

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY USAGE AND  
LOCAL GOVERNANCE TRANSFORMATIONS:  
PERSPECTIVES FROM EUROPE AND LATIN AMERICA

**Dr José-Rodrigo Córdoba-Pachon**

**5 March 2008, Derwent Building  
Hull University Business School**



Business School



With globalisation and the technological revolution, governments at the local, regional and national level and in different countries have to face up to the challenges presented by new forms of interaction between people. Local administrations and councils have incorporated information technologies (IT) to make their activities more efficient and foster democratic and open forms of communication. Even more, local governments see opportunities to enhance efficiency and participation through the use of IT.

## Information technology usage and local governance transformations: perspectives from Europe and Latin America

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With globalisation and the technological revolution governments at the local, regional and national level and in different countries have to face up to the challenges given by new forms of interaction between people. Local administrations and councils have incorporated information technologies to make their activities more efficient and foster democratic and open forms of communication. Even more, local governments see opportunities to enhance efficiency and participation through the use of information technologies. While these premises are widely accepted, the worldwide reality of their implementation is complex and multi-fold. Complexity is reinforced by an emerging role of technology to challenge traditional administrative structures. This highlights the importance of exploring the reality of transformations in local governance from multiple perspectives and encouraging debate about the future of local governance forms and practices.

This conference aims to provide a diversity of viewpoints, experiences and frameworks to understand the development of new forms of governance with information and communication technologies in mind. We have brought together a variety of researchers involved in exploring transformations in Europe and Latin America with the hope that their perspectives will illuminate others elsewhere.

The conference will also provide an opportunity to find out more about an exciting new publication entitled *E-Government and E-Participation: Towards an E-society?* The purpose of this edited work is to provide a systemic-based inquiry platform to explore the boundaries, limits and advantages of the introduction of Information and Communication Technology in the public decision-making processes and its impact on the redefinition of the different actors engaged in the constitution of society and its institutions.

## Who should attend?

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The conference is open to academics, information technology practitioners, government officers and business organisations. The aim of the conference is to raise awareness of the importance of developing partnerships between theory and practice to adequately and jointly explore the future of local governance.

This inter-disciplinary conference also aims to bring together members of the E-government for Local Integration with Sustainability (ELIS) group, and explore a funding bid for a project on 6 March.

## Contact

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**TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THE ATTACHED REGISTRATION FORM.**

## About the speakers

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**Dr Mila Gascó Hernandez** is a member of the research team in Creativity at Universitat Rovira I Virgili and lecturer at Pompeu Fabra University in Spain. She also lectures at the Open University of Catalonia, where she is in charge of the Doctoral Program Research Seminar on E-governance. Her interests lie in e-readiness assessments, electronic government projects design and implementation and information and communication technologies for development.

**Dr Kevin Orr** is Director of the Centre for Management and Organisational Learning at Hull University Business School. He has designed and delivered seminars, short courses and management development programmes for public sector practitioners in the UK and internationally. He is a member of the European Academy of Management, and the European Foundation for Management Development.

**Dr Nicolas Jullien** is assistant professor at GET school ENST Bretagne. He holds a PhD in Economics from ENST Bretagne and is director of M@rsouin (Môle Armorcain de la Recherche sur la Société de l'Information et l'Usages d'Internet) in France. He has published several papers and books about information technologies and open source software.

**Jocelyne Trémembert** holds degrees in Statistics from Dauphine and Paris VII universities. She is working with Nicolas Jullien at Breton association of social science research centres for the study of Information Society. She is responsible for an ICT Observatory (OPSIS) used to conduct surveys to inform policy making in Brittany. Her expertise lies in the preparation and control of data collection and interpretation.

**Dr Xiudian Dai** is Senior Lecturer in Political Economy of New Media Technologies and Programme Director for MA Global Communications and International Politics at the Department of Politics and International Studies of the University of Hull. His main research interest is the political economy of new media technologies.

**Dr Alejandro Ochoa-Arias** is professor at the University of Los Andes, Venezuela, in the Centro de Investigaciones en Sistemología Interpretativa, with main interests in community organisations and development from systemic perspectives. Alejandro has been a member of the directive board of the Regional Office of Venezuelan Andes, the National Research Center on Open Technology, and advisor at the National Commission for Disaster Management and Natural Risk Prevention

**Dr José-Rodrigo Córdoba-Pachon** is a lecturer in Management Systems at Hull University Business School. His research interests are in the use of systems methodologies, ethics and power in information systems practice. Before coming to the UK and after his degree in computer science from the Universidad de los Andes in Colombia he worked as software programmer, IT project analyst and project administrator. He was also involved in the formulation of policies for the information society in Colombia. In 2004 he founded a group with colleagues from Latin America and Europe to undertake research on the evolution of e-government systems. He has organised several international workshops on information systems and critical research, and currently is a member of the UK Operational Research Society and the Academy of Management in the US.

## PROGRAMME FOR THE DAY

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- 9.00 – 9.30      Arrival and registration  
Derwent Reception
- 9.30 – 9.40      Welcome  
Lecture Theatre 2
- 9.40 – 10.30     E-government and organisational IT  
adoption: the case of Barcelona City Council  
Dr Mila Gasco, Universitat Pompeu Fabra,  
Catalonia, Spain
- 10.30 – 10.45    Refreshments and IT demonstration  
Lecture Theatre 3
- 10.45 – 11.40    Use of IT by small city councils in the region  
of Bretagne  
Dr Nicolas Jullien and Jocelyne Tremembert,  
Môle Armorcain de la Recherche sur la  
Société de l'Information et l'Usages  
d'Internet, Bretagne, France
- 11.40 – 12.30    Can information and communication  
technologies transform local governance?  
Lessons from Hull  
Dr Xiudian Dai, Department of Politics,  
University of Hull
- 12.30 – 13.30    Lunch  
Lecture Theatre 3
- 13.30 – 14.20    E-democracy in Venezuela  
Dr Alejandro Ochoa Arias,  
Universidad de los Andes, Merida,  
Venezuela
- 14.20 – 14.30    Refreshments  
Lecture Theatre 3
- 14.30 – 15.20    Patterns for E-government development: a  
Colombian experience  
Dr José-Rodrigo Córdoba-Pachon  
and Dr Kevin Orr,  
Hull University Business School
- 15.20 – 15.30    Conference close

## Contact

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# Registration form

Name(s)

Position

Organisation

Address

Postcode  
(essential)

Telephone

Email

Special dietary or other requirements

**Please note:**

The conference is free to attend but places are limited and must be reserved in advance

**Return completed registration form to:**

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