About the Contributors

**Fotis Lazarinis** holds a PhD in Educational Technology with an emphasis on adaptive testing tools and on the use of e-learning standards for representing and managing testing data. He is a visiting lecturer in the Department of Cultural Heritage and New Technologies at the University of Western Greece. He has authored over 50 refereed papers in international or national conferences, journals and research handbooks. He has also published several Computer Science educational books in Greek and served as a review member for conferences and workshops.

**Steve Green** is currently Director of Undergraduate Programmes in the School of Computing at Teesside University, UK. He is a founder-member of both ARC (the Accessibility Research Centre) and DFI (the Digital Futures Institute) at Teesside and has considerable research and commercial expertise in e-learning, accessibility, open systems architectures and open publishing. He has been a project manager and technical director of a number of research and enterprise projects in the areas of learning technologies and digital media. He has published extensively on adaptability, inclusion, personal or distributed learning environments and e-learning standards.

**Elaine Pearson** is Director of the Accessibility Research Centre and a member of the Digital Futures Institute at Teesside University, UK. Her research and consultancy expertise lies in the use of digital media design and technology to support the needs and preferences of disabled people. This research has been supported by grants from British and European funding bodies including the Leverhulme Trust, Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE), and European Social Fund (ESF) EQUAL initiative. She has published extensively on accessibility and adaptability issues and been invited to present in the UK, Ireland, Spain and Australia. Dr Pearson is also Director of Post Graduate Programmes in the School of Computing. Her teaching interests as a Principal Lecturer lie in aspects of web and mobile design for accessibility and adaptability.

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**Oyenike A. Adeosun** holds M.ED and Ph.D degrees in Language Education from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. She teaches English Language and Literature pedagogy and curriculum in the Department of Arts & Social Sciences Education, Faculty of Education, University of Lagos, Nigeria. A member of a number of professional associations and education networks, her research interest focuses on literacy development, basic education development, ICT integration in teacher education and Teacher Professional Development. She is currently a visiting research scholar at the Centre for the Study of International Cooperation in Education (CICE), Hiroshima University, Japan.
In 2002 **Ugo Barchetti** graduated in Computer Engineering from University of Salento. In 2007 he gained PhD in Information Engineering at Department of Engineering for Innovation, University of Salento. He is a research fellow at Department of Engineering for Innovation. His research activities include the collaboration in virtual environments in order to analyze and explore optimization techniques in heterogeneous workspaces. His studies aim to use CVEs for e-learning benefits. He took part in several projects regarding the production of e-learning collaborative virtual experiences. He acquired experience in a range of activities including the design and development of Service Oriented Architecture and middleware tools in order to support B2B and Supply Chain Management. Currently, he is contract teacher in the course of “Software Engineering I” and tutor of the course of “Computer Graphics” at the Faculty of Computer Engineering at the University of Salento.


**Bob Barrett** is a professor for the School of Business at the American Public University in Charles Town, West Virginia, USA. He lectures both nationally and internationally on the topics of Electronic Portfolios (e-Portfolios), Virtual Teams/Management, and Using Online Learning as a Strategic Tool for Students with Disabilities. As a seasoned online instructor, he has created and implemented online courses for several leading universities and colleges. In addition to teaching, he has worked as a trainer to help new instructors transition from face-to-face (F2F) teaching to the growing field of online learning. Finally, his key research areas are disability in the workplace/education, as well as the impact of Human Resource Development/Human Resource Management in the creation and management of virtual teams in today’s global market.

**Alberto Bucciero**, in December of 2006, gained the PhD in “Computer Engineering” at the Department of Engineering for Innovation of the University of Salento; his research activity has focussed on the design of service oriented architectures and collaborative virtual environments with particular interest in virtual collaborative learning management systems. At the beginning of his career he carried out his research in SET-Lab (Software Engineering & Telemedia Laboratory) strictly collaborating with HOC (Hypermedia Open Center) of the Electronic and Information Department of the Polytechnics of Milan. During the period of collaboration with the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Salento, he has actively participated to many projects. He is contract teacher in the course of “Management of Business Information” at the Faculty of Management Engineering at the University of Salento since
Kevin Downing is Senior Coordinator Academic Planning and Convenor of the Institutional Analysis Group at City University of Hong Kong. He has a substantial publication record in the fields of psychology and education, and is current editor of *International Health Abstracts*, also serving as a member of the editorial boards of *Educational Studies, and the British Journal of Community Justice*. He has experience of teaching throughout Europe and Asia, is a Chartered Psychologist, Chartered Scientist, and Associate Fellow of the British Psychological Society. Dr. Downing was awarded the City University of Hong Kong Teaching Excellence Award in 2005 for contributions to the development of “blended learning” with innovative use of technology. He successfully developed learning environments that promote active student engagement. He is also the recipient of the prestigious International Award for Innovative use of Technology in Teaching and Learning conferred in the USA in April 2004.

