

# Thriving in a colder and more challenging climate

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** and **John Naughton**

### 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

ALT-C 2011 will provide a valuable and practical forum for practitioners, researchers, managers and policy-makers from education and industry to explore, reflect, influence and learn.



**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.



**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.



**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.

For further information, including a link to a PDF of this flyer and a sign-up form for a low-volume email distribution list about the conference, go to [www.alt.ac.uk/altc2011](http://www.alt.ac.uk/altc2011).

### About ALT

ALT is a UK-based professional and scholarly association which brings together those with an interest in the use of learning technology. With over 200 organisations and over 700 individuals in membership, we:

- represent and support our members, and provide services for them;
- facilitate collaboration between practitioners, researchers, and policy makers;

- spread good practice in the use of learning technology;
  - raise the profile of research in learning technology;
  - support the professionalisation of learning technologists;
  - contribute to the development of policy.
- [www.alt.ac.uk](http://www.alt.ac.uk)

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A web-resolution version of this flyer is available at <http://www.alt.ac.uk/altc2011/>  
ALT (registered charity no. 1063519), Gipsy Lane, Headington, Oxford OX3 0BP, UK

### Timeline

**October 2010:** call for sponsors and exhibitors

**November 2010:** call for proposals for demonstrations, full proceedings papers, posters, short papers, symposia, and workshops

**December 2010 to 14 February 2011:** submission of proposals for inclusion in the conference programme

**April 2011:** review, acceptance, rejection and editing of proposals

**May 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 the following.

- Sponsorship: Seb Schmoller, Chief Executive – [seb.schmoller@alt.ac.uk](mailto:seb.schmoller@alt.ac.uk)
- Exhibiting: Hayley Maisey, Head of Operations and Events – [hayley.maisey@alt.ac.uk](mailto:hayley.maisey@alt.ac.uk)