EDUCATION

Academic degree: Mag.Komm./Master of Communications

Since 2006	Doctoral Student Center for Advanced Studies and Research in Information and Communication Technologies & Society (ICT&S Center, University of Salzburg) *Dissertation Topic:* ICTs for Least Developed Countries (ICTs4LDCs) The goal of my dissertation thesis is to highlight the challenges as well as the opportunities that occur for LDCs on their way towards an information society. The study examines ICTs in four geographically and culturally diverse regions, including the countries Yemen, Guatemala, Malawi and Lao PDR.
2004	Final Degree (Mag.Komm./Master of Communications)
2003-2004	Master Thesis in Communication Science (Alles nur Theater – Politische Kommunikation in der Mediengesellschaft – A new Genre of Theatre? Political Communication in the Media Society)
2002-2003	Master-Studies in Communication Science University of Salzburg
2002	Final Degree (Bakk.Komm./Bachelor of Communications) with a major in Media Economics
2001-2002	Bachelor-Studies in Communication Science University of Salzburg
1999-2001	Studies in Communication Science in combination with General History, University of Salzburg

Further Education

- Complex Physical, Biological and Social Systems – A Coherent Program of Study of Complex Systems Concepts and Methods
  Organised by the New England Complex Systems Institute (NECSI)
  Hosted by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, MA (USA)
  Date: January 9-13, 2006
  Taught by: Prof. Yaneer Bar-Yam
  Additional lecture on (Social) Network Analysis taught by Prof. Albert Laszlo Barabasi
  Academic Program: Lectures, Workshops, Final Paper and Presentation
  Further Information:
  http://www.necsi.org/ed5ucation/oneweek/winter06.html

- Summer School of Systems Design:
  Continuing Education in Systems Thinking
  Organised by the Lugano Summer School of Systems Design
  Hosted by the University of Italian Switzerland, Lugano, CH
  Date: May 30 – June 10, 2005
  Taught by: Prof. Peter Checkland and Prof. Werner Ulrich
  Lectures on Soft Systems Methodology and Critical Systems Heuristics
  Academic Program: Lectures, Workshops and individual papers
  Further Information: http://www.lss.lu.unisi.ch

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Since 2009   OeAD-Lecturer in the German Department at the Shanghai International Studies University (SISU)

Employee of the 'OeAD (Österreichische Austauschdienst)-Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung - Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research (OeAD-GmbH)'

2004-2009	Research Fellow and Lecturer for *Internet and Society* at the Center for Advanced Studies and Research in Information and Communication Technologies & Society (ICT&S Center, University of Salzburg)
2005-2009	Lecturer in the Department of Communication Science at the University of Salzburg
2003-2004	Research and Teaching Assistant in the Department of Communication Science at the University of Salzburg
Since 2007	Associated Partner of INDABA Corporate Consulting (http://indaba-consulting.com) Focus: Organisational Change, Change Management, Intercultural Communication

RESEARCH

RESEARCH FOCI

1) ICTs and Sustainable Development

2) Medialisation and Mediatisation of Societies

3) Ethics in the Information Society

4) Interpersonal Communication

5) Research Methods: Qualitative and Quantitative Social Research Methods

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

Bichler, Robert M./Bradley, Gunilla/Hofkirchner, Wolfgang (2010): Editorial Comment. Sustainable Development and ICTs. In: Information, Communication & Society. Vol. 13, No. 1. pp. 1-5.

Bichler, Robert M./Gaderer, Eva (2010): 3rd ICTs and Society Meeting; Paper Session – Inequalities: social, economic, political; Paper 3: Internet in China: Myths and Realities. In: tripleC. Vol. 8, No. 2. pp. 149-154.

Fuchs, Christian/Hofkirchner, Wolfgang/Schafranek, Matthias/Raffl, Celina/Sandoval, Marisol/Bichler, Robert M. (2010): Theoretical foundations of the web: cognition, communication, and co-operation. Towards an understanding of web 1.0, 2.0, 3.0. In: Future Internet. Vol. 2, No. 11. pp. 41-59.

