

UNITWIN UNESCO Chairs Programme

UNESCO Chair Annual Progress Report

UNESCO Chair:	Information and Computer Ethics www.unesco.org.uk/HertfordshireChair
Institution:	University of Hertfordshire Department of Philosophy, Schools of Humanities, de Havilland Campus, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, AL10 9AB, United Kingdom www.herts.ac.uk
Date Chair Established: (mm, yyyy)	August 2009
Period of Activity Under Report: (mm, yyyy - mm, yyyy)	August 2009 – July 2010
Report Established By: (name, position)	Professor Luciano Floridi: Chairholder Email: l.floridi@herts.ac.uk; Tel: +44 (0)1707 285561

a) Executive Summary:

Major outcomes, results and impact of the Chair in relation to its objectives as stated in Article 2 of the Chair Agreement (between the Institution and UNESCO) (Not exceeding 500 words)

The newly established UNESCO Chair was inaugurated by a Professorial Lecture on “The Fourth Revolution: The Impact of Information Technology on our Lives”, delivered by Professor Floridi, the Chair holder, at the University of Hertfordshire on 23 March 2010.

The *UNESCO Chair in Information and Computer Ethics* has begun to contribute to UNESCO’s ongoing efforts to meet the ethical challenges posed by Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). During this year of activities (see below), the Chair has tried to complement and foster UNESCO’s current strategies and activities in this area, by providing a systematic and sustained focus on the ethical impact of ICT on education, science, culture and society, by supporting ICT-capacity-building initiatives, by pro-actively pursuing the dissemination and sharing of relevant ethical knowledge and best-practices, by strengthening interactions between higher education institutions and development bodies and, finally, by promoting international co-operation in the field of information and computer ethics.

Details of the different activities undertaken by the Chair will be found below. Here it is worth stressing that the Chair was involved in the activities of the UNESCO Information for All Programme (IFAP). IFAP has chosen information ethics as one of its priorities under its Strategic Plan. It is working on a draft Code of Ethics for the Information Society, building on the results of the four regional conferences on information ethics, held by UNESCO in 2006-2008. It has a working group which has developed a first preliminary draft of such a Code. The Chair contributed to the final version. During its meeting in January 2010, the Bureau held a discussion on this draft, to which the Chair actively participated. In light of the results of that discussion work on the draft is now progressing, involving widespread consultations. The project is to be able to submit a more developed version to a meeting of the IFAP Intergovernmental Council in March next year. Ultimately, it is to be hoped that the Code will be submitted to the Executive Board and the General Conference for endorsement.

2. Activities:

Overview of activities undertaken by the Chair in the reporting period

a) Education/Training/Research

(key education programmes and training delivered and research undertaken by the Chair in the reporting period)

i) Education	N/A
ii) Training	<p>Workshop on The Construction of Personal Identities Online (University of Aarhus, Denmark, 8-10 November, 2009). Ca. 30 students, balanced mixed gender (ca. 50%)</p> <p>Workshop on The Legal Implications of Information Ethics (Faculty of Jurisprudence, University of Turin, Italy, 23-24 October, 2009). Ca. 100 students, balanced mixed gender (ca. 50%)</p> <p>Second International Workshop on the Philosophy of Information, Bilkent University (Ankara, Turkey, 21-22 May 2010). Ca. 20 participants, mixed gender (ca. 40% female, 60% male).</p>
iii) Research	<p>Research topics included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. the philosophy of information and information ethics2. the ethical implications of the construction of personal identities online3. the ethics of cyberwar4. ethical issues in the development of artificial companions

b) Conferences/Meeting

(key conferences and meetings organised by the Chair or to which its Chairholder contributed)

