



*Editors*

Nikos E. Mastorakis

Anthony Lewis Brooks

Imre J. Rudas



**Advances in Computers and  
Technology for Education**

*Proceedings of the 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference on  
Educational Technologies (EDUTE '15)*

*Dubai, United Arab Emirates, February 22-24, 2015*

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University of Naples  
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**Preface**

This year the 11th International Conference on Educational Technologies (EDUTE '15) was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, February 22-24, 2015. The conference provided a platform to discuss advanced educational software and hardware, agent-based educational technology, basic science in engineering education, corporate training, education for disabled learners, environment and educational technologies, mobile learning and evaluation, security aspects in education, virtual reality and modern education etc. with participants from all over the world, both from academia and from industry.

Its success is reflected in the papers received, with participants coming from several countries, allowing a real multinational multicultural exchange of experiences and ideas.

The accepted papers of this conference are published in this Book that will be sent to international indexes. They will be also available in the E-Library of the WSEAS. Extended versions of the best papers will be promoted to many Journals for further evaluation.

Conferences such as this can only succeed as a team effort, so the Editors want to thank the International Scientific Committee and the Reviewers for their excellent work in reviewing the papers as well as their invaluable input and advice.

The Editors



## Table of Contents

<b>Plenary Lecture 1: The Cloud as a Platform for Teaching and Research</b>	11
<i>Khaled Salah</i>	
<b>Plenary Lecture 2: Educational Technology Research and Practice Leading to a Problem Based Learning (POPBL) Education</b>	12
<i>Anthony Lewis Brooks</i>	
<b>An Interactive Web-Based Learning Platform for Arithmetic and Orthography</b>	13
<i>Stefanie Jung, Stephanie Roesch, Stefan Huber, Jürgen Heller, Torsten Grust, Hans-Christoph Nuerk, Korbinian Moeller</i>	
<b>Using the iPad in a Cooperative Learning Context: Implications for Creating Narrative Texts in the ESL Classroom</b>	23
<i>Elena Bañares, Laura Rayón</i>	
<b>Engineering Aspects of Gis Education</b>	30
<i>John Hatzopoulos</i>	
<b>Prototype of a BYOD-Style Computer Classroom</b>	40
<i>Masanori Nakakuni, Hidekazu Yamamoto, Kazutaka Isa</i>	
<b>Text Signals and Accessibility of Educational Documents</b>	45
<i>Georgios Kouroupetroglou</i>	
<b>Investigating Engineering Students' Attitude towards Statistics and Mobile Learning</b>	52
<i>Anita Dani</i>	
<b>The Impact of the 2008 Global Economic Recession on Engineering Education in Africa – A Case Study from the AFRICON International Conferences</b>	66
<i>Arthur James Swart</i>	
<b>Increasing Braille Literacy: Voice-Assisted Electronic Braille Books (eBraille eBook) for the Visually Impaired</b>	72
<i>Mohamed Hussein, Mohd Shafiek Yaacob, Abd Rahman Musa, Mohd Zarhamdy Md Zain, Maziah Mohamad, Zair Asrar Ahmad, Mohd Yunus Abdullah</i>	
<b>Self-Description Questionnaire: Adaptation to Emirati High Schools</b>	78
<i>Joana Stocker</i>	
<b>Enhancing Freshman Engineering Student's Experiences of Photovoltaic Module Operation Using Educational Technologies</b>	87
<i>Pierre Hertzog, Arthur James Swart</i>	
<b>Evaluation of Managerial Potential in Academic Environment</b>	93
<i>Traian Moldovan, Sorina Moldovan, Tunde-Evi Meszaros Palotas</i>	
<b>Towards an ODL Training Process Based Model using Semantic Organization Tools</b>	98
<i>Fragou Olga</i>	

