



From the Editors

We open this issue with the very sad news that Gary Marsden died on December 27, 2013 of heart failure. Gary was an Associate Editor at *ITID*, and a beloved friend and colleague. Our deepest sympathies are with his family and close friends.

I first met Gary years ago at a conference—I don't remember exactly which one, but it was at an unassuming restaurant where several of us had gathered after a day of sessions. What I do remember, though, is how naturally we fell into conversation. I tried to turn the topic toward him, mentioning some papers of his that I had read. He deflected the attention, and we ended up talking about everything from the variety of beers on the menu to how best to mentor students in ICT for development. That moment captured so much about Gary—his humility, his good cheer, and his devotion to his students.

As a scholar, Gary was a pioneer in several overlapping areas. He was among the first both to do research in human-computer interaction for development, and to focus on the mobile phone as a platform for ICT projects. His work in the South African township of Khayelitsha uncovered unique patterns of mobile phone use and generated innovations useful to its residents. And while there was ICT4D research in Africa before Gary moved to the University of Cape Town, there's no doubt that he dramatically raised the profile of his university, of South Africa, and Africa as a whole in the world of ICT4D.

My last memory of Gary was as I said goodbye to him at the International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development (ICTD2013), which he co-chaired with Julian May in early December. I could not have imagined then that it would be the last time I'd shake his hand, but I'm glad that I got to see him in his element—hosting us on his beautiful university campus, surrounded by his academic fans, and somehow keeping everything in order without appearing to be in charge. Gary, we will truly miss you.

In tribute, we include in this issue some words from Shikoh Gitau, who, as one of Gary's former students, represents a group that he cared for greatly, and who carries on his legacy with her own ICT4D work in Kenya. Meanwhile, at *ITID*, we are planning a memorial issue in Gary's honor in about a year's time. Authors are encouraged to submit papers right away. We hope to put together a set of research papers whose topics are in the area of Gary's interests: mobiles for development, HCI for development, ICT4D in Africa, and so forth. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions (editors@itidjournal.org).

In this issue, we have one research article, a forum note, two book reviews, and a change of formatting.

Iginio Gagliardone begins the issue with an incisive account of two national ICT projects in Ethiopia—Woredanet and Schoolnet. Key to the paper is the framework of technopolitics, which emphasizes both the political processes that shape technology and technology's capacity, once in place, to shape ongoing politics. Gagliardone shows how the technical architectures of both ICT projects reflect (to an uncanny degree) the political structures of the government in power, to the point that the main servers

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of Woredanet are located in the office of the prime minister. The article is convincing in pounding another much-needed nail in the coffin of technological determinism (much-needed, because it's a zombie that never rests), but at least to me, the paper seems less successful in showing how technology has much influence back on power. Gagliardone makes the attempt, however, and readers can judge for themselves.

In the Forum paper, Nitin Maurya, Vipin Kumar, Ramesh Patel, Hiranmay Mahanta, and Anil Gupta discuss the various roles of ICT in the work of the Honey Bee Network, the grassroots innovation movement that Gupta has championed for over a quarter of a century. The network is famous for its *Shodh Yatra*—a weeklong trip undertaken on foot where participants visit rural villages in different regions of India in search of local innovations. Increasingly, the innovations feature mobile phones, and the article describes several. The ideas are not unlike the ICT4D projects of research professors and PhD students from the world's top universities—except that these are conceived by middle-school dropouts!

Next, we have two reviews of books, each of which uses ethnographic methods to get a close-up look at mobile usage in the two greatest cellphone-using countries in the world—India and China. The first book, appropriately titled *Cell Phone Nation*, is reviewed by Nimmi Rangaswamy, who has herself spent considerable time investigating patterns of mobile use in various Indian subcommunities. The second review is by PhD student Siyuan Yin, who overviews *Technomobility in China*, a book about migrant women's uses of mobile phones. It seems odd to review book reviews, so instead I'll just mention that, especially together, they highlight the following fact: It's now been at least a decade since mobile phones became a global phenomenon, but we are far from even enumerating all of the unique cellphone behaviors in the world, to say nothing of describing and understanding them.

Finally, readers may notice that, starting with this volume, we have moved to a single-column format with authors listed immediately under the title. We have also added a "how to cite this article" line as a footnote at the bottom of the first page and pushed author contact info toward the end, immediately before the references. These modifications were made for a number of reasons: ease of citation, facilitation of typesetting, increased visibility for online indexing services, etc. We hope you like the changes!

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