



African Centre of Excellence  
for Information Ethics

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# ACEIE NEWSLETTER

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## Opening and re-launch of the International Centre for Information Ethics (ICIE)

By Rafael Capurro



After 20 successful years, the International Center for Information Ethics (ICIE) has been re-launched under a new administration towards a revision of the goals and mission of the ICIE community. The new Chair for the ICIE is Jared Bielby and alongside him, serving the ICIE as Co-chair, is Rachel Fischer from the ACEIE.

Beginning with the launch of a new website, the ICIE has been rebuilt to reflect a community-led philosophy, including an open membership model as well as a member's community forum for discussion and

edification of the field of Information Ethics.

Since the establishment of the ICIE in 1999 by Rafael Capurro, the ICIE has pioneered the advancement of the field of Information Ethics, offering a platform for an intercultural exchange of ideas and information regarding worldwide teaching and research in the field. Building from its original purpose and goals, the re-launch of ICIE has extended this mission to provide a greater opportunity for community and for collaboration between colleagues practicing and teaching in the field. The mission of the ICIE is the following:

- *ICIE seeks leadership and excellence in all aspects of the Information Ethics discipline, including research, teaching, advocacy, and practice. Supporting seven global-wide chapters, ICIE provides resources for, and encourages the growth of information literacies and digital cultures throughout the world.*
- *Pursuant to its mission, ICIE actively seeks partnerships with relevant individuals, institutions, societies and communities in the information fields. It advocates for and supports the growth of healthy and informed information cultures in the digital age,*

*providing a centralized forum for sharing and communication in the field.*

ICIE has been a leader and pioneer of the field of Information Ethics since 1999. The success of the ICIE community has always been dependent on the efforts and participation of those involved for its formation and continual growth. It is through the sharing of related interests and knowledge with others that ICIE has thrived over the years. As such, the launch of the new community forum for ICIE will allow direct member-to-member interactions and collaboration. There are four main focal areas for the ICIE in 2018:

1. Affirm the current parameters of the field of Information Ethics (IE);
2. Establish foundational partnerships with regional IE communities in BRICS nations;
3. Publish a special edition of IRIE outlining the current parameters of the field of IE; and
4. Fostering active international dialogues between the Global North and Global South.

The ACEIE and ANIE networks are proud to be partners of the ICIE and look forward to both strengthen our own research and to present it on an international platform.

<https://www.i-c-i-e.org/>

### **Intercultural experiences: Visiting Germany**

*By Rachel Fischer*

From 10 March to 30 June 2018 I had the amazing opportunity to be a visiting scholar at the *Hochschule der Medien/Stuttgart Media University*, in Stuttgart, Germany. This visit was realised by the efforts of Prof Tobias Keber and Prof Rafael Capurro and was funded by a Baden-Württemberg Stipendium. The objectives for this visit were:

1. To ensure future collaboration between Germany and South Africa, in particular between the Stuttgart Media University and the University of Pretoria;
2. To contribute to research relating to Information and Digital Ethics;
3. To develop the focal areas of the International Centre for Information Ethics (ICIE) and the African Network for Information Ethics (ANIE) (for more news relating to the ICIE, refer to the article on the "Opening and relaunch of the International Centre for Information Ethics");
4. To experience intercultural engagement on professional and personal levels.



**Baden-Württemberg  
STIPENDIUM®**

These objectives were met. Prof Tobias Keber, who is a director of the Institute for Digital Ethics/*Institut für Digitale Ethik*, works with an inspiring group of researchers focussing specifically on issues pertaining to social media as epitomised by the "10 Golden Rules of Digital Ethics", ethics by design and privacy regarding autonomous vehicles, the collaboration between the German police and civil society on digital security as well as narrative ethics as a medium of conveying values in a digital society. For more information visit their website <https://www.digitale-ethik.de/>

In addition to these objectives, I was involved in the following activities:

1. Presenting guest lectures and providing research assistance between 10 March and 29 June 2018;
2. Radio interviews at the local university radio station (HORADS) and video interviews for the media students;
3. We hosted the International symposium on Information Ethics, Visualising Homo Digitalis: Drawing pictures with

- Information Ethics – Three pictures from Canada, Germany and South Africa, 19 and 20 April 2018;
4. Setting up the new era for the International Centre for Information Ethics (ICIE) as Co-Chair for the ICIE together with the Chair (Jared Bielby);
  5. Attending the conference Fachkonferenz “Integrierte Forschung” on 29 May 2018 in Berlin. I attended the session *Recht und Ethik – Schnittstellennormen in der Rechtsanwendung* by Prof Tobias Keber;
  6. Representing South Africa in a presentation on Intercultural Communication on 4 June 2018;
  7. I presented a public lecture on International and African Information Ethics, Tübingen University, 20 June 2018;
  8. Additional meetings were held with the International Centre for Ethics in the Sciences and Humanities ([IZEW](#)) and the [Interdisciplinary Centre for Global South Studies](#) at Eberhard Karls Tübingen University;
  9. Translation of the Institute for Digital Ethics/*Institut für Digitale Ethik* website into English;
  10. Assistance and research towards writing a proposal for the Volkswagen Foundation specifically on narrative ethics and the Digital Wellness Toolkit;
  11. And finally, I continued my own research and academic duties for the ACEIE at the University of Pretoria.

