

CALL FOR PAPERS
(ALMOST FINAL VERSION)

First Interdisciplinary Research Workshop on Free Culture

In conjunction with the 4th iSummit, Jul 29–Aug 1, 2008, Sapporo, Japan

Introduction

The International Research Workshop on Free Culture presents a unique opportunity for scholars with various backgrounds, whose work contributes to the promotion or study of an emerging Free Culture, to present their research work to a multidisciplinary audience of academic peers and practitioners. It will be held in conjunction with the fourth iSummit, one of the largest annual events for the Free Culture and related movements.

Our aim is to provide a platform for scholars to communicate their findings to an audience that extends beyond individual disciplines because we believe that the wider participation in the creative process (and consequently in the formation and dissemination of our modern culture) enabled by new Internet technologies, innovative legal solutions and new business models, are far-reaching and therefore deserve to be examined through the lens of multidisciplinary inquiry.

The focus of the workshop will be on the presentation and critique of work in progress, and with the inclusion of both academic researchers and practitioners, so as to produce a holistic perspective on the future of a more participative, open and free information society. Workshop participants will have the chance to present their work at an event which attracts some of the world's foremost thinkers on the future of the Internet, as well as practitioners, technologists, activists and artists who help shape that future.

The iSummit

The fourth global iSummit will be held in Sapporo, Japan from 29 July to 1 August, 2008. iCommons in association with Digital Garage, Creative Commons Japan and the City of Sapporo will bring together pioneers of the free Internet from over 60 countries around the world. Developed in collaboration with the iCommons community, the iSummit '08 represents an exploration of the emerging opportunities for co-ownership, co-creation and the widespread distribution and sharing of knowledge, ideas and creativity in the digital age. For more information on the iSummit see <http://icommons.org/ismmit08/>.

Workshop Format

The workshop will be held as a separate 'track' during the iSummit. True to its mission of promoting the study and practice of participatory action, it will include both a peer-reviewed academic research program *and* a practice-oriented 'demo', or 'speed-geeking' session.

The academic research program will consist of presentations in the traditional format of short talks with time for Q&A. Submissions to the academic research program will be peer-reviewed by the program committee, based on their academic merit, research promise and relevance to the workshop's goals and expected audience. Authors need only submit an extended abstract of the work they wish to present and not an entire paper. The purpose of this is to encourage the presentation of work in progress and promote a fruitful and open environment of critique and collaboration. Accepted abstracts will be published in the form of online workshop proceedings,

so that the broader community has an opportunity to critique and comment. Authors whose extended abstracts are accepted for presentation will also have a chance to upload a full paper before the start of the workshop, if they so desire.

Members of the academic program committee will be allowed to submit their own work for review but will be subject to exactly the same review criteria and appropriate safeguards will be in place to ensure the avoidance of any conflicts of interest.

The demo session will be in the speed-geeking format (quick, informal presentations on participants' laptops) and will focus on practice-oriented work that is *original* and *relevant* to the workshop's goals but is not intended for a purely academic audience and hence might not meet the criteria of a peer-reviewed submission. This may include technology/art demos, case studies, practice-oriented reports, etc. A separate committee will be in charge of organizing this session.

The workshop will also include opportunities for participants to discuss future directions for commons-related research and mingle with workshop peers and with participants of the broader iSummit, in order to strengthen ties between research and practice and to allow the participants to explore cross-institutional collaboration opportunities. Also, a short presentation of the workshop's main findings will be made by members of the program committee in the iSummit.

