

TRENDS

in Society and Information Technology

2015-2016 Seminar Series



JACK CARROLL, Distinguished Professor, Information Sciences and Technology, Pennsylvania State University

"Community Networks to Innovation Infrastructure"

Thursday, January 28, 2016

11 to 12 p.m.

5011 Donald Bren Hall

Attendees will have a chance to interact with Professor Carroll when he joins his wife, Professor Rosson, at the reception at 4 pm in the 5th floor atrium after her talk on Friday. Free and open to the public; no RSVP required.

ABSTRACT Modern mass society, aka the information society, and its infrastructures present dynamic challenges and opportunities to community. Thus, in the enduring discourses of "lost community" running from Tönnies through Putnam, and beyond, both community and loss are evolving concepts. In this talk I review and reflect on community informatics work on innovation, as an evolving concept. Today, such work is often framed as "smart communities," "smart cities," or "smart territories"; emphasizing responsive management and development of physical infrastructures (electricity, water, sewage). The concept can extend to social infrastructures: new ways to experience and enact community identity, new kinds of community interactions, and new ways to give and receive social support. I will describe sociotechnical design research projects directed at enhancing awareness and participation for local issues and events, coordinating civic action, including volunteering and timebanking, crowd activity, and reciprocal peer-to-peer interactions, engagement in local politics and government, healthier active lifestyles, and retention of younger residents. Technology innovation is neither the culprit nor the remedy for lost community, rather, it is emerging as another abiding and evolving trajectory for community.

BIO John M. Carroll is Distinguished Professor of Information Sciences and Technology at the Pennsylvania State University. His research is in methods and theory for human-centered design, particularly as applied to Internet tools for collaborative learning and problem solving, and to create and sustain community. Carroll received the Rigo Award and the CHI Lifetime Achievement Award from ACM, and the Goldsmith Award from IEEE. He is a fellow of AAAS, ACM, IEEE, the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, the Association for Psychological Science, and the Society for Technical Communication. In 2012, he received an honorary doctorate in engineering from Universidad Carlos III de Madrid.

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