Technology and governance network
Past activities 2012-18

January to May 2019

- The first semester of 2019 has been very productive and engaging. In January we have welcomed Diego Fernando Martinez Castro, a Colombian PhD student who is currently researching digital inclusion/exclusion in post-conflict Colombia. A very interesting topic which requires thinking and action. Welcome Diego and good luck with your studies!

- In February 2019 José-Rodrigo and Teresa (TGN co-founders pictured above), met at Universitat Rovira I Virgili in Tarragona, Catalonia, Spain. It was a great opportunity to catch up and also share ideas about creativity and recycling with URV staff and students. Thank you Teresa! Let us keep up our good work on TGN!

- This meeting was also followed by a trip to IMT (Institute Mines-Télécom) Business School in Paris, France in March 2019. Together with undergraduate management student Ines Boussofara (fifth from the left above), we could continue our conversation of creativity with staff and students from IMT. Many thanks to Imed, Graciela and everyone we met in our visit. Let us hope we go there soon! We look forward to see you here soon!

- In May 2019 TGN together with the Digital Organisations and Society Centre of Royal Holloway hosted Dr Carla Bonina from the University of Surrey in the UK to celebrate the TGN annual lecture of 2019. Her seminar on "Digital Platforms for Development" sparked lots of interests from researchers regarding the potential of platforms to foster innovation (another name for creativity). Carla has vast experience in undertaking projects of civic technology in Latin America. Thank you for visiting TGN! A more detailed blog post with insights from Carla's seminar is available in the TGN blog.

- Thanks to the Humanities and Arts Research Institute of Royal Holloway we will be hosting a small and inter-disciplinary workshop on the topic of collaborative creativity for digital (self) preservation. Together with staff and students from the departments of law, drama and computer science, we will be thinking of how we can exert our creativity to help ourselves and others sail through the complexities of digitalisation in our lives. If you are interested in taking part, email me (José-Rodrigo).

- Finally, good luck to Nicolas (digital societies) and Juan Gabriel (data, information and knowledge) with their conferences as well!

2018

December 2018

- Teresa Torres-Coronas, TGN co-founder has successfully co-led the 2nd SBRlab (Social and Business Research Laboratory) Virtual Conference at Universitat Rovira I Virgili in Tarragona, Spain, from the 12th to the 14th of December 2018. This was an interdisciplinary event that promoted thinking of solutions for emerging societal challenges and problems. Proceedings of this conference can be found at: http://llibres.urv.cat/index.php/purv/catalog/book/345. Many congratulations to Teresa for this continuing effort.

- José-Rodrigo (TGN co-founder and co-ordinator) published his book titled "Managing Creativity: A Systems Thinking Journey". The book aims to bridge a dialogue between applied systems thinking or AST and the creativity field using a systems model of creativity initially developed by Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi. It offers guidelines to navigate through creativity projects and gives an example of using these in an effort to be creative about personal well-being and at work. Details of the book can be found at: https://amzn.to/2C3zqio

November 2018 - Alejandro Ochoa-Arias, a long standing collaborator of TGN led the successful running of the annual Latin American School of Systems Thinking and Practice that took place in Puerto Montt, Chile, from the 5 to the 7th of November 2018. This school has gone from strength to strength, gathering researchers from different countries in the region to present their insights and discuss future possibilities for systems thinking. Many congratulations to Alejandro.

October 2018 - The network is very happy to welcome Dr Stefanie Kuenzel from the Department of Electronic Engineer of Royal Holloway as a collaborator. Stefanie is interested in the ethical aspects arising from new technologies. Her research areas include power systems. Stefanie is first supervisor to Xiaoyu Zhang (who we welcomed back in early 2018). A short video about Stefanie can be seen here.

May 2018 - The TGN teamed up with Royal Holloway's school of management theme group of Knowledge and Organisational Learning (KOL) to help organise and participate in the annual research group workshop.

Caption: Dr Ghosia Ahmed from Royal Holloway and Loughborugh University presenting her research on knowledge management and information security

It was an enriching experience, and as a network we could support junior researcher Dr Ghosia Ahmed from Loughborough University (previously at Royal Holloway) to firm up ideas about a future post-doctoral project.

