



ACEIE NEWSLETTER

UNESCO IFAP Activities | Digital Wellness Activities | Publications

2017 PROJECTS

UNESCO IFAP Activities

UNESCO/IFAP
International
Conference, Moscow
Russia, 4 – 9 June 2017

DIS Annual Conference,
Zululand, 6 – 8
September 2017

eLearning Africa
conference, Port Louis
in Mauritius, 27 – 29
September 2017

Digital Wellness Activities

Portfolio Committee
visit, Cape Town, 1 – 3
February 2017

Information Ethics and
Digital Wellness
Workshop, National
Library of South Africa,
8 April 2017

Information Ethics and
Digital Wellness
Workshop, Central
African Republic, 22
April – 1 May 2017.

Information Society
Day, Kara Heritage
Institute, 17 May 2017

National Library of
South Africa - Gala
Dinner, Protea Hotel, 9
June 2017

Information Ethics
Workshop, Kampala,
Uganda, 23 June 2017

Volunteer and Digital
Wellness Toolkit,
Northern Cape, 14 – 18
October 2017



National Cultural Diversity in a Digital Society Conference, Mthatha, 21 – 22 September 2017

The month of September is widely recognised and observed as “Heritage Month” in South Africa. During this time, South Africans pride themselves on the rich history, rich culture and how they have managed since the dawn of Democracy to live together, acknowledging the diversity of the beautiful rainbow country. In the month of September, the Department of Arts and Culture [DAC] played a leading role in coordinating the observance of Heritage Month.

In accordance with Heritage month, a *Cultural Diversity in a Digital Society* conference was organised. This conference was co-organized by the African Centre of Excellence for Information Ethics, Walter Sisulu University (WSU) and the Department of Telecommunication and Postal Services (DTPS) in accordance with the agreement signed between the University of Pretoria and the Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services, South Africa.

This event was honoured by the presence of Deputy Minister of the Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services, Ms Stella Tembisa Ndabeni-Abraham, the Chief of the Abathembu and King Z Dalindyobo.



Deputy Minister of DTPS, Stella Tembisa Ndabeni-Abraham

NHI Pilot Site Activities

Digital Awareness Workshop, CUT Welkom campus, Thabo Mofutsanyane District, 25 January 2017

Digital Wellness Workshop, Cape Town, 17 February 2017

Digital Wellness Workshop, Caledon, 18 February 2017

Digital Wellness Awareness Meeting, Mbombela, Mpumalanga, 27 February 2017

Digital Awareness Workshop, Ermelo, Gert Sibande District, 2 March 2017

Digital Awareness Workshop, Department of Basic Education, Laudium, Pretoria, 10 March 2017

Digital Awareness Workshop, Mbombela Circuit meeting, Lowveld High School, 24 March 2017

Information Ethics and digital wellness implementation, Free State, CUT Campus, 30 August 2017

Digital Awareness Workshop, Mpumalanga, Greater Rape Intervention Project (GRIP), 28 November 2017

Digital Awareness Workshop, Rustenburg, North West, 20 November 2017

Digital Awareness Workshop, Nelspruit, Mpumalanga, 21 November 2017

Digital Wellness and Curriculum Development workshop, Mthatha, 19 September 2017

On the 19th of September 2017, the Wallter Sisulu University (WSU) hosted the Digital Wellness Workshop as well as the Information Ethics Curriculum Implementation program. The participants were teachers from various schools who were also doing their post-graduate studies at WSU. The aim of the Information Ethics Curriculum Implementation program, as presented by Dr Beverly Malan, was to assist teachers in designing and implementing their own curricula on digital wellness and information ethics at their schools. This workshop, along with the conference, received positive and encouraging feedback.



Leandi Lottering, DM Stella Tembisa Ndabeni-Abraham, Naailah Parbhoo, Thandeka Masilo



Ms Naailah Parbhoo presenting the workshop on Digital Wellness



Dr Beverly Malan presenting the Digital Wellness and Curriculum Development workshop

ANIEversary

5th ANIE Conference, 21 – 23 February 2017, Kievits Kroon, Pretoria

Keynote Address by Professor Rafael Capurro, 21 February 2017, Kievits Kroon, Pretoria

Launch of the Festschrift, 22 February 2017, Kievits Kroon, Pretoria

**The ANIEversary was the theme of Issue 4 of the Newsletter.*



eLearning Africa conference, Port Louis Mauritius, 27 – 29 September 2017



On the 27th of September 2017, Coetzee Bester attended the eLearning Africa conference in Port Louis Mauritius. He presented a paper on Cultural Diversity by specifically focusing on the influence thereof on Educational Principles.

Abstract of presentation:

The presentation focused on Cultural Diversity: The influence on Educational Principles. The presentation addressed the impact of Information Ethics (human behaviour) within the digital environment and the role of culture, cultural diversity and cultural change in the digital environment in education.

The presentation also acknowledged the international role and recognition for cultural diversity by UNESCO and IFAP.

The presentation started with an overview of what Information Ethics is and how it impacts on our digital behaviour. It further related to access and accessibility to information, Big Data, artificial intelligence (AI), multilingualism and cultural diversity, policy and legal issues as well as personal safety and cyber security.