### My personal experiences and impressions

South Africa is a country characterised by its diversity – in cultures and languages. It therefore made an impression on me when I found that English isn’t as often spoken or understood in Germany. I should have been prepared for that, for it certainly would have led to less anxiety. On the other hand, it was such an enriching experience to be in a country so proud of its language and identity. I also appreciated the structure and organisation underlying most processes which leads to trust in the system and the people. I felt utterly safe in Germany and enjoyed the ease of movement due to safety and the public transport system.

I have engaged in many non-academic activities. It is imperative that one takes responsibility for your own experience, hence I endeavoured to experience as much as possible. I visited a couple of cities, churches, other historic buildings and sights together with walks in nature. I also enrolled in other activities such as dance classes such that I can meet non-academic individuals and to engage in local culture.

I will highly recommend anyone to take such an opportunity if it ever comes your way. Not only is it challenging, but it is utterly enriching for your own personal and professional development. Just make sure you prepare beforehand, such as taking language courses if the *lingua franca* is not English and doing research on public transport and extra-curricular activities.



Jared Bielby,  
Professor Rafael  
Capurro, Rachel  
Fischer, Professor  
Theo Bothma and  
student

## Why should we care about virtual reality in Education?

By Susanna Ackerman

Since the dawning of the “4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution”, identified by Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum Geneva, this phrase comes up in numerous conversations. Some argue that it is not a revolution, but rather an evolution, because transformation caused by rapid technology change is not a single event but a chain of events. However, what is important to take away from this is a heightened nervousness around the skills required to survive this so-called revolution.

Then what about Virtual Reality? This is not a new concept in that simulations in various forms have been used over many years to do training, where people must enter dangerous zones or where accidents within the training process can be fatal, such as flight simulation and experiments with dangerous substances or processes.

What is new is the fact that these types of technology tools have become accessible and affordable for the mass market. So we need to properly identify the correct place for VR in education, and ensure that this device is not used purely for fun and games within the

classroom, but to take its place as valuable tool which enhances the learning process.

I recently travelled to India to meet the team at Veative Labs, where 300 developers create amazing STEM virtual reality content.

Using VR as a tool to create immersive learning experiences aligns well to the skills required to adapt to future learning environments. There are no distractions and by interacting with the content in a gamified way, motivation is increased. Engaged learners are open learners, and open learners are receptive learners. Retention of the content also increases as learning is constantly re-enforced by formative assessment. University of Maryland researchers have recently conducted one of the first in-depth analyses of VR and found that people remember information better if it is presented to them in a virtual environment. Such methods hold the potential to close the gap between knowledge and understanding, which holds out hope for increased learning outcomes.

[For more information, visit the VEATIVE website](#)

VEATIVE



Susanna Ackermann: VEATIVE

## WSIS Forum 2018 successfully concluded

*This abridged version of the article was adapted from the full article by Boyan Radoykov.*

From March 19-23, in Geneva, UNESCO co-organized the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum, the world's largest annual gathering of the ICT for development community. The Forum provided an opportunity for information exchange, knowledge creation and sharing of best practices, while identifying emerging trends and fostering partnerships in the WSIS priority areas.

This year's Forum, convened around the theme of "Leveraging ICTs to Build Information and Knowledge Societies for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)," ensured a global multi-stakeholder platform to facilitate the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines for advancing sustainable development. The Forum also underlined UNESCO's leading role as the UN Agency with a mandate to defend freedom of expression and promote the free flow of ideas by word and image in creating inclusive knowledge societies and empowering people and nations through ICTs.

In partnership with ITU, UNESCO brought together stakeholders in the framework of one high level session and four Action Line sessions. The Deputy Director-General of UNESCO, Getachew Engida, participated in the opening ceremony on March 20<sup>th</sup>, and underlined UNESCO's strong commitment to consolidating knowledge societies. "In taking this combined WSIS-SDG operational framework forward, UNESCO's position is clear – universal access to information and knowledge and freedom of expression are the foundations for inclusive and sustainable development. In empowering every woman and man, they are, fundamentally, forces for

dialogue, mutual understanding, and lasting peace", he stated.