- The TGN has said temporary goodbye to Endrit Kromidha who was the TGN deputy co-ordinator for a number of years. He has taken a senior lectureship position at the University of Birmingham since May 2018. He continues being a collaborator of the network. Good luck Endrit!

- We are pleased to welcome PhD student Xiaoyu Zhang to the network. Xiaoyu's research focuses on exploring possibilities to empower UK households to manage information that is currently being collected via smart meters. Since January 2018 he is based at the electronic engineering department of Royal Holloway (supervised by Dr Stefanie Kuenzel), and is being advised by José-Rodrigo (TGN) and Chris Watkins from the computer science department of Royal Holloway.

- Towards the end of 2017 and beginning of 2018, researchers from TGN organised an inter-disciplinary workshop in London (Bedford Square) to explore collaborative research possibilities towards a project to evaluate technology support for mental health and employability. The aim of the project is to provide guidelines to facilitate the design of technology solutions for people suffering from mild anxiety and depression in their search for employability opportunities.

- The event brought many useful insights which are now being capitalised on in the form of research grant bids. We have potential project participants from Royal Holloway's school of management and department of clinical psychology, University of Hull, University of East London, Mind and CornerHouse Ltd.

Caption from Left to Right: Dr Lorna Farquharson (University of East London); Dr Helen Pote (Department of Psychology, Royal Holloway); Dr Philip Wu (School of Management, Royal Holloway); Mrs Sue Bailey (Msc) (CornerHouse Ltd); Mr Jon Cummings (Mind); Professor Gerald Midgley (University of Hull); and Dr José-Rodrigo Córdoba-Pachón (School of Management, Royal Holloway)

2017

Our annual seminar took place at Royal Holloway, University of London on November 2nd 2017. We invited Dave Whiteland to talk about *civic technologies*, an emerging area of interest for research and practice that links our previous activities on electronic government and citizen participation. José-Rodrigo's take on civic technologies can be found in a recent blog entry on civic technologies and human reasoning.
» Video of the civic technologies seminar Nov 2nd 2017

José-Rodrigo attended the 3rd Impacts of Civic Technology Conference (TICTEC) in Florence in April 2017. It was a great experience to engage with a community of committed individuals who want to empower citizens through technologies and thus enhance participation and engagement with governments around the world.

Civic technologies is an emerging phenomenon which deserves attention for its potential and ways of engaging citizens online. A dedicated post about this conference is available in our TGN blog.

2016

Endrit Kromidha has successfully engaged with the area of online crowd funding. This is a promising area in which governance takes a different meaning in developed and developing contexts.

As a result Endrit has produced the following publications, plenaries and conference outputs:

- Kromidha, E., & Robson, P. (2016). Social identity and signalling success factors in online crowdfunding. *Entrepreneurship & Regional Development*, 28(9-10), 605-629.
- Kromidha, E., (2016). Online crowdfunding for collaboration beyond national borders. British Council's Hammamet Conference, 24-26 November 2016, Hammamet, Tunisia.
- Kromidha, E., (2016). Digital innovations for financial inclusiveness: ICTs and crowdfunding in emerging economies. Madeira Interactive Technologies Institute (M-ITI), 16 November 2016. Madeira, Portugal.
- Robson, P.; Kromidha, E., (2016). Digital presence and organisational factors in international new ventures. 30th annual British Academy of Management (BAM) Conference, 6 – 8 September 2016, Newcastle, United Kingdom.

Sulafah Basahel successfully defended her PhD thesis titled "A Soft Systems Framework for Online Distance Education: The Case of Saudi Arabia" in November 2016 and was awarded her doctorate degree in December 2016. This thesis provides key insights into how online systems for education could be better planned and managed. Congratulations Sulafah!