1. NA-CAP 2010 Conference, Carnegie Mellon University (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 24-26 July, 2010).
2. Invited speaker, Departmental Seminar, ComLab (Department of Computer Science), University of Oxford (Oxford, 14 July, 2010).
3. Invited speaker, World Science Festival (New York, 2-6, June 2010).
4. Keynote speaker, Third Multidisciplinary Workshop on Identity in the Information Society (IDIS 10) (Rome, 26-28 May, 2010).
5. Invited speaker, Metaphilosophy Conference, Yale University (Yale, 23 April, 2010).
6. Invited speaker, Interdisciplinary Centre for Ethics and Technology, Yale University (Yale, 22 April, 2010).
7. Invited speaker, Department of Philosophy, Southern Connecticut State University (New Haven, 21 April, 2010).
8. UNESCO IFAP Meeting (Paris, 14-15 January, 2010).
9. Invited speaker, workshop on "The Philosophy of the Information and Computing Sciences", Lorentz Conference Center, Leiden University (Leiden, 8-12 February, 2010).
10. Università Statale di Milano (Milan, 25-26 February, 2010).
11. Invited speaker, 5th Annual Digital Assembly Conference, Futures of Digital Studies 2010 (University of Florida, 27 February, 2010).
12. Invited speaker, Cognitive Science Research Seminar Series, University of Sussex (University of Sussex, 9 March 2010).
13. Invited speaker, Balliol College (Oxford, 11 March 2010).
14. Sunday Times Oxford Literary Festival (Oxford, 20-28 March 2010).
15. Keynote speaker, Sixth session of UNESCO Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme

(Paris, 29-30 March 2010).

16. Barwise Lecture, 2009 Pacific Division Annual Meeting (New York Marriott Marquis, New York, 27-30 December, 2009).
17. Google Europe Meeting (Brussels, 15 December, 2009).
18. Invited speaker, UNESCO International Forum on Civilization and Peace (Seoul, South Korea, 2-3 December 2009).
19. Invited speaker, ICT that makes the difference (Brussels, 23-25 November, 2009).
20. UNESCO meeting (London, 23 November, 2009).
21. UNESCO meeting (Paris, 19-20 November, 2009).
22. Invited speaker, Centre for Research and Interdisciplinarity (CRI), Paris Descartes University (Paris, 19 November, 2009).
23. Aarhus Universitet, Institut for Filosofi og Idehistorie (Aarhus, 8-10 November, 2009).
24. Invited speaker, Balliol College PPE Society (Oxford, 4 November, 2009).
25. Invited speaker, Moral Sciences Club, Cambridge University (Cambridge, 27 October, 2009).
26. Invited speaker, Lectio Magistralis and talk, Festival della Scienza di Genova (Genova, 25 October 2009).
27. Invited speaker, two lectures, University of Turin (Turin, 23 October 2009).
28. Invited speaker, Department of Philosophy, University of Genoa (Genova, 21 October 2009).
29. Keynote speaker, first international E-Mental Health Summit, organised and hosted by the Trimbos-institute (the Dutch Netherlands Institute for Mental Health & Addiction), the Free University and the University of Amsterdam and endorsed by the International Society for Internet Intervention Research (Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 15-16 October, 2009).
30. Invited speaker, Second Health 2.0 Conference: Healthcare Communication is Changing (Nijmegen, The Netherlands, 12-13 October, 2009).
31. AP-CAP 2009 Conference, University of Tokyo (Tokyo, 1-2 October, 2009).
32. Gauss Lecture, Göttingen Academy of Sciences (Göttingen, Germany, 10 July, 2009).
33. E-CAP 2009 Conference, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Barcelona, Spain, 2-4 July, 2009).
34. Gauss Professor, Göttingen Academy of Sciences (Göttingen, Germany, 5-24 April, 28 June-18 July).
35. Keynote speaker, Conference, Catholic University of Lisbon (Lisbon, 23-25 June 2009).
36. NA-CAP 2009 Conference, Indiana University (Bloomington, Indiana, 14-16 June, 2009).
37. Workshop. Padua University (Padua, 19 March, 2009).
38. Invited speaker, Department of Philosophy, Bilkent University (Ankara, 12-15 March 2009).
39. Invited speaker, Department of Philosophy, Leuven University (Leuven, 27 February 2009).
40. The Whitehead Lectures on Cognition, Computation & Creativity Departments of Computing and Psychology, Goldsmiths College, University of London, Pimlott Lecture Theatre, (London, 25 February, 2009).

c) Interuniversity Exchanges/Partnerships
(principal exchanges/partnerships between the Chair and other institutions)

n.a.

d) Publications/Multimedia Materials*(major publications and teaching/learning materials)*

tick relevant fields of output and indicate volume of output:

	[tick]	[no.]
Books	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Books (edited)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Books (chapters)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Monographs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Research Reports	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Journal Articles (refereed)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Conference Proceedings & Occasional Papers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Teaching/Learning Materials	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Multimedia Materials (CD-Rom)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Multimedia Materials (Video)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Multimedia Materials (Other)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Give details of major publications and materials including full citations.

