



European Science Foundation Programme
Towards Electronic Democracy:
Internet-based Complex Decision Support (TED)

Workshop on

Human-Computer Interface Issues in e-Democracy

Manchester Business School,
Manchester, UK

November 9th – 11th, 2005

***First Announcement, Call for Contributed Papers and
Application for Support for Doctoral Students and
Young Researchers***

Key Points

The following contains details of:

1. Registering for the conference: see pages 4 and 7
2. Submitting contributed papers (closing date Sept 5th, 2005): see page 4
3. Applying for support for doctoral students and young researchers to attend the workshop (closing date Sept 5th, 2005): see page 4

Introduction

The advent of web-technologies has brought the possibility of supporting geographically and temporally dispersed group decision making. Technically it is now possible to discuss issues, debate objectives, formulate problems, access data, analyse models, conduct sensitivity analyses, vote, decide and implement actions, all without the group meeting other than virtually. However, while the technology is available, it is not clear that valid methodologies for its use are. Indeed, even the concept of validity is not well established in this context. It is far from clear that untrained users interacting with web-based group decision support systems (WGDDSS) will understand the cognitive tasks that face them. Hence neither may the system inform their judgements and understanding nor may their inputs inform the decision making process. With training such as can be provided within organisations, these cognitive issues may be overcome. However, when the context of use of a WGDDSS is that of substantive or deliberative *e*-democracy, there is less opportunity to provide prior training in the use of the tools and the citizens' interactions may be neither effective nor well founded.

The European Science Foundation programme *Towards Electronic Democracy* (TED)¹ is focused on the development of methods to address societal issues via the WWW using the methodologies of modern decision analysis and support to involve citizens and stakeholders in the actual process of decision making: a *true* step towards *e*-democracy rather than the *e*-administration techniques that so far have lain at the heart of *e*-government initiatives. At TED's heart is a vision to develop methodologies which enable multiple decision analyses to be communicated, explored and, indeed, built over the WWW, thus providing the mechanism by which stakeholders may be drawn more closely into the decision making process. Technically, the vision is achievable, though many issues remain to be addressed fully. What is less clear is whether the many assumptions about the cognitive abilities of the users are tenable. Can we expect all citizens in society to be able to comprehend the decision model(s) and interact, inputting their understandings, perceptions and judgements and so contributing to decision making process? Do such uses of WGDDSS in *e*-democracy risk a modern version of GIGO – garbage in, garbage out?

The workshop

The workshop will focus on the human-computer interface issues of WGDDSS, firstly seeking to identify the issues that need addressing and secondly to outline programmes of research.

Format

The workshop will be held over three days at Manchester Business School. There will be a mix of four keynote papers from invited speakers, contributed papers, a PhD Q&A session and a closing discussion session to map out a research agenda to define and assess the validity of interfaces of web-based decision support systems. Software demonstrations can also be arranged. There will be no parallel sessions so that the discussion of issues may grow continuously over the three days. Numbers will be limited to about 50 participants.

Two discussants will be assigned to each of the invited keynote papers. It will be a condition of acceptance of the invitation that the keynote speakers make their papers or slides available to the discussants *at least* a week before the event. The discussants will be asked to prepare a 15 min discussion of the issues raised in the keynote paper and to give their perspectives on the relevance to substantive *e*-democracy. We will endeavour to ensure that the discussants come from a different discipline from that of the speakers. The PhD Q&A session will involve all attending PhDs and a panel of the more experienced researchers. It will be held on the first evening. Each student will be given 2-4 min to describe their research objectives. The panel will then offer advice on their research plans, suggest potential parallels in other disciplines,

¹ <http://www.esf.org/ted> and <http://infodoc.escet.urjc.es/ted/>

etc. The workshop will close with a facilitated discussion session which will seek to elicit and summarise the key issues in designing valid, effective interfaces to substantive *e*-democracy systems and to identify a research agenda.

Objectives of the Workshop

- To bring together behavioural scientists, information systems engineers, decision analysts, political and social scientists, psychologists and others to discuss multi-disciplinary perspectives on the validity of web-based decision support and *e*-democracy.
- To map out a research agenda on valid design of valid and effective interfaces to substantive *e*-democracy systems.