Manuela Epure is a Professor of Marketing Research in the Department of Marketing and International Business, with 17 years of academic career, becoming in 2007 a full member of Chartered Institute of Marketing, UK, and a full member of Academy of Marketing, UK. Starting with 2005, becomes responsible with the implementation of the Blackboard e-learning system in Spiru Haret University, mainly for the master courses students. E-learning quality assurance and exploring the benefits of using IT tools in the learning process are the main research topics starting with 2006. Initiator and president of the organizing committee of the international symposium “Quality management in higher education”, held in Bucharest. Author and co-author of 9 textbooks, 6 distance learning course materials and more then 20 articles in Romanian and foreign revues, getting involved in two EU COST research network, A34 and ISO701, being rewarded in 2004 with the second prize for special merits in education by the Romanian President.

Giuliana Guazzaroni is a PhD student in e-Learning at the Faculty of Engineering of the Università Politecnica delle Marche, Ancona, Italy. Her research interests are in e-Learning, New Technologies, e-Moderating, Social Networking, Personal Learning Networks, Ubiquitous Learning, Liquid Learning Places, challenging Technologies, rethinking Pedagogy, being Design inspired. Since 2002, she has been involved in e-moderating different online courses (General Pedagogy and Theories of Education; Experimental Pedagogy; Psychology of Education; Processes and methods of Teaching; Educational Technologies; Policies, Legislation and Organization of Teaching; Methods and Techniques of Evaluation; School Legislation for Students with Different Abilities) for training teachers at the Università Ca’ Foscari (“Scuola Interateneo di Specializzazione per la Formazione degli insegnati della scuola secondaria del Veneto”), Venice. She has been involved in e-moderating e-Learning courses at the Università Politecnica delle Marche and at the Università di Camerino. She has been involved in European and International projects as an Instructional designer and a teacher (FSE, Equal, Marco Polo, etc.). She has been teaching English and Italian Language in different organisations. She has a degree in Foreign Languages (1998, Università di Macerata) and a master degree in Technologies and Methodologies of e-Learning (2003, Università di Verona).

Yasushige Ishikawa is Professor of English Education at Kyoto University of Foreign Studies, Japan. His research interests include CALL, corpus linguistics and speech processing. He has developed
multimedia dual-language (English-Spanish and English-Portuguese) CALL team teaching aids for Japanese university students, a Spanish pronunciation and vocabulary teaching aid for Japanese university students, and an EFL CALL teaching aid for self-directed learning using the AmiVoice® speech recognition system with automatic scoring of the fluency of learners’ utterances. He has also designed and implemented an innovative methodology for a CALL blended-learning approach to EFL spoken language teaching in ESP courses for students preparing for careers in the hotel industry.

**Luis M. Jimenez** was born in Avila (Spain) in 1967. He received his M.Sc. degree in Industrial Engineering in 1992 from the Polytechnical University of Madrid (Spain). His current position is as Assistant Professor of Automatic Control (1998-), Miguel Hernández University of Elche, teaching subjects in the area of control engineering. From 1995 to 1998 he worked as assistant professor at University of Alicante. His research interests include Robotics control, real-time systems, advanced control systems and engineering education.

**Alfred Kirigha Kitawi** holds a Masters in Educational Management from Makerere University and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Business Administration in Higher Education Management at the University of Bath. He is currently an assistant lecturer at Strathmore University, Nairobi, Kenya. He has a higher diploma in the Management of Information Systems from the Institute for the Management of Information Systems (IMIS). The lectured in Critical Thinking, Development Studies and Ethics in Education at Strathmore University. He developed a training program at Makerere University, Faculty of Information Technology to train students on hardware, software and networking issues. His scholarly research has investigated the Impact of Commission of Higher Education on Kenyan Universities, Systemic Approach to Instruction on achieving goals of Universities and Knowledge Based Economies within the African context. He was an associate editor for Journal No 2-Journal of the World Universities Forum, 2009. On the national scene, he represents his institution in the Information Technology, Learning, Education and Training national mirror committee.

**Mutsumi Kondo** is a lecturer in the Faculty of Liberal Arts at Tezukayama Gakuin University, Japan. Her field of expertise is EFL education and second language acquisition. She received her master’s degree in TESOL from the Monterey Institute of International Studies and her second master’s degree in Foreign Language Education from Kansai University. Her research interests are EFL learners’ psychology, autonomy, and learning strategies. She is a PhD candidate at Kansai University. She has been involved in designing English courses and classroom tasks for Japanese university students to foster self-regulation in English learning.