The presentation addressed institutional cultural and reflected on a balanced interaction between current cultures as well as new needs and requirements for new cultural behaviour on campuses within Information Societies. Reference was made to the enormous impact on the way that they adapt to their environments (i.e. cultures). This process, which started with new ways of communicating (social media) and managing information and research (the internet) is now affecting teaching and learning; we may, therefore, soon see a completely new teaching and learning culture emerging. The presentation referred to the Digital Wellness Toolkit for Primary and Secondary schools and concluded with practical remarks on Community Engagement activities (University outreach guidelines) as well as CV-development for students as part of a volunteer programme.

Digital Awareness Workshop at the NHI site, Rustenburg North West, 20 November 2017

This Workshop was one of the DTPS - funded Digital Awareness Workshops at the 8 NHI Pilot Sites and was presented by the African Centre of Excellence for Information Ethics in accordance with the agreement signed between the University of Pretoria and the Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services, South Africa. The participants were leaders or managers at teacher training centres where they focus on skills development and equipping the community with the necessary knowledge to succeed in their professions. The group was vibrant and eager to learn, and the ACEIE was able to expand their knowledge on Information Ethics and Digital Wellness by providing them with a copy of the Digital Wellness Toolkit for community members.



Mr Coetzee Bester presenting at the workshop

ACEIE Research Activities

Research Activities

Helen Keller said that “Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much”, and this is truly exemplified within the structures of ANIE and the ACEIE. Our collaborative efforts towards the mutually shared vision of promoting Information Ethics in Africa and from Africa, have resulted in many activities. The Information Ethics workshops and other awareness-raising events have been dealt with in this and previous newsletters. Here is a short overview of some of the ACEIE’s research activities of 2017.

1. Information Ethics Textbook: Cognitive Justice and Intercultural Information Ethics

The American Library Association (ALA), as a subsequent Publisher, is in the process towards finalising a textbook on Information Ethics with Emily Knox and John Burgess as editors. Rachel Fischer and Erin Klazar have contributed a chapter on Cognitive Justice and Intercultural Information Ethics. The importance of acknowledging different forms of knowledges, such as local or indigenous knowledge, as well as recognising the value of contributions from the Global South, is emphasised in this chapter. This chapter is inspired by Rafael Capurro, Soraj Hongladarom, Pak Hang Wong and Jared Bielby and their work on Intercultural Information Ethics, as well as the research on Social Justice by Johannes J Britz. This chapter seeks to provide a platform for critical discussion on the role of North-South and South-South dialogues. Case Studies are included to illustrate the role of civil society towards realising such dialogues.

The publication date is proposed for mid-2018.

2. Digital Wellness: Concepts of cybersecurity presented visually for children

The Digital Wellness Toolkit contains a children’s book titled: *Digital Wellnests: Let us play in safe nests!* This was the brainchild of Suné von Solms and Rachel Fischer who wrote the poems and short messages of the book, which is available under a Creative Commons license on the ACEIE’s website. This book addresses the need to educate children on the safe use of the internet and ICTs. Suné von Solms, who is from the University of Johannesburg, specialises in cybersecurity. She played a fundamental role in both contributing to the book and also representing it on the international

academic stage. She presented a paper titled: *Digital Wellness: Concepts of cybersecurity presented visually for children*, at the International Symposium on Human Aspects of Information Security & Assurance (HAISA 2017), Adelaide, Australia, 28th - 30th November 2017.

For more information about the conference you may visit: <http://haisa.org/>.

3. Global Initiative for Ethical Considerations in Artificial Intelligence and Autonomous Systems

Few international initiatives have set out to achieve what the IEEE (Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers) has achieved. As stated in the introduction to the *Ethically Aligned Design Overview*:

To fully benefit from the potential of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomous Systems (AI/AS), we need to go beyond perception and beyond the search for more computational power or solving capabilities.

We need to make sure that these technologies are aligned to humans in terms of our moral values and ethical principles. AI/AS have to behave in a way that is beneficial to people beyond reaching functional goals and addressing technical problems. This will allow for an elevated level of trust between humans and our technology that is needed for a fruitful pervasive use of AI/AS in our daily lives. By aligning the creation of AI/AS with the values of its users and society we can prioritize the increase of human wellbeing as our metric for progress in the algorithmic age.

With an approximate number of 250 contributors from different fields, such as ethics, AI, computer science, law, etc. this initiative delves into the discussion around ethics and Artificial Intelligence and Autonomous Systems. The ACEIE is involved in the committee on Classical Ethics in Information and Communication Technologies and contributed an African perspective.



Version 1 is already available online whereas Version 2 will be made available in late 2017. The public, academics and ANIE participants are invited to make an input to the document. For more information, please visit: [The IEEE Global Initiative on Ethics of Autonomous and Intelligent Systems. Ethically Aligned Design: A Vision for Prioritizing Human Well-being with Autonomous and Intelligent Systems, Version 2. IEEE, 2017.](#)

4. Participation in Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Study

The ACEIE was approached to gather input from the ANIE participants pertaining to the Internet Governance Forum, specifically regarding cybersecurity and cybercrime issues and multistakeholder collaboration. The ACEIE distributed the questionnaire to 70 identified stakeholders and wish to thank those that have contributed to this study. The findings will be presented on 17 and 19 December 2017 in Geneva, Switzerland. The ACEIE will be in contact with De Natris Consult to discuss the findings and reports after the event.