<b>Novel Approach for Teaching Engineering Courses at a University Level</b>	105
<i>Sami Alshurafa, Hamed Assaf, Bilal Akash, Mousa Mohsen</i>	
<b>Challenging the Boundaries of Incorporating Educational Technologies in e-Teaching &amp; Learning at Higher Education Institutions</b>	111
<i>Antonia Makina</i>	
<b>Informational Technology Assists the Teaching and Learning of Chinese as a Second Language: The Case of Cross-Cultural Learners' Magazine (CCLM)</b>	119
<i>Elizabeth K. Y. Loh, Wing Wah Ki, Loretta C. W. Tam, Iruna Rana, Shanila Kosar, Eddie C. C. Lau, Evans P. K. Ng</i>	
<b>Improving E-Learning Performance through Social Communications</b>	129
<i>M. Yaqub, A. M. Raid, Hazem M. El-Bakry, Nikos Mastorakis</i>	
<b>The Effect of Activities Video Training on Low-Skilled Workers</b>	138
<i>Rula Sharqi, Ammar Kaka</i>	
<b>Augmented Reality CAD/CAM Training Application Version 2.0</b>	147
<i>Ioan Bondrea, Radu Emanuil Petruse</i>	
<b>Trident Tool for an Effective eLearning Content Creation: Cloud Oriented Architecture - A Decade Review from 2000 onwards</b>	151
<i>A. Senthil Karthick Kumar, A. M. J. Mohamed Zubair Rahman</i>	
<b>Differential Item Functioning (GDIF) Analysis for the Web-Based Fun Learning Instrument</b>	159
<i>Juhaida Abdul Aziz, Parilah M. Shah, Rosseni Din, Jai Shree Bipinchandra, Rashidah Rahamat</i>	
<b>Factors Determining E-Learning Service Quality</b>	165
<i>M. Amaad Uppal, Stephen R. Gulliver, Samnan Ali</i>	
<b>Enhancing Big Data Processing in Educational Systems</b>	176
<i>Ahmed Ashraf, Hazem M. El-Bakry, Samir M. Abd El-Razek, Yehia El-Mashad, Nikos Mastorakis</i>	
<b>A Macro-Ergonomics Perspective on Educational Planning and Design</b>	182
<i>Rehab El-Bahey, Amir Zeid</i>	
<b>An Interdisciplinary Look into the Design of a Video Game toward the Strengthening of Communicative, Linguistic and Cognitive Skills of Children Aged 4-6 Years</b>	189
<i>Ana Milena Rincon Vega, Maria Ines Mantilla, Carlos Tello</i>	
<b>Authors Index</b>	199

## Plenary Lecture 1

### The Cloud as a Platform for Teaching and Research



#### Professor Khaled Salah

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**Abstract:** The cloud computing platform has become prevalent today and is being utilized by many organizations in government, industry as well as academia. For teaching and training, the cloud can be an attractive and cost effective alternative to physical labs. The cloud can offer virtual labs with abundant on-demand virtual machines that can be rapidly launched and configured to provide necessary hands-on lab exercises. For research, the cloud can be used as a powerful high performance computing platform with almost infinite amount of storage and compute power to run scientific applications. In this talk, we share our experience in using the cloud to empower students with practical skills when teaching computer networks and cybersecurity courses. In addition, we describe how we used the cloud to execute highly parallel scientific simulations and applications.

**Brief Biography of the Speaker:** Khaled Salah is an associate professor in the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department, Khalifa University of Science, Technology and Research (KUSTAR). He received the B.S. degree in Computer Engineering with a minor in Computer Science from Iowa State University, USA, in 1990, the M.S. degree in Computer Systems Engineering from Illinois Institute of Technology, USA, in 1994, and the Ph.D. degree in Computer Science from the same institution in 2000. Prior to joining KUSTAR, Khaled was an associate professor in the Department of Information and Computer Science, King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals (KFUPM), Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. Khaled has been teaching graduate and undergraduate courses and has over 100 publications in the areas of cloud computing, computer and network security, operating systems, computer networks, and performance evaluation. Khaled is an Editorial Board member of a number of prestigious international journals including IET Communications, IET Networks, Elsevier JNCA, Wiley IJNM, Wiley SCN, and J.UCS. Khaled was the recipient of Khalifa University Outstanding Research Award 2014/2015, KFUPM University Excellence in Research Award of 2008/09, and KFUPM Best Research Project Award of 2009/10, and also the recipient of the departmental awards for Distinguished Research and Teaching in prior years. Khaled has given a number of public talks, tutorials, and seminars on cloud computing and network security.