**Lea Kuznik** Born in 1975 in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Graduated in 1999, master’s degree in 2004 and doctor’s degree in 2007 at University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Arts, Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology. She is an assistant for Slovene Ethnology. She has been taking interests on museology, children’s museums and interactive learning environments, pedagogical and psychological theories of learning and play and developmental theories of children for years. Her doctoral thesis “Interactive Learning Environments and Children’s Museums: Theoretical Model and It’s Planning” presents first scientific research on children’s museums in Slovenia. Her research is focused on up-to-date technologies, virtual worlds, virtual museums, and possibilities for learning in virtual learning environments
especially in educational virtual worlds. Her recent research project was designing an interactive learning environment for families in a shopping centre.

**Sabrina Leone** is a PhD student in E-learning at the Faculty of Engineering of the Università Politecnica delle Marche, Ancona, Italy. Her research interests are in lifelong learning, new technologies in tertiary teaching and learning, e-learning, cooperative learning, PLE. She was an Italian Government Lecturer in Italian Studies at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Wollongong, Australia, in 2006-2008. Her career started in 1992 and has developed in the fields of education (secondary and tertiary teacher and consultant), business consultancy (quality systems designer and manager) and linguistic mediation. She has been involved in European special projects (Socrates programmes with Sweden, The Netherlands, Great Britain, Germany, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Estonia) and Italian ones (IG students, Business Laboratory for Italian University and Secondary School students). She has studied and worked abroad (Great Britain, France, Ireland, United States, Australia). She has a honours degree in Foreign Languages (1988, I.U.L.M, Milan), one in Business Management (1998, University of Campobasso) and one in Sciences of Linguistic Mediation (2004, Scuola Superiore per Mediatori Linguistici, Florence).

**Anthonia N. Maduekwe** holds a doctorate degree in Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) from the University of Lagos, Akoka, where she is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Arts and Social Sciences Education. She is a teacher, an English language educator; a researcher and practitioner. Dr. Maduekwe is an outstanding scholar who has to her credit over forty-five publications in learned journals. Her research interest focuses on ICT integration in Teacher Education, Teacher Professional Development, Curriculum and Instruction and English for Academic Purposes. She is an active member of professional bodies such as World Council for Curriculum and Instruction (WCCI), International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language (IATEFL), Reading Association of Nigeria (RAN), and Nigerian Association of Professional Educators (NAPE) etc. She also consults in various capacity building and teacher training for development oriented organisations including UNESCO, UNICEF, RAN, LSUBEB, etc. She is married and blessed with children and grand children.

**Luca Mainetti** is an associate professor of Software Engineering and Computer Graphics in the Department of Innovation Engineering at the University of Salento (Italy). His research interests include web design methodologies, notations and tools, services oriented architectures and applications, collaborative computer graphics. He is co-author of the methodologies for web applications design HDM (Hypermedia Design Model), W2000, and IDM (Interactive Dialogue Model). He is scientific coordinator of the GSA Lab - Graphics and Software Architectures Lab (since 2007) and the IDA Lab - ID-Automation Lab (since 2008) of the Department of Innovation Engineering at the University of Salento. He is member of the scientific council of the CRIT center – Center of Research on the enabling technologies the Internet of Things of the Department of Innovation Engineering at the University of Salento (since 2007). He is Rector’s delegate to Information and Communication Technology (since 2007).

**José María Marín** received a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Universidad Nacional de Educacion a Distancia (U.N.E.D.), Madrid (Spain) in 2000, and the PhD degree in Mechanical Engineering from Carlos III University, Madrid (Spain), in 2009. Since 2001, he is a lecturer and researcher at the Miguel Hernandez University, Elche (Spain), where he teaches Theory of Mechanisms. His main researching activities have been developed in the area of mechanical vibrations, working with ball
bearing, roller bearing and gears. Currently, he is working on the development of mechanical structures and robots’ joints.

**Mª del Mar Marín-Sánchez**, holds a PhD in Agricultural Engineering and Master in Co-operatives Administration, from Universidad Politécnica de Valencia, Spain. She is Professor of Accounting and Tax Management at the Economic and Social Sciences Department of the Faculty of Business Administration, Universidad Politécnica de Valencia, Spain. She has taught in more than 30 Master Programmes and post-graduate courses. In addition she is responsible of the Accounting and Tax Management Area at the Centre for Research in Business Management (CEGEA), at this University. She is specialised in Accounting Management, Methodologies in Higher Education, Tax Management, Co-operative Enterprises and Agribusiness Management. She has published more than 35 scientific publications: articles in indexed reviews, books, chapters in collective books, papers. She has carried out several Research and Development Projects with public funding. She is member of several Scientific Associations: *Spanish Association of Accounting and Business Administration (AECA)*, *Spanish Association of Agricultural Economy (AECA)*, among others.

