



## From the Editors-in-Chief

### ***Foreword***

Michael L. Best, François Bar

Early 2009, we were approached by the IDRC, who asked if we might consider publishing a special issue of *ITID* devoted to papers emerging from the second Harvard Forum on ICTs, Human Development, Growth, and Poverty Reduction. Knowing the lineup of authors already confirmed for the Forum, we were naturally interested. In earlier special issues, we have published papers from conferences, including our standing relationship to publish a “best of” special issue from the ICTD conferences. But this special issue is unique in a number of ways. Unlike ICTD, which is a peer-reviewed conference of research papers, the Harvard Forum was not composed of peer-reviewed papers. Instead, it included a set of invited essays, one from each participant. For the purpose of this special issue, we considered each of these essays as contributions to our own “Forum” section, where we publish essays, opinion pieces, etc. Submissions to this section do not normally go through our standard peer review process, and neither did these manuscripts. Instead, the papers were evaluated by just a single external reviewer, along with the guest editors and the editors-in-chief. They were reviewed based upon the criteria of fit, importance in advancing the field, novelty, and clarity. All contributions were revised (some several times) based upon these editorial inputs, and ultimately, a few were removed from the issue. The end result is this special issue of Forum essays—and they should be read as such, not as research papers. This is certainly not a criticism, and we are thrilled with this stimulating and provocative set of papers.

Along with being a collection of essays instead of research papers, this special issue is unique in another way. You’ll notice that it is in addition to our quarterly issues, so *ITID* will be publishing five, not four, issues this year. The ability to publish an extra issue for this volume-year is thanks to the IDRC, who contributed additional financial resources to make it possible. However, the decision to publish this special issue was not influenced by these funds; we had already decided to do the special issue when the money was offered, allowing us to schedule publication for the immediate volume. There is no pay-to-play with *ITID*, and this issue is in no way a departure from that rule.

With that, then, we offer you, our gentle reader, this *additional* issue of *ITID*, a collection of exciting and innovative essays emerging from the Harvard Forum II. And to the guest editors, the IDRC, the contributors, and all our friends at Harvard, we offer our immense thanks!

