greater stress.

Isabella Rega, Sara Vannini, Emanuele Fino, and Lorenzo Cantoni examine how different social groups in Mozambique understand community multimedia centers (CMCs), structures that combine community radio and a telecenter. The authors identify six clusters, each emphasizing different ideas, values, and practices. Some highlight the political role of community radio or radio's potential for edutainment, while others see CMCs as instrumental places that "sell photocopies," and still others emphasize the power structure the CMCs represent as bureaucratic umbrellas. The authors show how these different understandings reflect users' social and demographic characteristics. Perhaps most important, these perceptions all diverge from the vision of UNESCO, which established the CMC model to promote education and knowledge exchange, and to strengthen remote populations' social inclusion and public participation. According to the authors, such divergence indicates that user-led re-invention of the CMCs is underway, an important step toward local ownership of the centers. Thus, they argue, a social representation perspective can help to balance top-down ICT4D approaches and give voice to local perspectives, ultimately leading to better integration of interventions, such as the CMCs, into their users' lives.

Siobhán Clarke, Gillian Wylie, and Hans Zomer consider the contribution of information and communication technology to reaching the eight Millennium Development Goals. By reviewing salient ICT projects, they shed light on a debate that has grown since 2000, when the MDGs were unveiled: Will ICTs enable growth and citizen empowerment, or on the contrary, will technical fixes fail to overcome the historic and structural causes of poverty? On the whole, the authors conclude that ICTs are useful, but they also caution that it will be important to listen to communities in poverty when deciding how ICTs should feature in the post-2015 agenda.

*François Bar*  
*Editor-in-Chief*

*Kentaro Toyama*  
*Editor-in-Chief*