## Plenary Lecture 2

### Educational Technology Research and Practice Leading to a Problem Based Learning (POPBL) Education



#### Professor Anthony Lewis Brooks

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**Abstract:** Instructional technology has been described as "the theory and practice of design, development, utilization, management, and evaluation of processes and resources for learning."<sup>1, 2</sup> In line with this, educational technology has been defined as "the study and ethical practice of facilitating learning and improving performance by creating, using and managing appropriate technological processes and resources".<sup>3</sup>

Cumulatively, the contemporary agreed definition of the term "educational technology" in the field is posited as "all valid and reliable applied education science, such as equipment, as well as processes and procedures, that are derived from scientific research, and in a given context may refer to theoretical, algorithmic or heuristic processes: it does not necessarily imply physical technology."<sup>4</sup>

This plenary will introduce Brooks' research and related work influencing educational technology where bespoke original equipment as well as innovative processes and unique procedures have been developed. The work has realized and contributed to advancing educational technologies in and across disciplines relating to applying digital media for societal impact and benefit. As well as national and international funded projects, commercial product and start-up companies, in-action and on-action trans-disciplinary educational models have emerged. The models associate to advance the field further through tackling current weaknesses as evidenced by the research. The talk includes the educational concepts of Micro-development, Flow, Human afferent-efferent neural feedback loop closure, and more.

Conclusions in the talk will discuss the investments required, both financial and human, as well as national resources, means and optimal scenarios of support/infrastructure towards realizing future advancements in the field with proposed international uptake of the work by nations with such resources, foresight and future vision. Following the close of the talk, Dr. Brooks will be open for discussions.

<sup>1</sup> Garrison, D.R. & Anderson, T. (2003) *E-Learning in the 21st Century: A Framework for Research and Practice*, London, Routledge.

<sup>2</sup> Januszewski, A. & Molenda M. (Eds.)(2007) *Educational Technology: A Definition with Commentary*, London, Routledge.

<sup>3</sup> Richey, R.C. (2008) Reflections on the 2008 AECT Definitions of the Field. *TechTrends*. 52(1) 24-25

<sup>4</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Educational\\_technology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Educational_technology)

**Brief Biography of the Speaker:** Dr. Associate Professor Anthony (aka Tony) Brooks is IFIP - (UNESCO) Danish Representative Europe (International Federation for Information Processing) and European Alliance for Innovation Chair of the Wellness SIB Market and society activity. He is active in the European Alliance for Innovation (EAI); CREATE-NET; ICST; as ArtsIT steering person. He is also active on numerous boards and committees including the coordination board of i3net: The European Network for Intelligent Information Interfaces since 2001.

Brooks' work has led to numerous published patents (e.g. US6893407 – Communication Method and Apparatus) and commercial company start-ups. Credits include as European Commission expert reviewer on - Future Emerging Technologies (FET) and Horizon2020 programmes; the Council for the Humanities of the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO), e-health innovations by SMEs; the F.R.S.-FNRS (Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique) -the funding agency for fundamental research in the French-speaking part of Belgium; and The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), UK.

## Authors Index

Abdullah, M. Y.	72	Makina, A.	111
Ahmad, Z. A.	72	Mantilla, M. I.	189
Akash, B.	105	Mastorakis, N.	129, 176
Ali, S.	165	Moeller, K.	13
Alshurafa, S.	105	Mohamad, M.	72
Ashraf, A.	176	Mohsen, M.	105
Assaf, H.	105	Moldovan, S.	93
Aziz, J. A.	159	Moldovan, T.	93
Bañares, E.	23	Musa, A. R.	72
Bipinchandra, J. S.	159	Nakakuni, M.	40
Bondrea, I.	147	Ng, E. P. K.	119
Dani, A.	52	Nuerk, H.-C.	13
Din, R.	159	Palotas, T.-E. M.	93
El-Bahey, R.	182	Petruse, R. E.	147
El-Bakry, H. M.	129, 176	Rahamat, R.	159
El-Mashad, Y.	176	Rahman, A. M. J. M. Z.	151
El-Razek, S. M. A.	176	Raid, A. M.	129
Fragou, O.	98	Rana, I.	119
Grust, T.	13	Rayón, L.	23
Gulliver, S. R.	165	Roesch, S.	13
Hatzopoulos, J.	30	Shah, P. M.	159
Heller, J.	13	Sharqi, R.	138
Hertzog, P.	87	Stocker, J.	78
Huber, S.	13	Swart, A. J.	66, 87
Hussein, H.	72	Tam, L. C. W.	119
Isa, K.	40	Tello, C.	189
Jung, S.	13	Uppal, M. A.	165
Kaka, A.	138	Vega, A. M. R.	189
Ki, W. W.	119	Yaacob, M. S.	72
Kosar, S.	119	Yamamoto, H.	40
Kouroupetroglou, G.	45	Yaqub, M.	129
Kumar, A. S. K.	151	Zain, M. Z. M.	72
Lau, E. C. C.	119	Zeid, A.	182
Loh, E. K. Y.	119		