

iConference 2008 – Proposal for Roundtable Discussion

Information Assurance, Intelligence and Security: Opportunities and Directions for Future Research

Proposed by: Scott Paquette, University of Maryland
Isabelle Fagnot, Syracuse University

A growing number of the iSchools have recently begun to emphasize programs of research directed towards the topic of information assurance, intelligence and security. Covering such areas as network and infrastructure security, information systems auditing and security practices and standards, behavioral security studies, information and technology risk management, and business continuity planning, the idea of information security has become a focus of not only iSchools but major corporations and intelligence agencies. This field is also receiving much attention in practitioner and academic institutions, and increasingly universities are developing new courses, minors, programs, and research centers in an attempt to expand the field.

This roundtable would present a picture of the current state of research in the information assurance and security field including current trends, directions and new areas of emphasis for future research, how the iSchools have the potential to develop unique contributions to the field, and possible collaborations between iSchool researchers and other departments. Hosted by a combination of tenure-track professors and PhD candidates with research and/or professional experience in the information assurance, intelligence and security field, this roundtable would introduce attendees to significant research opportunities and the role of iSchools in this growing field.

The roundtable will be organized with brief presentations by the panelists who will each present a perspective on this area based on their previous experience and research, followed by a discussion with attendees. The first panelist, Scott Paquette of the University of Maryland will discuss how security can be viewed from an organizational perspective and combined with research on assurance and risk management. Isabelle Fagnot from Syracuse University will examine information security and assurance from a more individual and behaviour perspective, focusing on research that combines information science and other social disciplines. Kevin Desouza from the University of Washington will present issues related to security for the safe guarding of knowledge assets and intellectual capital, especially as it relates to the complexities found in intelligence agencies. Dave Yates of the University of Maryland will examine issues related to copyright and privacy, and how security at all organizational levels can contribute to these issues. Finally, Shuyuan Mary Ho from Syracuse University will present some paradigm shifts from the history of

information assurance and research gaps identified through analyses of intrusion. This diverse panel will emphasize the vast and varying topics within information security and assurance, differing levels of analysis, implications of this research on the iSchools and other fields. As well, they will demonstrate that the concepts of information assurance and security can be integrated into many current research agendas. After the introductory presentations, Scott Paquette will moderate a discussion between the panelists and roundtable attendees.

The goal of this roundtable is to present different views on the state of assurance, intelligence and security research, and to create a forum where new ideas and opportunities can be illuminated and discussed by all participants. Conference attendees new to and already familiar with this topic should take away an understanding of the importance of this field, the potential in research opportunities, and how they can contribute to its growth based on their own research strengths and knowledge.

Confirmed Panelists

Scott Paquette, Assistant Professor, University of Maryland
Isabelle Fagnot, PhD Candidate, Syracuse University
Kevin Desouza, Assistant Professor, University of Washington
Dave Yates, Assistant Professor, University of Maryland
Shuyuan Mary Ho, PhD Candidate, Syracuse University