

From the Editors



With this issue *ITID* enters its 12th year, and it seems an appropriate time to look back and thank those who made it possible. We're grateful first of all to our authors and readers, without whom there would be no journal. And, we are equally grateful to our associate editors and the many reviewers who so generously volunteer their time to review submissions. Our founding editors, Ernest J. Wilson III and Michael L. Best, conceived the journal at a time when "ICT and development" was barely a field. We have had terrific institutional support from the Georgia Institute of Technology Library, Microsoft, and MIT Press over the years and, currently, the University of Southern California's Annenberg School of Communication & Journalism. More recently, we are fortunate to have support from United Nations University's Institute of Computing and Society and the University of Michigan School of Information. Behind the scenes, our copy-editors, typesetters, and research assistants ensure a high-quality product. And, last but not most certainly not least, we'd like to express our thanks to Arlene Luck, *ITID*'s long-time managing editor, without whom no issue would issue!

Now, on to this issue . . .

Jenna Burrell contributes "material ecosystems" as a theoretical basis upon which to understand ICT and development. Drawing on the concept of relational materiality, she reinforces actor-network theory's emphasis on the intricate sociotechnical context from which the effect of any technology emerges. Burrell's concerns in the article, however, go beyond the theoretical. She gestures toward a framework for ethical design that, for example, urges technologists to consider and support user agency in their designs. Does the theory convincingly lead to principles of ethical design? You'll have to read the article and judge for yourself!

Shweta Chopra and Prashant Rajan report on a study to understand how operators of fair price shops (often called ration shops) in Chhattisgarh, India respond to point-of-sale devices, which the government requires them to use. The findings, based on a survey of 166 ration shop operators, mostly confirm the authors' sensible hypotheses. Among the gems in this article is the authors' frank discussion of the study's limitations, which includes this sentence: "We note that corrupt intermediaries who are able to misappropriate e-government technologies toward fraudulent ends may express higher satisfaction levels."

Rangarirai Matavire traces the way in which a health information system (HIS) was adopted and adapted in Zimbabwe by the Ministry of Health and Child Care. The findings confirm such things as the importance of tech literacy among users in HIS success. As a basis for analysis, Matavire invokes Henri Lefebvre's conception of domination and appropriation as they occur in a social space, as well as Antonios Kaniadakis's "agora of techno-organizational change."

The issue closes with a book review of *Reconceptualizing Development in the Global Information Age*, edited by Manuel Castells and Pekka Himanen. Richard Heeks' review offers a sharp critique of the gap between the book's grand ambition to reframe development as "informational development" and the slim arguments brought to bear. There is a certain kind of book review that outshines its subject, and we're delighted to have an example in this issue.

Finally, we remind readers that the International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development, from which selected papers are regularly published in *ITID*, will be held June 3–6, 2016, in Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA. More information is available at <http://ictd2016.info>. We hope to see you there!

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