Participants

Participants will be drawn from a wide range of disciplines with interests in human computer interfaces and substantive *e*-democracy. We will invite speakers and discussants to ensure that the behavioural and psychological sciences, information systems and decision analysis are represented. We will also arrange a mix of established researchers, young researchers and doctoral students to provide an educational and training aspect to the workshop. Up to 10 doctoral students and young researchers² will be supported through ESF funding.

Outline Programme

Tuesday 8th November

16.00 – 19.30: Registration

Wednesday 9th November

9.00 – 10.00: Registration

10.00 – 11.30: Invited paper 1 + discussants

11.30 – 12.00: Coffee

12.00 – 13.00: Contributed papers

13.00 – 14.30: Lunch

14.30 – 16.00: Contributed papers

16.00 – 16.30: Tea

16.30 – 18.30 PhD Forum

20.00 Optional meal in Manchester's 'Curry Mile'

Thursday 10th November

9.00 – 10.30: Invited paper 2 + discussants.

10.30 – 11.00: Coffee

11.00 – 12.30: Contributed papers

12.30 – 14.00: Lunch

14.00 – 15.30: Invited paper 3 + discussants

15.30 – 16.00: Tea

16.00 – 17.30: Contributed papers

² For the purposes of deciding on eligibility for support we will use a working definition that a young researcher is no more than 3 years into their postdoctoral work.

19.00 Reception and Dinner

Friday 11th November

9.00 – 10.30: Invited paper 4 + discussants.

10.30 – 11.00: Coffee

11.00 – 13.00: Contributed papers

13.00 – 14.00: Lunch

14.00 – 15.30: Facilitated discussion of Research Priorities

15.30 Tea and Departure

Registration

Registration fees (including coffee, lunches, teas, Workshop dinner on 10th Nov, handouts):

£150 full registration;

£75 student or young researcher registration.

Late payment of registration fees after October 14th will incur an additional fee of £30.

There is an registration form on page 7.

Contributed Papers

Contributed papers are invited.

Abstracts should be sent to simon.french@mbs.ac.uk by *September 5th, 2005*.

Email submission is encouraged, but postal submissions to Prof. Simon French (Manchester Business School, University of Manchester, Booth Street West, Manchester, M15 6PB, UK) will also be accepted. Please include a disk or CD with the abstract in electronic form.

Please submit a conference registration form (page 7) with your abstract.

Abstracts should be in word or pdf format and no more than two sides of A4 in length.

Authors will be notified of acceptance by mid September.

Housestyle (see example on page 6). A4 paper with 2.54cm (1in) margins (left, right, top, bottom). Use Times New Roman font: 12pt for text, single line spacing, 6pt after paragraphs; 14 pt bold centred for title; 12pt centred for authors; 12pt centred for affiliation and email address; 12pt bold for headings. Use Harvard citation format.

We are exploring avenues for publication.

Doctoral Student and Young Researcher Sponsorship

We will support about 10 doctoral students and young researchers (see footnote 2 on page 3) to attend the workshop. The support will cover the full registration and accommodation costs of the workshop. We are seeking further funding to make some contribution to travel. Current doctoral students will be expected to take part in the PhD forum. There is no obligation to contribute a paper to main session, though applicants are encouraged to do so.

Students and young researchers seeking this support should send a short c.v., a description of their current research and a statement of what they hope to gain from the workshop to simon.french@mbs.ac.uk by *September 5th, 2005*. They should also submit a registration form (page 7)

Decisions on support will be notified by mid September.

Location and Facilities

The workshop will take place in Manchester Business School in a fully equipped modern seminar lecture room with full IT/AV support including internet connection. Coffee, lunch and tea breaks will be entirely within the School. Accommodation will be provided in the School's hotel facilities and in local hotels within walking distance to the School.

