About the Contributors

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About the Contributors

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About the Contributors

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Arlette Huguenin Dumittan was born in 1978 into a multilingual family with a strong passion for music and books. Driven by her love for the English language, she spent one of her high school years in Walworth/NY, where she received the award AP Scholar with Honor for her academic achievements. After having completed a Master degree in English, German and ancient Icelandic, she began teaching English at high school and writing her PhD thesis on online journalism. Its topic relates to her year-long commitments as a journalist/photographer for vampster.com and as a bass player for the Swiss black metal band Knowhere. Her other interests include travel, tattoos and the Swedish language.

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Rod Gameson has been involved in the construction industry as a practitioner, teacher and researcher for over 30 years. He spent a number of years working as a site engineer / site manager on building and civil engineering projects. After completing a BSc (Hons) in Building Construction and Management at Reading University, UK, he went on to study for a PhD and commenced his full-time academic career working as a research fellow, both at Reading University. Then he took up a lecturing post at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST) teaching on construction-related undergraduate and postgraduate courses. In July 1998 he left the UK to take up a senior lecturer’s post at the University of Newcastle in Australia where he taught on full-time, distance learning and offshore (Singapore and Malaysia) construction management courses concentrating, in particular, on advanced construction management and research dissertation modules. Research activity at Newcastle included University small research grants and involvement in the Cooperative Research Centre for Construction Innovation [CRC-CI] (http://www.construction-innovation.info/) working on research projects in col-
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Irina Rozina is a holder of a Doctoral Degree in Education. She is the author and co-author of more than 130 articles on education, information and communication technologies, including the book “Educational Computer-mediated Communication: Theory and practice” (Moscow, Logos, 2005) and the textbook “Computer-mediated communication” (Rostov-on-Don, 2005). She is currently working in the position of Professor at the Information Technology Department of the Institute of Business, Management and Law in Russia. She teaches courses on “Theory and Practice of Communication” and “World Information Resources”. She is the President of Russian Communication Association and co-editor of the “Russian Journal of Communication”.

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Sue Sherratt has been actively involved in research and clinical work, in South Africa, the United Kingdom and Australia. Her work has been recognised as making an original and high quality contribution to the field of speech pathology, audiology, and linguistics, as evidenced from peer reviewed acceptance in international publications and presentations. She has a first degree in linguistics, psychology and African languages, a first class honours double-degree in speech pathology and audiology and a PhD from University College London, UK. Her current research focuses on team communication, adult neurogenic communication disorders and group therapy, tertiary education, and ethics and social justice.

Cláudia Silva has been a teacher at the University of Aveiro and is currently taking a PhD in Linguistics at the University of Oporto. She has a master’s degree in Linguistics on the topic of chat discourse and intuitive linguistic knowledge. She is the author of some articles related to that subject. Her interests include Computer-Mediated Communication, Phonology, Language Acquisition, Psycholinguistics and Writing Systems.

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Anthony Williams is the Head of School of Architecture and Built Environment and has extensive experience in project management in the domain of professional education. He is a winner of multiple University Teaching Awards as well as a National Awards for Teaching Excellence. He has worked extensively in curriculum design and implementation both at program and course levels. He is highly regarded in this area having worked as a curriculum consultant nationally and internationally. His research area is in Design Cognition with recent projects involving identification of core skills for effective participation in virtual design teams. Anthony has conducted research into the design domain across two primary areas, Design Team Collaboration and Design Cognition, covering both design education and spatial abilities. He has gained external competitive funding to support this research. The outcomes of this research have provided an impact internationally firstly in the adoption of teaching strategies to support design thinking.

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Francisco Yus teaches pragmatics at the University of Alicante, Spain. He has a PhD in linguistics and has specialised in the application of pragmatics (especially relevance theory) to media discourses and conversational issues. For instance, he has made two applications of pragmatics to characters in alternative comics (Conversational cooperation in alternative comics, 1995; El discurso femenino en el cómic alternativo inglés, 1998), proposed a pragmatic verbal-visual model of communication in media discourses (La interpretación y la imagen de masas, 1997), studied the written-oral interface (La preeminencia de la voz, 1998) and more recently developed a pragmatic approach to Internet-mediated
communication called cyber-pragmatics (Ciberpragmática, 2001; Virtualidades reales. Nuevas formas de comunidad en la era de Internet, 2007). Latest research has to do with the application of relevance theory to the analysis of misunderstandings and irony in conversation, as well as to the production and interpretation of humorous discourses.

Kai Zhang is a graduate student at the Department of Communication Studies, University of Rhode Island. Currently he serves as the graduate senator in the Graduate Senate and a committee member of the Honors Program and Visiting Scholar (HPVS) Committee at the University. His research interests include phenomenon of habitat dependence (POHD) study, new media and social transformation in the Mainland China, intercultural communication, and Yuan Shih-Kai study. Zhang has published several journal papers and book chapters on POHD study, new media and social transformation in the Mainland China.