For more information you may refer to: [Strengthening cooperation within the context of the IGF: Creating a roadmap for 2018](#), as well as the IGF 2016 Workshop Report (#153): *Let's break down silos in cyber security and cybercrime*.

5. Innovate, EBIT Publication, Issue 12: 2017

Since the establishment of the ACEIE in 2012, the ACEIE has taken pride in reporting their and ANIE's achievements in the annual Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and IT publication, *Innovate*. Eight articles and seven years later and the tradition is still going strong. The latest article *Celebrating 10 years of information ethics in Africa* concerns the ANIEversary which took place in February 2017, as well as the launch of the *Information Cultures in the Digital Age: A Festschrift in Honor of Rafael Capurro* at the same event.

The *Innovate* is available electronically [here](#).

Celebrating 10 years of information ethics in Africa
Rachel Fischer

Many academics, especially in library and information sciences, have been involved in information ethics since the 1990s. Their dedication to the field culminated in the first local African Network of Information Ethics (ANIE) Conference, which took place in Pretoria in 2007.

The 5th ANIE International Conference on Information Ethics took place in Pretoria, South Africa from 21 to 23 February 2017. This event hosted 45 participants from Australia, Canada, Germany, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, The Netherlands, Uganda, the USA and Zimbabwe, and coincided with the tenth anniversary of formal structures and research projects in the field of information ethics in Africa. The event was also known as the ANIEversary.

Establishment of ANIE

Since 2007, the Department of Information Science has been actively involved in the creation and growth of the ANIE through a partnership established with the South African Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services. This was achieved in 2012 when the African Centre of Excellence for Information Ethics (ACEIE) was established in the Department.

In terms of a Memorandum of Agreement signed in 2012, its objectives were to conduct research on information ethics, design a tertiary curriculum on information ethics to be implemented at universities across Africa, and present workshops across South Africa and Africa targeted at government officials, academics and community members.

Since then, 24 African countries have joined the network, which now comprises over 700 participants at more than 130 institutions. A second Memorandum of Agreement was signed in 2015, which builds on the achievements of the ACEIE through ongoing research on digital wellness, cultural diversity and the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

The ACEIE ensures regular communication with network members from all over the globe. Subsequently, the ACEIE has organised ANIE conferences in Botswana (2010), South Africa (2012) and Uganda (2014), as well as workshops across the Southern and Eastern African regions. The initial target of 12 African countries and institutions was met.

Due to the success of the ACEIE and the ANIE, further collaboration has taken place with Intel Education, the South African Department of Basic Education, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and its Information for All Programme, as well as representative offices of the Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) collaboration.

In addition to the 5th ANIE International Conference on Information Ethics, highlights for 2017 included the National Cultural Diversity Conference in Mthatha and the eLearning Africa Conference, during which International Day on Universal Access to Information (IDUA) was celebrated. Both these events were held in September.

ANIEversary

The ANIEversary expresses the South African government's commitment to cyber-safety, cyber-security and digital literacy. The Minister of Telecommunications and Postal Services, Dr Siyabonga Cyprian Cwale, and former Deputy Minister of Telecommunications and Postal Services, Prof Hlangwe Buhle Mkhize, who addressed the delegates during the international conference and gala dinner, attested to this commitment, and showed their support for the projects of both the ACEIE and ANIE.

The ANIEversary also illuminated the global and African endeavours towards emphasising the importance of research relating to the knowledge society and information ethics. Platforms were created where the academic community highlighted research. During the gala dinner, Jared Bialby and Matthew Kelly launched information cultures in the Digital Age: a Festschrift in honour of Rafael Capurro. They were the editors of this publication.

This seminal work brings together original research from both the pioneers and the younger generation of information ethics academics in a joint effort to express and promote Rafael Capurro's contributions to information research.

The Festschrift addressed the crossroads of information and communication technologies, intercultural dialogue and philosophy, bringing to light new directions in information culture that inspire a wider consideration of issues than those first introduced by Capurro in the 1970s.

The ACEIE is also the only African representative working on Ethically aligned design: a vision for prioritising human wellbeing with artificial intelligence and autonomous systems, which is published by the Global Initiative for Ethical Considerations in Artificial Intelligence and Autonomous Systems of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). This project brings together technologists, ethicists, philosophers and computer scientists who seek to prioritise ethical considerations in light of artificial intelligence and autonomous systems.

The ACEIE and ANIE will continue to conduct research and collaborate on projects relating to information ethics and digital wellness.

The ANIE will retain its core objectives of research, developing partnerships and raising awareness in facilitating the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Action Line C10, which deals with the ethical dimension of information societies.



Ms Rachel Fischer





We wish you a happy Festive Season and a wonderful 2018!



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