

Interdisciplinary Studies Conference September 16–17, 2009

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Wednesday, 1:15pm-2:15pm

Thursday, 10:45am-11:45am

***All sessions will be held both Wednesday and Thursday unless noted.*

EDUCATING FOR SHALOM 2.0

Gord Preston

Can YouTube bring peace and unity to the world? Can Wikipedia produce an era of enlightenment? The King's University College academic community sometimes articulates its purpose as educating for Shalom. Can King's and other institutions of its ilk use some of these Web 2.0 tools and their respective affordances to educate more broadly and deeply for Shalom? Can these tools assist other not-for-profit organizations better achieve their social goals? Maybe. Feel free to bring cell phones and laptops.

Gord Preston is Associate Professor of Commerce & Management at The King's University College in Edmonton, where he has taught for five-years. In addition to teaching in the areas of business ethics and general management Gord consults with organizations on how to leverage technology for learning. Prior to joining King's he spent 15 years in post-secondary management. He lives on an acreage outside Edmonton with his wife, sister-in-law, two sons, a cat and two intellectually challenged dogs.

THE TWITTER REVOLUTION? TECHNOLOGY AND PROTEST

Mark Sandle

In this session we will look at the events in Moldova between April 5 and April 10 2009 when protesters took to the streets after the results of the parliamentary elections were published. Reports at the time suggested that social media—twitter, facebook and SMS—were central components in organizing and extending the protest. Subsequent accounts appeared to deny this. We will examine the role of social media in these events in Moldova, and also consider the wider role of technology and protest.

Mark Sandle is Professor of History at King's University College. He was present in Moldova for the events of April 2009, and is currently working on writing a history of Moldova after World War 2: Moldavia Under Soviet Rule 1944-53. He has recently authored a book on Gorbachev.

CITIES: THE BIG EMPTY (WEDS. ONLY)

Nathan Kowalsky

The largest artifact most of us are affected by is the city. Critical studies of technology tend to focus on medium-sized dry goods, whereas it's easy to take the urban context in which most of us are born, live and die for granted. The human ecologist Paul Shepard argues that rather than providing an environment for learning how to engage otherness, cities present us with a mirror of the self -- and a (putatively) rationally ordered self to boot. Combining these insights with Jacques Ellul's Biblical critique of the city and William Desmond's analysis of religious nihilism, this workshop will explore how the domesticated monotony of the concrete jungle might affect our Christian faith.

Nathan Kowalsky is assistant professor of science, technology and society at the Office of Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Alberta. His primary areas of research interest are environmental philosophy, philosophy of religion, philosophy of culture and philosophy of technology. For a complete bio, see the Schedule of Events.

SAME BUT DIFFERENT: HOW MEDIA MORPH NARRATIVES

Kevin Schut

Everyone knows that the movie is never like the book. *Harry Potter*, *Twilight*, *X-men*, you name it. They have the same settings, the same characters, and usually the same plot points, but somehow they come out different. This tells us something about the nature of media: they shape communication. But how, exactly, do they change things? In this workshop, we'll run through a few different versions of *The Lord of the Rings* (not the whole thing!) and do some hands-on, careful observation of what happens to a story when it jumps from one medium to another. We'll then consider what kind of cultural implications that has for us in this digital, interactive era.

Kevin Schut is a professor of media studies in the department of communications at Trinity Western University in Langley, BC. He researches and writes about the intersection of communication, culture, media, technology, and faith, primarily by talking about computer and video games. For a complete bio, see the Schedule of Events.

MAKING THE MOST OF TECHNOLOGY IN COLLEGE

Rosie Perera

This interactive workshop will include a brief recount of Rosie Perera's own relationship with technology and features advice on how to take advantage of the latest tech tools when appropriate and helpful while not letting them interfere with one's ethics, integrity, safety, sanity, and healthy social and spiritual life. She will discuss which tech tools are helpful and how best to use the ones everyone is using (social networking, etc).