Selected publications**selected books**

1. L. Floridi, *The Philosophy of Information* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011).
2. L. Floridi, *Information – A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010).
3. L. Floridi, *Infosfera - Etica e filosofia nell'età dell'informazione*, edited and translated into Italian by Massimo Durante, introduction by Terrel Ward Bynum (Torino: Giappichelli, 2009).
4. L. Floridi (editor), *The Cambridge Handbook of Information and Computer Ethics* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010).
5. L. Floridi and G. P. Terravecchia (editors), *Le Parole della Filosofia Contemporanea* (Roma: Carocci, 2009).

peer-reviewed journal articles

2009: 8

2010: 3 (so far) and 3 currently in press.

published interviews

2009-10: 5

e) Other*(any other activities to report)*

The Chair has been invited to support, and has granted its patronage to:

- a) the Alan Turing Year initiative, <http://www.cs.swan.ac.uk/turing2012/>
- b) the EU project "Recreational Drugs' European Network: an ICT prevention service addressing the use of novel compounds in vulnerable individuals", Second Programme of Community Action in the Field of Health

2010: elected Fellow of the Center for Information Policy Research, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee.

2010: Vice Chancellor research award nomination for Research Supporting Engagement with Business, the Professions and Partner Organisations, University of Hertfordshire.

2010: nomination for the 2011 World Technology Forum Award.

2009: Barwise Prize awarded by the American Philosophical Association in recognition of his research on the philosophy of information.

2009: elected Fellow of the AISB (the Society for the Study of Artificial Intelligence and the Simulation of Behaviour).

2009: appointed Editor-in-Chief of *Philosophy & Technology*, (Springer).

3. Available Resources*Overview of resources placed at the disposal of the Chair in the reporting period***a) Human Resources**

Dr. Mariarosaria Taddeo was appointed Marie Curie Fellow with effect from 1st June 2010. This is a two-year research project by the UNESCO Chair on the ethical implications of information warfare. The objective of the project will be achieved by developing an interdisciplinary ethical study, combining research in Information and Computer Ethics (ICE) with the acquisition of relevant expertise in ICT and AI.

Dr. Dave Ward was appointed to a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship with effect from 1st July. The position is funded by an AHRC two-year research project, developed by the UNESCO Chair on the ethical implications of the construction of personal identities online. The objective of the project will be achieved by investigating how individuals shape themselves in online environments and through digitally mediated interactions. Online contexts provide unprecedented affordances and different constraints for the development of personal identities, as well as innovative opportunities of interactions with other agents both human and artificial.

Mrs Penny Driscoll has continued her appointment as personal assistant, with the support of the University of Hertfordshire and the AHRC grant (see below).

b) Other Resources*tick sources of financial contribution*

	[tick]
Host Institution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Partner Institution	<input type="checkbox"/>
Government Body	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other Public Institution/Body (incl. Research Councils)	<input type="checkbox"/>
UNESCO	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other UN Agency	<input type="checkbox"/>
IGO	<input type="checkbox"/>
NGO	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Private	<input type="checkbox"/>

Give details of financial contributions, material resources and space.

2010-2012, AHRC grant, "The Construction of Personal Identities Online";

2010-2012, Marie Curie Fellowship Grant, Intra-European Fellowships (IEF), Call: FP7-PEOPLE-2009-IEF, "The Ethics of Information Warfare: Risks, Rights and Responsibilities";

2008-2013, Second Programme of Community Action in the Field of Health, Ethical WP for the project "Recreational Drugs' European Network: an ICT prevention service addressing the use of novel compounds in vulnerable individuals".

4. Future Plans and Development Prospects:

Outline of action plan for the next biennium. And short/medium and long term development prospects. Please feel free to refer to difficulties that the Chair has experienced (Not exceeding 500 words)

The Chair plans to:

- carry on current work on the projects on the ethics of cyberwar and the ethics of the construction of personal identities online;
- submit a new book proposal to OUP on the foundations of information ethics;
- submit a new book proposal to OUP on the impact of ICT on human lives;
- try to involve Google UK in the organisation of a one-day workshop on the ethical responsibilities of ISP (internet service providers);
- organise the Third International Workshop on the Philosophy of Information, Brussels University;
- edit a special issue of *Ethics and Information Technology*, dedicated to The Ethics of Online Identities;
- edit a special issue of *Minds and Machines*, dedicated to The Epistemological Construction of Personal Identities Online;
- edit a special issue of *Ethics and Information Technology*, dedicated to e-Trust.