**Alicia Mateos-Ronco**, holds a PhD in Agricultural Engineering and Master in Agribusiness Marketing and Administration, from Universidad Politécnica de Valencia, Spain. She is Professor of Accounting and Financial Analysis at the Economic and Social Sciences Department of the Faculty of Business Administration, Universidad Politécnica de Valencia, Spain. She has taught in more than 30 Master Programmes and post-graduate courses. In addition she is responsible of the Production and Cost Management Area at the Centre for Research in Business Management (CEGEA), at this University. She is specialised in Accounting Management, Methodologies in Higher Education, Cost Management Systems, Cooperative Enterprises and Agribusiness Management. She has carried out more than 10 Research and Development Projects with public funding. She has published more than 30 scientific publications: articles in indexed reviews, books, chapters in collective books, papers. She is member of several Scientific Associations: *Spanish Association of Accounting and Business Administration (AECA)*, *Spanish Association of Accounting Lecturers (ASEPUC)*, among others.

**Minoru Nakayama** graduated from Tokyo Gakugei University in 1983 and earned his Masters of Education degree in 1985. He received his Doctor of Engineering degree from Tokyo Institute of Technology in 1989, and is currently an associate professor at the Center for Research and Development of Educational Technology (CRADLE) and Department of Human System Science in the Graduate School of Decision Science and Technology, Tokyo Institute of Technology. His research interests in educational technology include learning assessment, human behavioral science, visual perception and development of learning support systems. He is an associate editor of Japan Society for Educational Technology’s Educational Technology Research Journal and the IEICE Transactions on Information Systems.

**Peter Neema-Abooki** holds various academic credentials in both philosophical and theological disciplines besides a Post Graduate Diploma in Education, a Masters and a Doctor of Philosophy – both degrees in Educational Management. He is currently a Senior Lecturer of Educational Management and Administration, Human Resource Management, Educational Policy and Planning, and Educational Foundations at the East African Institute of Higher Education Studies and Development (EAIHESD) at Makerere University. Earlier on he lectured in Educational Foundations, Educational Administration,
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and Educational Planning and Management at Kampala University, Kisubi Brothers’ Centre for Uganda Martyrs University, and Kyambogo University. He doubles as External Examiner in several Universities. His scholarly research has delved into issues that encompass not only managerial, with specific focus on Quality Assurance (QA), but also theological and socio-anthropological disciplines. On the International scene Peter is a member of, inter alia, Profiles International Uganda (The Assessment Company), Golden Neo-Life Dynamite (GNLD) International, St. James Parish-Family, Glendale, ARIZONA, U. S. A, Scientific and Technical Committee on Humanities and Social Sciences (WASET), International Academy of African Business and Development (IAABD), The Future(s) of Education Project, Oxford Abstracts, and Quest International.

Flora Ning is a Research Fellow in the Institutional Analysis Group at City University of Hong Kong. She is a senior statistician with research interests and publications in the fields of statistics, education and metacognition. Dr Ning was educated at the universities of Cambridge and Oxford where she studied statistics, and has a lead role as an institutional statistician and researcher at City University of Hong Kong.

Mario G.R. Pagliacci had a long experience as a manager in big and small private enterprises located in Italy and abroad. Nowadays he is a member of the Board of Directors or the Expert Committee in several enterprises. After 1995 he teaches “Financial Management” at the Faculty of Economics of Università degli Studi di Perugia (Italy). He is the Scientific Coordinator of “Laboratorio Athena” for researches and projects in business area, in cooperation with Italian and European organizations. He is a member of the Scientific Committee of an European Association of Economists named “Réseau PGV” (Headquarter in Grenoble-France), and he is engaged in several scientific programs in cooperation with Eastern and Western European Universities. For the account of Romanian and Bulgarian Governmental Organizations, he plays the role of expert in evaluation of research and teaching projects.

Valeria Pandolfini is a P.h.D. in Research Methodology in Human Sciences at the University of Genoa, Faculty of Science of Education and assistant for the chairs of Sociology of Education, Methodology of Social Research and Sociology of Labour. She submitted her DPhil on online learning communities and distance education, on the basis of an evaluative study of an adult blended course. Currently is Research Fellow at Di.S.A., Department of Anthropological Sciences, University of Genoa and the main topics of her research are generally connected to the methodological aspects of social research, with particular regard to the link between new technologies and education, impacts of new media on human interaction, blended learning in higher education and labour market studies. She has published several articles and has given numerous presentations at national and international professional conferences.