Rosie Perera was one of the developers of MS Word. She later earned a Master of Christian Studies from Regent College and is now a writer, teacher, photographer, computer tutor, and lay preacher. Her research interests include the interrelationships between faith, technology, and the arts. For a complete bio, see the Schedule of Events.

REDEEMING ROBOTS (WEDS ONLY)

Derek Schurmma

Robots are common in Hollywood movies which have depicted robots as friendly and other times as threatening. This talk will explore how robots have been depicted in Hollywood and contrast that with how they are actually being used today. The talk will conclude with some thoughts on what is a Christian view of robotics.

Derek Schuurman completed his Ph.D at MacMaster University in the area of robotics and computer vision. He is currently associate professor of Computer Science at Redeemer University College in Ancaster, Ontario. Besides his technical research, he has thought and taught about reconciling faith and computer technology.

BEING FAITHFUL AND FLUENT WITH THE WEB (THURS ONLY)

Derek Schurmma

This talk covers a variety of issues and relevant topics relating to how Christians live in the age of the Web. Topics include E-mail, SPAM, malicious software, privacy, personal information, search engines, social networking and other recent topics.

HOW DO I LOVE THEE? LET ME TWEET THE WAYS: TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATION IN RELATIONSHIPS

Christina Ferber

What is the impact of technology on human relationships? Has our definition of relationships and intimacy changed in light of technology that allows us access to the minute details of each other's lives? What does it mean to truly connect with another person in a world that is so technologically connected? And how can I still be lonely when I have 300 friends on Facebook? This workshop will take a look at these and other questions from the perspective issues currently seen in therapy involving technology and relationships.

Christina Ferber is a Registered Provisional Psychologist who provides individual, couples, and group therapy at Sojourn Wellness Group in Sherwood Park. Christina has a Master's degree in Counseling from West Virginia University, and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Asbury College. For the past 14 years, Christina has enjoyed working with children, youth, and their families in a variety of settings. While living in West Virginia, she spent 6 years as a school counselor. Currently, Christina's work at Sojourn includes many couples seeking help with relationship issues.

TECHNOLOGY AND JUSTICE

Kris Knutson

Many of us think of access to technology as a given, but how does access to technology (or lack thereof) affect those living in poverty and those recently released from prison? Join Kris Knutson for an exploration of how technology can be a matter of justice.

Kris Knutson has worked at The Mustard Seed since 1999 and over those years has worn many hats. He began his career there working on the front lines with Edmonton's inner-city community. During this time Kris became very interested in the work that The Mustard Seed (Edmonton) was doing with federally incarcerated individuals. Five years ago, Kris began overseeing the correctional ministries of The Mustard Seed and today continues build bridges between our communities and those impacted by incarceration.

TECHNOLOGY TIME TRAVEL

Tim Janewski and Bonita Bjornson

Join Bonita and Tim as they jump aboard the Library's secret and rarely seen time machine to look at how the world of information has changed from the Library of Alexandria to the information multiverse. We will consider the most important question confronting libraries today: *So what???* We will also provide helpful tips on how to navigate the world of information that confronts today's students.

** Please bring your own helmets.

** Popcorn will be distributed as needed.

Bonita Bjornson started working in libraries before computers became library fixtures. The memory of card catalogues, subject indexes published monthly on microfiche and manual circulation are not fond ones. An early adopter and fan of technology in the library and in real life, her identity in the workplace has been modified due to technological changes. In fact, when asked what she 'does' in the library her answer is often 'everything but nothing to do with books!'

Tim Janewski has also been around long enough to have witnessed the transition from handwritten papers to electronic Moodle submission and from 1000 page indexes to 24/7 online databases. Tim's goal for library service at King's is to use technology to make the library "small but mighty."

HONDURAS WATER PROJECT (THURS ONLY)

Led by Participants from the 2009 Project

One phrase that came up over and over again on this year's Honduras Water Project trip was "life-changing". The members of the team got the experience of living in another culture and working on a project together with local people. They have inspiring stories to tell of strong relationships and a real sense of community. Come and get a taste of the sights, sounds and stories of Honduras and learn how you can be a part of this annual, off-campus, for credit learning experience.