[For the full article, please visit the following link.](#)



Boyan Radoykov from UNESCO Paris

Image found at: <https://en.unesco.org/internet-and-radicalization-youth-preventing-acting-and-living-together/boyan-radoykov>



## National Institute of the Deaf (NID) meeting

*By Coetzee Bester*

The meeting of the National Institute for the Deaf (NID) took place on 19 April 2018 in Worcester, Western Cape. The ACEIE Director (Coetzee Bester) attended the meeting also as a director of the NID.

The objectives of the meeting were to:

1. Reconfirm the relationship between the ACEIE and the NID
2. Establish possible new needs that the NID and people with disabilities in general might have that relate to Information Ethics
3. Introduce the ACEIE to the newly appointed CEO at the NID

Further ACEIE focus in relation to the NID:

- > CRL Commission's formalizing of Sign Language as the 12<sup>th</sup> South African Official Language
- > Impact of the work of the ACEIE
- > Possible inclusion of NID awareness in the proposed Vodacom project
- > A formal meeting with NID that took place during the July 2018 UNESCO / BRICS Project
- > Announcement / presentation on 12<sup>th</sup> Official Language during the July 2018 UNESCO / BRICS Project



Coetzee Bester Director: ACEIE





## SCECSAL Conference 2018

This abridged version of the information was adapted from the SCECSAL website.

SCECSAL Standing Conferences are held biennially and are hosted by SCECSAL member Associations. This year, the conference was held in Entebbe, Uganda and took place 23-27 April 2018.

SCECSAL is a regional forum for library and information associations in Africa.

Membership to SCECSAL is open to national library and information associations from the following countries: Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Congo Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, eSwatini, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Keynote presentations at this event included the presentations by Mr. Augustine Omare-Okurut with a presentation on 'Positioning the LIS to achieve ADGs', Associate Professor Shana R. Poneis with a presentation on 'Broadening innovations in LIS education' and Dr. Cornelius Gulere with a presentation on 'Whose access? Whose tools? Whose information? Creative LIS partnerships to achieve SDGs'.



Professor Sarah Kaddu from the National Library of Uganda

## Eritrea represented at the International Policy Dialogue Conference on IFAP Priority Areas in the BRICS countries

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*By Michael Kiflom*

The importance of Information and Communication Technology with regards to Information Accessibility is highly valued within IFAP core principles. This was also highlighted in an International Policy Dialogue Conference on IFAP Priority Areas in the BRICS countries, 4 to 6 July 2018 in Cape Town, South Africa.

Michael Kiflom, the President of the Eritrean Library Association and Director of Rora, the Eritrean National Digital Library, noted that the State of Eritrea had hugely capitalised on the telecommunication network infrastructure to realize its development program and to ensure the right to information accessibility of its citizens. However, the existing Eritrean Telecommunication Service (EriTel), infrastructure is not robust enough to accommodate the growing need and ensure information accessibility to the citizens.

Bearing in mind all these infrastructural inadequacies, the government is working to mitigate the issue of information accessibility and its six dimensions, namely, information availability, accessibility and affordability of information, open source software, open content, metadata interoperability and addressing the special needs of people with disabilities through the establishment of digital libraries across all kinds of libraries that include academic, public, special and community.



Mr Michael Kiflom



## International Policy Dialogue on IFAP Priority Areas in the BRICS countries, Cape Town, South Africa- 4-6 July 2018

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By Naailah Parbhoo-Ebrahim

The International Policy Dialogue on IFAP Priority Areas in the BRICS countries was co-organized by the ACEIE and UNESCO and held on the 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> July 2018 in Cape Town South Africa. The aims of the conference were:

1. To create a platform for the International Policy Dialogue on IFAP Priority Areas,
2. To support the development of a sustainable dialogue group in BRICS, African countries and Pacific Region
3. To strengthen the collaboration between the BRICS countries
4. To revitalize the IFAP structures and networks. The six IFAP objectives include: information for development, information literacy, information preservation, information ethics, information accessibility and multilingualism.

