ALT-C 2011   www.alt.ac.uk/altc2011

Thriving in a colder and more challenging climate

ASSOCIATION FOR LEARNING TECHNOLOGY ALT

The 18th international conference of the Association for Learning Technology will be held at the University of Leeds, UK, 6–8 September 2011.

Conference co-chairs
John Cook and **Sugata Mitra**

Keynote speakers will include
Miguel Brechner, **Karen Cator**, **John Naughton** and **Rajendra S. Pawar**

About the conference
In 2011, education systems throughout the world are attempting to do more, better, and often with less. As the political, economic, social, agency and technological landscapes change, it is tempting for people in the learning technology community simply to "go on with vigour, hoping for the best"*. But this would be to miss a major opportunity.

Innovation is strongly stimulated by crises and pressures of all kinds. Our challenges are to:

- analyse and plan, and create and marshal evidence;
- demonstrate the benefits of astute deployment of technology to support learning;
- listen to and involve learners, teachers, and institutional leaders;
- draw on know-how and practice internationally, from across and outside our individual fields;
- take an institutional approach, whilst focusing on openness and frugality.

Time, the social tide, the expectations of learners, and economic pressure at organisational level will themselves be a driving force for innovation. The scope for people in our community to make a difference is great.

* "We have nothing for it but to go on with vigour and to hope for the best" – Pitt the Younger, 1791, speaking about the disruptive effects of the French Revolution on trade and on the British position generally.

The ALT-C 2011 themes will be

1 **Research and rigour** – creating, marshalling and making effective use of evidence

2 **Making things happen** – systematic design, planning, and implementation

3 **Broad tents and strange bedfellows** – collaborating, scavenging and sharing to increase value

4 **At the sharp end** – enabling organisations and their managers to solve business, pedagogic and technical challenges

5 **Teachers of the future** – understanding and influencing the future role and practices of teachers

6 **Preparing for a thaw** – looking ahead to a time beyond the disruptive discontinuities of the next few years

Major conference sponsors include Adobe, Blackboard, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, Desire2Learn, Google, Intel, LSIS, Pearson, Positive Internet, University of Leeds.

To book to attend ALT-C 2011 go to www.alt.ac.uk/altc

Miguel Brechner is President of the Uruguayan Centre for Technological and Social Inclusion (CITS), and head of Plan Ceibal, Uruguay's One Laptop Per Child (and Teacher) project, under which all children and teachers in public schools in Uruguay have received their own laptop and connectivity to the Internet.

Karen Cator is Director of the Office of Educational Technology at the U.S. Department of Education, and previously head of Apple's leadership and advocacy efforts in education, where she focused on the intersection of education policy and research, emerging technologies, and the reality faced by teachers, students and managers.

John Naughton is Professor of the Public Understanding of Technology at the Open University, a Fellow of Wolfson College, Cambridge, the Observer's technology columnist and co-founder of the technology start-up Cambridge Visual Networks.

Rajendra S. Pawar is Chairman and Co-founder of the NIIT Group, and a member of the Prime Minister of India's National Council on Skill Development. He is an advisor to the Hunan Province of China, and a member of the International Business Council of the World Economic Forum.

John Cook is Professor of Technology Enhanced Learning at the Learning Technology Research Institute, London Metropolitan University.

Sugata Mitra is Professor of Educational Technology at Newcastle University.

About ALT

Learning technology is the broad range of communication, information and related technologies that can be used to support learning, teaching, and assessment.

ALT is the UK's leading membership organisation in the learning technology field.

Our purpose is to ensure that use of learning technology is

effective and efficient, informed by research and practice, and grounded in an understanding of the underlying technologies, their capabilities and the situations into which they are placed.

We do this by **improving practice**, **promoting research**, and **influencing policy**.

www.alt.ac.uk

For further information and to book, go to http://www.alt.ac.uk/altc/alt-c-2011

Key dates

June 2011: bookings open

27 June 2011: booking deadline for presenters

4 July 2011: early-bird booking deadline

12 August 2011: bookings close

Sponsorship and exhibition opportunities

To discuss your requirements contact Seb Schmoller, Chief Executive – seb.schmoller@alt.ac.uk