Bichler, Robert M./Gaderer, Eva (2009): Position Paper Number 2 for the Workshop "Towards Criteria of Sustainability and Social Meaningfulness in Development": Critical Reflections on Modernization Theoretical Thinking and its Implications for ICTs in Development. In: tripleC. Vol. 7, No. 2. pp. 408-414.

Hofkirchner, Wolfgang/Bichler, Robert M. (2009): Position Paper Number 1 for the Workshop "Towards Criteria of Sustainability and Social Meaningfulness in Development": Instrumental Reason as a Hindering Factor for Meaningful Technology Design. In: tripleC. Vol. 7, No. 2. pp. 404-407.

Fuchs, Christian/Bichler, Robert M./Raffl, Celina (2009): Cyberethics and Co-operation in the Information Society. In: Science and Engineering Ethics. Vol. 15, No. 4. pp. 447-466.

Bichler, Robert M. (2009): Some Thoughts on Tourism in Lao PDR: Communist Ideology and Touristic Reality. In: tripleC. Vol. 7, No. 2. pp. 123-124.

Bichler, Robert M. (2008): Southern Africa and the Digital Divide: A Malawian Case Study. In: The International Journal of Technology, Knowledge and Society. Vol. 4, No. 6. pp. 41-50.

Bichler, Robert M. (2008): The dawn of the information age in least developed countries (LDCs): lessons learned from four case studies. In: tripleC. Vol. 6, No. 2. pp. 77-87.

Hofkirchner, Wolfgang/Tscheligi, Manfred/Bichler, Robert M./Reitberger, Wolfgang (2007): Ambient Persuasion for the Good Society. In: International Review of Information Ethics (IRIE). Vol. 8. pp. 42-46.

Wolfgang (2007): Ambient Persuasion for the Good Society. In: International Review of Information Ethics (IRIE). Vol. 8. pp. 42-46.
Bichler, Robert M. (2007): Information and Communication Technologies for Least Developed Countries (ICTs4LDCs): Exemplified in the Republic of Yemen. In: The International Journal of Interdisciplinary Social Sciences. Vol. 2, No. 2. pp. 349-360.

Bichler, Robert M./Schmiderer, Harald (2007): Theorizing tourism: Bridging the virtual-real-dichotomy. In: e-Review of Tourism Research (eRTR). Vol. 5, No. 5. Conference Abstracts.

Doucette, Dail/Bichler, Robert M./Hofkirchner, Wolfgang/Raffl, Celina (2007): Toward a New Science of Information. In: Data Science Journal. Vol. 6. pp. 198-205.

Edited Journals

First editor of the special issue Vol. 13, No. 1. of the journal *Information, Communication & Society* on Information and Communication Technologies and Sustainable Development (ICTs & SD) together with Gunilla Bradley (Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm) and Wolfgang Hofkirchner (Paris-Lodron-University of Salzburg).

Associate Editor of *The International Journal of Technology, Knowledge and Society, Volume 4.*

Associate Editor of *The International Journal of Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, Volume 2.*

Articles in Books and Proceedings

Bichler, Robert M. (2011): Information and Communication Technologies for Least Developed Countries: A Case Study of the Republic of Malawi. In: Kalantzis-Cope, Phillip/Martin, Karim G. (Eds.) (2011): Emerging Digital Spaces in Contemporary Society. Properties of Technology. Palgrave Macmillan. New York. pp. 324-326.

Neumayer, Christina/Raffl, Celina/Bichler, Robert M. (2010): Politics and Social Software: Recommendations for Inclusive ICTs. In: Riha, Daniel/Maj, Anna (Eds.) (2010): Emerging Practices in Cyberculture and Social Networking. Rodopi. Amsterdam/New York. pp. 41-62.

Neumayer, Christina/Raffl, Celina/Bichler, Robert M. (2009): Politics and Social Software: Recommendations for Inclusive ICTs. In: Riha, Daniel/Maj, Anna (Eds.) (2009): The Real and the Virtual: Critical Issues in Cybercultures. Interdisciplinary-Press. Oxford. pp. 183-191.