Research Topics

Topics of interest for the workshop include, but are not limited to:

- Studies on the use and growth of open/free licensing models
- Critical analyses of the role of Creative Commons or similar models in promoting a Free Culture
- Building innovative technical, legal or business solutions and interfaces between the sharing economy and the commercial economy
- Modeling incentives, innovation and community dynamics in open collaborative peer production and in related social networks
- Economic models for the sustainability of commons-based production
- Successes and failures of open licensing
- Analyses of policies, court rulings or industry moves that influence the future of Free Culture
- Regional studies of Free Culture
- Lessons from implementations of open/free licensing and distribution models for specific communities
- Definitions of openness and freedom for different media types, users and communities
- Broader sociopolitical, legal and cultural implications of Free Culture initiatives and peer production practices

Submission Guidelines

Extended abstracts for the academic research program should contain a clear statement of the main research question, the methods employed, central ideas, and the outcomes of the research, in addition to a description of the topic being addressed. All extended abstracts must be submitted electronically in PDF format to research-submit@icommons.org and should be about 1000-1500 words in length. In addition, and beyond the stated size limit, in the same PDF file authors should include contact information, affiliations and a short biographical note for each author. Submission of an abstract entails a commitment that at least one author will attend the workshop to present the work in the case of acceptance.

For the demo/speed-geeking session interested parties are requested to submit a 2-page summary of their presentation in PDF format to demo-submit@icommons.org, illustrating the originality and relevance of their work. In addition, and beyond the stated size limit, in the same PDF file authors should include contact information, affiliations and a short biographical note for each author. The demo committee will decide how to organize this session and how to ensure that the content will be relevant and of high quality.

Important Dates

- Submission deadline: April 20, 2008
- Notification of acceptance: May 18, 2008
- Workshop: Jul 29 - Aug 1, 2008*

Workshop Chairs

- Jonathan Zittrain, Oxford University, UK
- Tyng-Ruey Chuang, Academia Sinica, Taiwan
- Giorgos Cheliotis, Singapore Management University, Singapore

Academic Program Committee

The academic program committee comprises senior scholars, recognized thought leaders and some promising young scholars. Moreover, it includes representatives from virtually every part of the world, reflecting the truly international agenda of the workshop:

- Bodo Balazs, Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Hungary
- Giorgos Cheliotis, Singapore Management University, Singapore
- Tyng-Ruey Chuang, Academia Sinica, Taiwan
- Melanie Dulong de Rosnay, Berkman Center for Internet & Society, USA
- Brian Fitzgerald, Queensland University of Technology, Australia
- Rishab Ghosh, UNU-MERIT, the Netherlands
- James Grimmelmann, New York Law School, USA
- Lucie Guibault, University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- Herkko Hietanen, Helsinki Institute for Information Technology, Finland
- Mathias Klang, Lund University, Sweden
- Ronaldo Lemos, Fundacao Getulio Vargas, Brazil
- Lawrence Lessig, Stanford University, USA
- Lawrence Liang, Alternative Law Forum, India
- Lev Manovich, University of California San Diego, USA
- Lisa Petrides, Institute for the Study of Knowledge Management in Education, USA
- Anil Samtani, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
- Jan Philipp Schmidt, UWC/UNU-MERIT, the Netherlands
- Elizabeth Stark, Harvard University and Berkman Center for Internet & Society, USA
- Alek Tarkowski, University of Warsaw, Poland
- Anas Tawileh, Cardiff University, UK
- Prodromos Tsivos, London School of Economics, UK

* The exact timing and duration of the workshop will be determined after an examination of the quantity and an initial evaluation of the quality of submissions.

- Kim Tucker, Meraka Institute, South Africa
- Ariel Vercelli, Universidad Nacional de Quilmes, Argentina
- Jonathan Zittrain, Oxford University, UK

Demo Committee

The team in charge of organizing the demo/speed-geeking session consists of people who are making outstanding contributions towards the promotion of a Free Culture in technology, legal practice and the arts:

- Jessica Coates, Queensland University of Technology, Australia
- Kevin Driscoll, MIT, USA
- Jordan Hatcher, UK
- Mike Linksvayer, Creative Commons, USA
- Jon Phillips, Creative Commons, USA and China
- Elizabeth Stark, Harvard University and Berkman Center for Internet & Society, USA

Note

If you have questions, ideas for special sessions we should host during the workshop, or wish to assist with the organization of the workshop, please subscribe to the *commons-research* mailing list at <http://lists.ibiblio.org/mailman/listinfo/commons-research> and send your emails to commons-research@lists.ibiblio.org.