

TRENDS

in Society and Information Technology

2011-2012 Seminar Series



THOMAS MALONE, MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

“Collective Intelligence: What Is It? How Can We Measure It? And How Can We Increase It?”

Friday, February 10, 2012

3:00 to 4:00 p.m.

6011 Donald Bren Hall

Free and open to the public; no RSVP required.

ABSTRACT This talk will describe how the same statistical techniques used to measure intelligence in individuals can be used to measure the “collective intelligence” of groups. We find that, just as with individuals, a single statistical factor can predict the performance of a group on a wide range of different tasks. This factor is only weakly correlated with the group members’ individual intelligence. It is, however, correlated with the group members’ social perceptiveness, conversational behavior and gender. The talk will also briefly describe other work to increase collective intelligence by: (a) combining predictions from humans and computers, (b) mapping the “genome” of collective intelligence, and (c) harnessing the collective intelligence of thousands of people around the world to develop proposals for what to do about global climate change.

BIO Thomas W. Malone is the Patrick J. McGovern Professor of Management at the MIT Sloan School of Management and the founding director of the MIT Center for Collective Intelligence. He was also the founder and director of the MIT Center for Coordination Science and one of the two founding co-directors of the MIT Initiative on “Inventing the Organizations of the 21st Century.” Professor Malone is the author of the critically acclaimed book “The Future of Work.” He has published more than 100 research papers, co-edited three books, been an inventor on 11 patents, and co-founded three software companies.

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