Bichler, Robert M. (2008): Information and Communication Technologies in the Republic of Malawi: an Assessment of Progress and Challenges Ahead. In: Bada, Abiodun O./Musa, Philip (Eds.) (2008): Proceedings of the IFIP WG 9.4-University of Pretoria Joint Workshop. Towards an ICT Research Agenda for African Development. International Federation for Information Processing. Pretoria. pp. 189-202.

Bichler, Robert M./Fuchs, Christian/Raffl, Celina (2008): Perspectives of Cyberethics in the Information Society. In: Billias, Nancy/Curry, Agnes B. (Eds.) (2008): Framing Evil. Portraits of Terror & the Imagination. Interdisciplinary-Press. Oxford. pp. 153-162.

Fuchs, Christian/Blachfellner, Stefan/Bichler, Robert M. (2007): The Urgent Need for Change: Rethinking Knowledge and Management. In: Stary, Christian/Barachini, Franz/Hawamdeh, Suliman (Eds.) (2007): Knowledge Management: Innovation, Technology and Cultures. Series on Innovation and Knowledge Management - Vol. 6. Proceedings of the 2007 International Conference on Knowledge Management. World Scientific. New Jersey/London/Singapore. pp. 293-307.

Bichler, Robert M./Schmiderer, Harald (2007): Theorizing tourism: Bridging the virtual-real-dichotomy. In: Harris, Candice/van Hal, Marlies (Eds.) (2007): Book of Papers: The Critical Turn in Tourism Studies: Promoting an Academy of Hope? Proceedings of the Second International Critical Tourism Studies (CTS) Conference. Split. pp. 332-337.

Raffl, Celina/Bichler, Robert M. (2007): Vom Sozialen in den Virtuellen Raum. Ernst Blochs 'Konkrete Utopie' im Cyberspace? In: Zeilinger, Doris (Hg.): Raumkonstruktion und Raumerfahrung. Jahrbuch 2007 der Ernst-Bloch-Assoziation, VorSchein Nr. 29. Antogo Verlag. Nürnberg. S. 107-128.

Bichler, Robert M. (2006): Self-Organization and Ethics. In: Dobronravova, Irina/Yevtuh, Volodymyr (Eds.) (2006): Cultural Context of Social Self-Organization. Kyiv University Press. Kyiv. pp. 34-41.

Reitberger, Wolfgang/Bichler, Robert M./Ploderer, Bernd (2006): Is Ambient Intelligence doomed to fail? Design Guidelines for bridging the Digital Divide in the Ambient Intelligence Society. In: Guerrero-Bote, Vicente P. (Ed.) (2006): Current Research in Information Sciences and Technologies. Multidisciplinary Approaches to Global Information Systems (Volume 2). Open Institute of Knowledge. Badajoz. pp. 132-136.

Bichler, Robert M./Fuchs, Christian/Raffl, Celina (2006): Co-operative Cyberethics for a Sustainable Information Society. In: Proceedings of the 16th ISA World Congress of Sociology. The Quality of Social Existence in a Globalising World. Durban. (CD-ROM).

Bichler, Robert M./Schmiderer, Harald (2006): Indicators for Life-Designing as a form of youth identity formation. In: Proceedings of the 16th ISA World Congress of Sociology. The Quality of Social Existence in a Globalising World. Durban. (CD-ROM).

Bichler, Robert M. (2005): Attention as a resource in an information based society. In: Proceedings of FIS 2005: Third Conference on the Foundations of Information Science. Paris.

Edited Books

Bichler, Robert M./Hongladarom, Soraj/Hofkirchner, Wolfgang (2011) (Eds.): Sustainability and Meaningfulness in ICTs for Development. Chulalongkorn University Press. Bangkok. (in Preparation)

Research Reports

Hofkirchner, Wolfgang/Fuchs, Christian/Raffl, Celina/Schafranek, Matthias/Sandoval, Marisol/Bichler, Robert M. (2007): ICTs and Society: The Salzburg Approach. Towards a Theory for, about, and by means of the Information Society. Research Paper No. 3. ICT&S Center. Salzburg. ISSN 1990-8563.

