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## Freedom and Social Inclusion in a Connected World

Yingqin Zheng, Pamela Abbott, Jose Antonio Robles-Flores

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Yingqin Zheng · Pamela Abbott ·  
Jose Antonio Robles-Flores (Eds.)


# Freedom and Social Inclusion in a Connected World

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Proceedings

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# Preface

This book consists of the 17th IFIP WG 9.4 conference proceedings (ICT4D 2022). The theme of the conference was “Freedom and Social Inclusion in a Connected World”. The conference was originally scheduled to take place in May 2021 in Lima, Peru. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic that started in 2020, with Peru being one of the worst affected countries, the conference had to be held online, despite having been postponed by one year.

The pandemic is not only a public health crisis. Deep-seated inequalities and tensions have been unveiled and magnified under COVID-19 across different social, institutional, and cultural contexts, including in the most advanced economies. Digital connection has never been more profoundly implicated in the freedom and wellbeing of individuals as societies face the challenge of a severe pandemic. New theories, concepts, and philosophical perspectives are needed to shed light on the digital challenges in an increasingly complex and precarious world.

It was at this disruptive, historical moment that the call for papers for ICT4D 2022 was issued. Authors were invited to examine the role of digital technology in relation to diverse forms of exclusion, marginalization, and vulnerabilities, and to investigate the intersections between technology and various systems of power in the uneven landscape of development.

The virtual conference consisted of 13 tracks as listed below, including two foreign language tracks in Spanish and Portuguese respectively, and a track dedicated to Research in Progress papers.

1. Digital Platforms
2. Government Corruption, ICTs, and the Quest for Inclusion
3. Human-Computer Interaction for Ethical Value Exchange and Social Inclusion
4. Digital Entrepreneurship for Development
5. Digital Resilience in Adversity
6. Artificial Intelligence, Inequalities, and Human Rights
7. Pushing Boundaries - New and Innovative Philosophical, Theoretical and Methodological Approaches to Researching ICT4D
8. Reimagining Digital Technology for the “New Normal”: A Feminist Approach to Freedom and Social Inclusion
9. Digital Rights and Activism
10. ICT in Displacement and Conflict Zones: Ideas, Disconnects, and Innovations
11. Research in Spanish
12. Research in Portuguese
13. Research in Progress

It was encouraging to see some topic areas developing in this year’s IFIP WG 9.4 conference, such as the tracks on feminist approaches, artificial intelligence, and digital rights and activism. In total, 58 papers were submitted, 41 were accepted and presented

at the conference, and 40 papers were included in this published version of the proceedings.

Out of the 40 papers accepted in this volume, 3 are short papers. Each paper was reviewed in a double-blind process by at least 2 reviewers.

The keynote speaker of the conference was Tim Unwin, UNESCO Chair in ICT4D, who gave a talk on “Freedom, enslavement and the digital barons: A thought experiment”. It is also important to mention the thought-provoking discussions led by the five very interesting panels, all of which were closely linked to the conference theme although not included in the proceedings:

- Freedom and Social Inclusion in a Connected World  
Panelists: Dorothea Kleine, Yingqin Zheng, Kirstin Krauss, Sundeep Sahay  
  
Moderator: Pamela Abbott
- Differential Privileges Shaping ICT4D: Intersectional Analysis of Implications for Theory, Policy, and Practice  
Panelists: Tony Sandset, Susan Scott, Pitso Tsibolane, Tendani Chimboza  
  
Moderator: Arunima Sehgal Mukherjee
- Artificial Intelligence for Freedom and Social Inclusion? Limits and Possibilities in the Global South  
Panelists: Carla Bonina, Fabrizio Scrollini, Maria Esther Cervantes, Javiera Atenas, Renata Avila  
  
Moderator: Carla Bonina
- Mediated Activism: Clicks for Justice and Freedom  
Panelists: Paridhi Gupta, Ashique Ali T, Çağdaş Dedeoğlu  
  
Moderator: Priyank Chandra
- Feminist and Queer Approaches to Technological Resistance in the Global South  
Panelists: Azadeh Akbari, Margaret Cheesman, Silvia Masiero, Ayushi Tandon, Katherine Wyers  
  
Moderators: Azadeh Akbari, Margaret Cheesman

We are grateful for the insightful contributions of the panelists as much as the presented papers. We hope to see the perspectives and exchanges from the conference papers and panels, as well as those taking place in virtual roundtables and meetup groups, further developed and fed into a more open, vibrant, and critical discourse of ICT4D.

Yingqin Zheng  
Pamela Abbott  
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