2015-2016

From the end of 2014 to 2016, collaborators of the TGN have consolidated their research agendas within, as well as, outside the network. Some of the recent publications from collaboration include:

- Cegarra-Navarro, J., Córdoba, J.R, García-Perez, A (2016). "Tuning knowledge ecosystems: exploring links between hotels' knowledge structures and online government services provision". *Journal of Technology Transfer*, published online 21 September 2016. http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10961-016-9506-3
- Córdoba, J.R; Garde-Sanchez, R.; Rodríguez, M.P (2014). "A systemic view of corporate social responsibility – CSR in state owned enterprises (SOE). *Knowledge and Process Management* 21(3):206-219. http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/kpm.1453/abstract

Collaborators from Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM) have successfully established NOVAGOB, a Spanish-language online community dedicated to study the impact of technology in public administrations. Access to the network is via the following link: http://www.novagob.org/

In addition, collaborators from Universitat Rovira I Virgili have launched the first Social and Business Research Laboratory (SBRLab) Virtual Conference. The conference provided valuable insights for the study of the post-crisis global society. Further information can be found at: http://wwwa.fundacio.urv.cat/congressos/sbr-lab/en

At Royal Holloway the network has supported events organised by other groupings, including an international workshop on *Effective Leadership in ICT Innovation for Healthcare*. The workshop was organised by Dr Roberta Bernardi from the School of Management. Roberta continues her research on ICT-led innovations in the healthcare sectors, with particular emphasis in the UK. Further information about her research can be found in her blog at: http://ict4healthresearch.blogspot.co.uk/

2014

A call for papers on professions and technology is being launched for the Journal of Professions and Organization. This is an Oxford Edited Journal and José-Rodrigo is part of the editorial team for this special issue. The topic is groundbreaking and aims to gather inter-disciplinary perspectives.
Further information can be found here: Call for papers on professions and technology.
Any queries please email J.R.Cordoba-Pachon@royalholloway.ac.uk

Summer 2014 has been quite productive with the visit of Prof. Teresa Torres-Coronas to London. We shared good ideas and experiences about the topic of creativity for business education. Teresa arrived after she and José-Rodrigo had delivered the second version of the virtual course on social entrepreneurship at Universitat Rovira I Virgili. The course had a good turnout and positive feedback from students.

In February Dr Roberta Bernardi from Royal Holloway and Prof. Mark Exworthy from the University of Birmingham were awarded £3,904 from the British Academy of Management for a project entitled ' The role of Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) in fostering the adoption and diffusion of telehealth in the

UK'. This research investigates the role of Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) in designing and implementing sustainable and scalable telehealth services in partnership with the private sector. The aim is to understand how CCGs collaborate with technology suppliers for the take-up of telehealth nationwide.

A guest lecture on the topic of e-government was delivered by José-Rodrigo Córdoba to students of the MSc in Practising Sustainable Development that is currently run by the Department of Geography at Royal Holloway in January. The lecture aimed to be thought provoking on how e-government has resulted in official and unofficial versions, and how researchers can pursue new avenues of research in the subject.

In January Endrit Kromidha and José-Rodrigo Córdoba published a research paper titled ' Bridging the gaps between e-government practice and research: A meta-study for policy development' in the *International Journal of Public Sector Management*. This paper proposes a number of links between e-government policy and its implementation as reflected in relevant publications. It suggests the importance of using appropriate language and concepts to facilitate these links. The paper abstract can be seen at www.emeraldinsight.com.

2013

A special issue on IT Goes Green was co-edited by José-Rodrigo Córdoba and published by the *International Journal of Information Technology and the Systems Approach* (IJITSA, published by IGI Global). The issue considers a variety of perspectives and approaches related to the use of IT to meet green targets. Further information and a link to the editorial preface can be found here.

The event on "Public Service Professions and Technology" on the 6th of June 2013 was a success, with over 40 international participants from the UK and elsewhere. Two follow-up activities are being considered: 1) A special issue for a journal and 2) a research project bid.

A virtual course on Social Entrepreneurship was successfully delivered by José-Rodrigo Córdoba and Dr Teresa Torres from Universitat Rovira I Virgili. The course will be delivered again in 2014.

2012

In 2012 Royal Holloway hosted a number of international visitors from Spain. Professor Juan Cegarra from Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena delivered a research seminar in May entitled *Knowledge management in hospital-in-the-home care units* to staff, students and external guests which was very well attended.

Between June and August a research visit by Raquel Garde-Sanchez from Universidad de Granada took place. This visit helped establish some initial possibilities for collaboration, and as a result, a working paper is being co-authored with Raquel on the topic of social responsibility in government organisations.