Gray Literature

Bichler, Robert M. (2011): Ein Platz an der digitalen Sonne. e-Kolonialisierung durch IKT. In: The European. Online: http://www.theeuropean.de/robert-bichler/6351-e-kolonialisierung-durch-ikt (also in: Der Standard. Online: http://derstandard.at/1302745202618/e-Kolonialisierung-durch-IKT-Ein-Platz-an-der-digitalen-Sonne)

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

- *Internet in China: Myths and Realities*
  3rd ICTs-and-Society Network Meeting
  29.06.2010 – 02.07.2010, Barcelona, Spain

- *Critical Reflections on Modernization Theoretical Thinking and its Implications for ICTs in Development.*
  Towards Criteria of Sustainability and Social Meaningfulness in Development
  19.12.2009 – 21.12.2009, Bangkok, Thailand

- *Instrumental Reason as a Hindering Factor for Meaningful Technology Design.*
  Towards Criteria of Sustainability and Social Meaningfulness in Development
  19.12.2009 – 21.12.2009, Bangkok, Thailand

- *Information and Communication Technologies in the Republic of Malawi: An assessment of Progress and Challenges Ahead*
  IFIP WG 9.4 Workshop: Towards an ICT Research Agenda for African Development
  23.09.2008 – 24.09.2008, Pretoria, South Africa

- *The Dawn of the Information Age in Least Developed Countries (LDCs): Lessons learned from four Case Studies*
  First International ICT&S PhD Students' Workshop
  20.06.2008 – 21.06.2008, Salzburg, Austria

- *Academia meets Practice*
  Workshop: UNESCO's Information Society Division
  24.04.2008 – 25.04.2008, Paris, France

- *Information and Communication Technologies in the Republic of Malawi: An assessment of Progress and Challenges Ahead*
  4th International Conference on Technology, Knowledge & Society
  18.01.2008 – 20.01.2008, Boston, USA

- *Round Table 'Business Intelligence meets Moral Intelligence' - 'Führen wir mit Werten oder was hindert uns daran zu handeln?'*
  14.12.2007, Stuttgart, Germany

- *Information and Communication Technologies for Least Developed Countries (ICTs4LDCs): Exemplified on the Republic of Yemen*
  The Second International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences
  10.07.2007 – 13.07.2007, Granada, Spain

- *Theorizing tourism: Bridging the virtual-real-dichotomy*
  2nd International Critical Tourism Studies Conference
  20.06.2007 – 23.06.2007, Split, Croatia

- *Rhetorik – elitär oder egalitär?*
  4. Salzburger Rhetorikgespräche 2007
  13.04.2007 – 14.04.2007, Salzburg, Austria

- *Is Ambient Intelligence doomed to fail? Design Guidelines for bridging the Digital Divide in the Ambient Intelligence Society*
  InSciT2006 - International Conference on Multidisciplinary Information Sciences and Technologies
  25.10.2006 – 28.10.2006, Merida, Spain

- *Co-operative Cyberethics for a Sustainable Information Society*
  XVI ISA World Congress of Sociology
  23.07.2006 – 29.07.2006, Durban, South Africa

- *Indicators for Life-Designing as a form of youth identity formation*
  XVI ISA World Congress of Sociology

23.07.2006 – 29.07.2006, Durban, South Africa

- *The Emergence of Social Networks: Upward, Downward and Iterative Social Pattern Formation Processes*
  SUNBELT XXVI-International Sunbelt Social Network Conference
  25.04.2006 – 30.04.2006, Vancouver, Canada

- *Perspectives of Cyberethics in the Information Society*
  7th Global Conference: Perspectives on Evil and Human Wickedness
  13.03.2006 – 17.03.2006, Salzburg, Austria

- *Attention as a scarce resource in an information based society*
  FIS 2005: Third Conference on the Foundations of Information Science
  04.07.2005 – 08.07.2005, Paris, France

- *Self-Organization and Ethics (Towards a system theoretical global ethics approach)*
  International Conference: Cultural Context of Social Self-Organization
  28.04.2005 – 29.04.2005, Kiev, Ukraine