Luis Payá was born in Alicante (Spain) in 1979. He received his M. Eng. degree in Industrial Engineering from Miguel Hernandez University (Elche, Spain, 2002), receiving an award from the Spanish ministry of education for his student record. Since 2003, he is a lecturer and researcher at the Miguel Hernandez University, where he teaches Electricity, Control and Systems Engineering. He is currently working on his PhD thesis. His current research interests include mobile robotics and visual navigation using appearance-based techniques, map creation and robots localization. He is also interested in the application of information and communication technologies to engineering education.
About the Contributors

Oscar Reinoso received the industrial engineer and PhD degrees from Polytechnic University of Madrid (UPM) in 1991 and 1996 respectively. From 1994 to 1997 he works in the Research & Development department of Protos Desarrollo in a visual inspection system. Since 1997, he has been at the Miguel Hernández University, as professor in control, robotics and computer vision. His research interests include robotics, teleoperated robots, climbing robots, visual servoing, visual inspection systems. He is author of several books, papers and communications in the cited topics. Prof. Reinoso is a member of the CEA-IFAC and IEEE.

Rowena Santiago is a tenured professor at California State University San Bernardino and is the founding director of the Teaching Resource Center (TRC). As TRC Director, she develops and implements faculty development programs that support faculty in their teaching innovations and enhancement of teaching skills. She earned her Doctor of Education degree (Instructional Technology) from The University of Georgia (1990), her Masters in Education degree from Tokyo Gakugei University (1985), and her bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education from the Philippine Normal University (1970). Her research activities include faculty readiness for online teaching, use of technology for course transformation, and the role of learner characteristics in e-learning among students in the US and Japan.

Kristina Shin was educated in Korea, the USA and the UK and has over 10 years experience in higher education. Prior to joining the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Dr. Shin worked for Triumph International Overseas Ltd., one of the world’s leading lingerie brands, as a designer. Her interests include design and education. Dr. Shin is holder of the 2004 International Award for Innovative Excellence in Teaching, Learning, and Technology and is founding editor for the International Journal of Fashion Design, Technology and Education. She has taught extensively in both the USA and Hong Kong.

Craig Smith is the Chair of the Department of Global Affairs at Kyoto University of Foreign Studies, Japan. He teaches language skills and peace studies courses. He has a Primary School Teacher’s Certificate and seven year’s teaching experience at elementary schools in Canada, New Zealand, and Japan. His current research interests include vocabulary teaching and learning, blended-learning curriculum development, and two-language team teaching. He is involved in extracurricular experiential learning projects with his students which include a number of international community work projects and international student conferences.

David Úbeda was born in Elche (Spain) in 1979. He received his Eng. Degree in Telecommunications from Miguel Hernández University (Elche, Spain, 2005). Since 2007, he is a lecturer and researcher at the Miguel Hernández University, where he teaches Engineering Applied Informatics. He is currently dealing post-graduate courses. His current research interests include mobile robotics and human-robot interaction. He is also interested in the application of information and communication technologies to engineering education.

Ruxandra Vasilescu is an Associate Professor PhD in the LSP Department, Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literature, Spiru Haret University, Romania. Coordinator of Online Master Programmes, using e-learning platform Blackboard. Coordinator of the research projects (2009-2011) Optimization of translations implementation in the Romanian public sphere and Terminological database in the legal field (in Romanian, English and French). Scientific publications: author and co – author of 3 books and
academic courses, 2 explanatory dictionaries, 2 novels and an essay translated and published by Romanian publishing houses, 10 articles in Romanian reviews, 1 study published in a French and an Irish volume

Hiroh Yamamoto received his Bachelor’s degree in Communication Engineering from Shinshu University, Nagano, Japan in 1966. He earned his Doctor of Engineering degree from Tokyo Institute of Technology in 1999. From 1966 to 2002, he worked at Hitachi Electronics Services Co., Ltd., where he served as director of the company. He joined Shinshu University in 2002, where he held the position of Professor at the Research Center for Education Programs. He is currently a professor emeritus at the same institution and serves as a research fellow at the Center for Research and Development of Educational Technology (CRADLE), Tokyo Institute of Technology. His research interests include e-Learning and assessment. He is a member of Japan’s Institute of Electronics, Information and Communication Engineers (IEICE) and the Japan Society for Educational Technology (JSET).