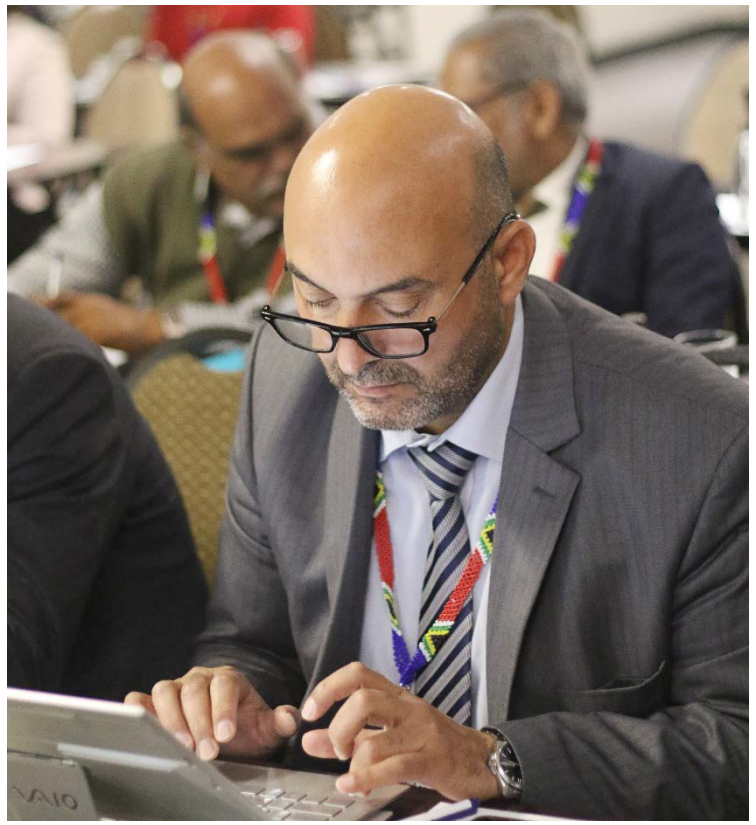
The conference themes included: Cultural Diversity – opportunities and threats, Radicalism in the digital environment, Digital Learning among BRICS Countries, Cyber Journalism and Ethics, Multilingualism, Migration and Adaptation, Equitable and Sustainable Development, Gender and Inclusivity, Ramifications of Fourth Industrial Revolution on Cultural Diversities and Development, Access and Accessibility Considerations for People with Disabilities, Youth Mobility and IFAP and the Sustainable Development Goals. The countries that participated in the conference included: Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, Eritrea, France, Germany, India, Kenya, Libya, Malawi, Mozambique, Russia, South Africa, Sudan, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The Head of Department of Information Science, Prof Archie Dick welcomed and opened the conference with a presentation: “Information for All at the Cape: struggles past and present”. Mr Boyan Radoykov addressed the

participants as the first keynote as the UNESCO Chief Knowledge Societies Division. The second keynote was by Professor Rafael Capurro who presented on the “Digital Futures”. Thereafter, Carlton Mukwevho, Secretary General South Africa National Commission for UNESCO spoke about “Celebrating the 100th birthday of former president Nelson Mandela” as Mandela Day was celebrated on 18 July 2018. A Gala Dinner was held on 5 July 2018 with a Guest of Honour Former President of South Africa, F.W. de Klerk who also presented a speech on “The accommodation of cultural, religious and ethnic diversity: a core challenge for the 21st century for South Africa, for Europe and for the world”. The participants were also exposed to cultural events such as visiting Table Mountain and Robben Island and the history of South African wine. At the Gala Dinner they were introduced to cultural music such as Marimba. Finally, the last outcomes of the conference was for the BRICS representatives and African scholars along with the academics from the international community, to improve the Cape Town Declaration. This declaration is still in progress. [For more updates and progress on the declaration, you can visit the ACEIE website.](#)



Ms Naailah Parbhoo-Ebrahim and Prof Vasuki Belavadi





## Event Announcement

**8th International Conference on Information Law (ICIL 2018) Modern Intellectual Property Governance and "Openness" in Europe: A Long and Winding Road?  
13-14 December 2018**

ICIL 2018 is organized by the University of Antwerp (Research Group Government and Law) in collaboration with the Ionian University (Greece), the KU Leuven (CiTiP) and the University of Ghent.

ICIL has typically been focusing on access to information, information law, copyright law and ethics. This year we try to broaden the scope of the conference covering a wide variety of topics related to intellectual property law, governance and openness. We have a special interest in Europe, but input from other jurisdictions is also more than welcome. ICIL is also open to scholars from many different disciplines.

Suggested topics include: access to information, access to knowledge, open innovation, open science, open access, open data, data sharing, artificial intelligence, blockchain technology, intellectual property and contemporary issues of openness, e-government and the digital divide. This is by no means an exhaustive list.

Please submit your abstract to [info@icil.gr](mailto:info@icil.gr) at the latest on **September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018**.

You will be notified by October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 whether your abstract has been accepted.

The proceedings of the conference will be published and several papers may be considered for a special issue. Full paper deadline: January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

The abstract should be submitted as a pdf-file consisting of maximum 500 words. It should include a short description of the background of the paper, the research question/research objective, the methodology and maximum 10 references (not included in the word limit). Please include your full name and affiliation in the e-mail and not in the pdf-file for purposes of the abstract review.

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