CONFERENCE ATTENDANCES

- *Österreich im Reich der Mitte – Österreichische Literatur in China (Austria in the Middle Kingdom – Austrian Literature in China)*
  20.11.2010 – 21.11.2010, Shanghai, P.R. China

- *DAAD-Lektorentreffen 2010 (DAAD-Lecturer Meeting 2010)*
  22.11.2010 – 27.11.2010, Nanjing, P.R. China

FIELD RESEARCH

- *Sana'a, Yemen* (Winter 2007)
  Study on the Internet diffusion based on expert interviews with Yemeni decision-makers and questionnaires for the general public (270 questionnaires)

- *Guatemala-City, Guatemala* (Summer 2007)
  Study on the Internet diffusion based on expert interviews with Guatemaltecan decision-makers and questionnaires for the general public (270 questionnaires)

- *Lilongwe/Blantyre, Malawi* (Fall 2007)
  Study on the Internet diffusion based on expert interviews with Malawian decision-makers and questionnaires for the general public (270 questionnaires)

- *Vientiane, Lao PDR* (Winter 2008)
  Study on the Internet diffusion based on expert interviews with Lao decision-makers and questionnaires for the general public (270 questionnaires)

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Member (from 2009 to 2010) of the EU COST Project 'Living in Surveillance Societies (LiSS)' (ISO 807)
Funded by the European Science Foundation (ESF)
Duration: 2009-2012
Project leader: Dr. William Webster, University of Stirling, United Kingdom

Project Description:

Surveillance, the systematic and purposeful attention to the lives of individuals or groups, is an ubiquitous feature of European society with citizens routinely monitored by a range of sophisticated technologies. Increasing levels of surveillance are typically justified by the threat of terrorism, crime and disorder, and to improve public and private services. The main objective of the Action is to increase and deepen knowledge about living and working in surveillance societies, to better understand the consequences of technologically enhanced surveillance for social questions, such as equity, cohesion and trust, and to make recommendations about its future governance and practice. Integral to this primary objective are core outcomes including the consolidation and evolution of knowledge, improved public policy and practice across Europe, and greater societal awareness of surveillance issues and technologies.

The Action facilitates an interdisciplinary international network of academic surveillance experts and generates important knowledge for citizens, government, public agencies and the private sector.

Workshop Organisation 'Towards criteria of sustainability and social meaningfulness in development'

Funded by the Austrian South-East Asian University Partnership Network (ASEA-UNINET), OEAD

Duration: 19.12.2009-21.12.2009

Location: Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand

Project leaders: Robert M. Bichler, Wolfgang Hofkirchner & Soraj Hongladarom, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand

Project Description:

The objective of the workshop was to discuss current developments in the field of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and Sustainable Development (SD) by providing a forum for Austrian and Asian researchers interested in broadening and deepening the understanding of the sustainability concept with the goal to achieve social meaningfulness.

In the discourse on sustainability there has been a shift from a focus on ecological issues towards the inclusion of broader societal issues. The so called ´Agenda 21´ (1992) in the Rio ´Earth Summit´ stated four mutually independent dimensions of sustainability: ecological, economic, social, and cultural. Based on such an understanding in the two days workshop the participants discussed new operational definitions of ´fuzzy´ terms like sustainability and meaningfulness in the context of ICTs, new measures that distinguish the meaningful from the meaningless (and what lies in between) and the role of ICTs in enhancing sustainable development in the four dimensions proposed in ´Agenda 21´. The involved researchers tended to identify indicators for sustainability and meaningfulness of ICTs and formulated policy recommendations for each dimension.