Local Organiser

Simon French

Professor of Information and Decision Sciences

Manchester Business School, The University of Manchester,

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Programme Committee

Simon French, Professor of Information and Decision Sciences, Manchester Business School

Stephen Coleman, Cisco Visiting Professor in e-Democracy, Oxford University

Fiorella de Cindio, Università degli Studi di Milano and Milan Community Network

Christopher Fowler, Director of Chimera, University of Essex'

John Maule, Professor of Human Decision Making, Leeds University Business School

David Rios Insua, Professor of Statistics and Decision Sciences, Universidad Rey Juan Carlos, Madrid

Fabrizio Ruggeri, Research Director, CNR-IMATI, Milan

Manchester Business School

In 2004 the Victoria University of Manchester and UMIST joined to form a new University. As part of this merger, Manchester Business School joined the Manchester School of Accounting and Finance, the Manchester School of Management and the Institution of Innovation Research to become one of the largest full service business schools in Europe providing MBA, undergraduate, postgraduate and executive education programmes, all supported by a proud tradition of world class research. We are a research driven, multi-disciplinary, international school focused on the needs of business, organisations and society.

Manchester is well served by transport links with an international airport, road and rail connections. Manchester itself is a vibrant, modern European city with outstanding entertainments, restaurants and shopping. Close to North Wales, the Peak and Lake Districts, with all the history of the Industrial Revolution relived in many museums and visitor centres, there is plenty for the visitor to do.

Example of the Housestyle to be used for Abstracts

Simon French

Manchester Business School

simon.french@mbs.ac.uk

Introduction

This is an example of the housestyle for an abstract

Details

These are the details of the housestyle. Note use of subheadings

A4 paper with 2.54cm (1in) margins (left, right, top, bottom). Use Times New Roman font: 12pt for text, single line spacing, 6pt after paragraphs; 14 pt bold centred for title; 12pt centred for authors; 12pt centred for affiliation and email address; 12pt bold for headings. Use Harvard citation format.

These are examples of reference citations: Bazerman (2002), Bennett and Calman (1999), Carver *et al.* (2001), French (2003) and Gigerenzer (1994)

Abstract length no more than 2 sides of A4

References

M. Bazerman (2002). *Managerial Decision Making*. New York, John Wiley and Sons.

P. G. Bennett and K. C. Calman, Eds. (1999). *Risk Communication and Public Health: Policy Science and Participation*. Oxford, Oxford University Press.

S. Carver, A. Evans, R. Kingston and I. Turton (2001). "Public Participation, GIS, and cyberdemocracy: evaluating online spatial decision support systems." *Environment and Planning B: Planning and Design* **28**, 907-921.

S. French, Ed. (2003). "The Challenges in Extending the MCDA Paradigm to e-Democracy." *Journal of Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis* **12**(2 - 3), 61-233.

G. Gigerenzer (1994). Why the distinction between single event probabilities and frequencies is important for psychology and vice versa. In G. Wright and P. Ayton, Eds. *Subjective Probability*. Chichester, John Wiley and Sons. 129 - 161.

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Internet-based Complex Decision Support (TED)

Workshop on

Human-Computer Interface Issues in e-Democracy

Manchester Business School,
Manchester, UK

November 9th – 11th, 2005

Registration Form

Name:

Affiliation:

Address:

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Email:

Tel: Fax:

Registration: Full £150 Student/Young Researcher £75

Note: Do not send money with your registration. Payment details will be sent in early September. We will accept cheques drawn on a UK bank, credit card or, in some cases, bank transfer. There will be a late payment fee of £30 for payment after October 14th, 2005

If a doctoral student or young researcher (less than 3 years since doctorate awarded):

Name of Supervisor:

Email address of Supervisor:

Title of Project/Thesis:

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Date of submission:

Accommodation requested for nights of:

Tues 8th Nov Wed 9th Nov Thurs 10th Nov Fri 11th Nov

Other nights, give dates:

Accommodation in MBS is limited and costs £58.75 per night bed and breakfast. Local hotel accommodation is priced from about £60 upwards. Actual costs will depend on availability.

Special dietary requirements:

Please send the completed form to:

Prof Simon French, Manchester Business School, University of Manchester,
Booth Street West, Manchester, M15 6PB, UK.

simon.french@mbs.ac.uk