

EDITORIAL – From the Faculty Editor

After a few years away I am re-joining the iSCHANNEL as faculty editor. It's hard to believe that we have completed our ninth edition, and will shortly be starting our 10th! What an achievement this is and we must look forward to celebrating next year.

This ninth edition shows the clear progress the journal has taken. Firstly the processes of putting together the journal are much better and more professional – to the extent that faculty involvement in its production is minimal (excepting writing this editorial). In part this is because our PhD students and MSc students have collectively adopted the iSCHANNEL as their own and have stepped forward to volunteer.

More importantly though is the improved recognition the journal is receiving both within the LSE and beyond. For our students an article in the iSCHANNEL is accepted as a valuable thing to include in their CVs. Further for the incoming students receiving a journal produced by their peers from the previous year, and showing how good LSE essays can be, is valuable and important.

Congratulations to those whose articles are published in this year's journal. It was interesting to see how the topics being discussed and explored have evolved over the years. Back in 2006 the issues of censorship, trust, user-resistance, global- IT and e-government, e-voting, digital divide and patient records were explored, with social media notably absent. This year in contrast social networking predominates in two articles – with Huhnt's article exploring the issue of social capital and Stelmaszak exploring the privacy implications of LinkedIn. E-government remains important (with Dupré's article on user-take-up). Cloud computing, a term coined during in the iSCHANNEL's lifetime, is also discussed by Acs in a thoughtful piece on Snowden's revelations which reminds us of how geopolitical issues remain important at the heart of our discipline. Morizio's analysis of a USA healthcare information exchange shows that health, unsurprising given its industry size and importance, remains an interest among our students. Finally Parvarandeh explores the brand-new issues of MooCs – something which is challenging the very idea of university and study from which the iSCHANNEL was born. What impact MooCs will have on education in the long term we cannot know, but at least this most student of journals is reflecting their arrival.

Best wishes,

Dr. Will Venters

Faculty Editor