ADVISORY BOARDS & PROGRAMME COMMITTEES

Member, Advisory Board:
Prix Ars Electronica – Category: ‚Digital Communities'
Since 2010, Linz, Austria

Member, Programme Committee:
3rd IEEE/ACM International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development (ICTD2009)
17.04.2009 – 19.04.2009, Doha, Qatar

MEMBERSHIPS IN SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATIONS

- Unified Theory of Information (UTI) Research Group - Association for the Advancement of Information Sciences (2008-)
- ICTs-and-Society Network (2008-)
- Change the Game Initiative (2008-)

- International Center for Information Ethics (ICIE) (2007-)
- Österreichische Gesellschaft für Kommunikationswissenschaft (Austrian Society of Communication Science) (2007-)
- European Communication Research and Education Association (ECREA) (2007-)
- International Sociological Association (ISA) (2006-)
- PhD Students in ICT for Development (PID) (2006-)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Courses at the Shanghai International Studies University
(PS=Proseminar, SE=Seminar, VO=Lecture)

Summer 2011	PS Die Novelle am Beispiel von Stefan Zweigs ‚Schachnovelle' – Textanalyse und Textinterpretation [PS The Novella exemplified by Stefan Zweig's 'The Royal Game' – Text Analysis and Text Interpretation] (4 hours)
	PS Schreibwerkstatt II [PS Writing Course II] (4 hours)
	Debattierkurs [Debate Course] (4 hours)
Winter 2010/11	PS Die deutschsprachige Kurzgeschichte nach 1945 – Textanalyse und Textinterpretation [PS The German Short Story after 1945 – Text Analysis and Text Interpretation] (4 hours)
	PS Schreibwerkstatt I [PS Writing Course I] (4 hours)
	Kommunikationskurs: Ausgewählte Aspekte österreichischer Kultur, Politik und Ökonomie [Communication Course: Cultural, Political and Economical Aspects of Austria] (4 hours)

Summer 2010	PS Der Kriminalroman am Beispiel von Friedrich Dürrenmatts ‚Der Richter und sein Henker' – Textanalyse und Textinterpretation [PS The detective novel exemplified by Friedrich Dürrenmatt's 'The Judge and His Hangman' – Text Analysis and Text Interpretation] (4 hours)
	PS Schreibwerkstatt II [PS Writing Course II] (4 hours)
	Kommunikationskurs: Österreich und Thomas Bernhard [Communication Course: Austria and Thomas Bernhard] (4 hours)
Winter 2009/10	PS Die deutschsprachige Kurzgeschichte nach 1945 – Textanalyse und Textinterpretation [PS The German Short Story after 1945 – Text Analysis and Text Interpretation] (4 hours)
	PS Schreibwerkstatt [PS Writing Course] (4 hours)
	Kommunikationskurs: Politik, Ökonomie und Kultur in den deutschsprachigen Ländern [Communication Course: Politics, Economics and Culture in the German-Speaking Countries] (4 hours)

Courses at the Universität Salzburg
(PS=Proseminar, SE=Seminar, VO=Lecture)

Summer 2009	PS Introduction to Communication Science
Winter 2008/09	PS ICTs in Developing Countries
	PR Practices in Media and Communication Organizations (Master Exchange Program in Media and Communication Management: Austria – China)
Summer 2008	PS Introduction to Communication Science

Winter 2007/08   PS ICTs and Sustainable Development

                        VO Introduction to Interpersonal Communication
                        (together with Karin Stockinger)

Summer 2007   PS Introduction to Communication Science

                        VO Introduction to Interpersonal Communication
                        (together with Karin Stockinger)

Winter 2006/2007   PS Relevant Concepts of Society in Communication
                        Science

Summer 2006   SE Medialisation and Mediatisation of Societies
                        (together with Thomas Steinmaurer)

                        PS Introduction to Communication Science

                        VO Introduction to Interpersonal Communication
                        (together with Karin Stockinger)

Winter 2005/2006   PS In which society do we actually live in?

Summer 2005   VO Introduction to Interpersonal Communication
                        (together with Karin Stockinger)

PERSONAL INTERESTS

Sports: - Mountaineering
                 - Rock Climbing
                 - Backcountry Skiing
                 - Snowboarding
                 - Riverboarding
                 - Canyoning & Caving
                 - Scuba Diving (SSI-Rescue Diver)
                 - Dancing (Course: Austrian Dancing Certificate in Gold)

Leisure Time: Travelling, Reading, Visiting Concerts and Theatres, Art-House Film

Stays abroad: Extensive stays abroad in Europe, Africa, America and Asia (both: Travel and Research)