

Organization (WIPO)—open for CSOs new uses or close them off; whether there are opportunities emerging for CSOs to organize their own forums and institutions for ICT governance, and

- What differences emerge in ICT use and networking activities across the North-South divide

The committee and staff have determined that—to bring focus—the primary tasks of its final phase should be: a) mapping what we currently know about this important subject (evidence, data, analysis) in “state of the knowledge” reports; b) mobilizing targeted analysis and research around crucial

gaps identified in the reports; c) drawing practitioners fully into the mapping and analysis process, linking directly to their practical and policymaking needs; d) disseminating widely all program work and e) engaging with the relevant communities of organizations and experts.

Ultimately, it is hoped that the knowledge and collaborations generated in both phases of the program can lead to self-sustaining networks of activists and researchers and help CSOs develop sophisticated and effective information and communication strategies.

Saskia Sassen is the Ralph Lewis Professor of Sociology at the University of Chicago and chair of the ITIC Steering Committee. Robert Latham is SSRC program director of the Program on Information Technology and International Cooperation.

New Staff



Diana Rhoten has recently joined the Council as a program director of the Program on Knowledge Institutions and Innovation. Rhoten has a Ph.D. in Social Sciences, Policy, and Educational Practice and an M.A. in Sociology from Stanford University, as well as an M.Ed. in International Development Education from Harvard University. Rhoten’s work in this arena

has focused on the social, economic and cultural processes of globalization and their impacts on education and social policy in North and South America. Her unique multi-method and multi-level approach to public policy and development has been funded by grants and contracts from the Fulbright Commission, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Stanford University Center for Latin American Studies, and the Stanford University Lieberman Fellowship Committee.

After graduating from Stanford, Rhoten served as an assistant professor at the Stanford University School of Education

where she taught courses in international education development, international organizations and policy-making, and interdisciplinary research methods (1999 - 2003) and directed the Master’s program in international comparative education (1999 - 2001). In addition to her role at Stanford, Rhoten also joined the Hybrid Vigor Institute, first as an organizational consultant (2000 - 2001) and then as the Institute’s research director (2001 - 2003). In this capacity, Rhoten served as the principal investigator for Hybrid Vigor’s National Science Foundation-funded pilot study on interdisciplinary research networks and methods. She also conducted the Institute’s study on intra-organizational collaboration in the philanthropic sector, funded and published by the Surdna Foundation. In June 2003, she was appointed a Hybrid Vigor Fellow.

Rhoten is currently working with various universities on the design and development of interdisciplinary research centers and programs and she began a second NSF-funded evaluation of interdisciplinary graduate education and training programs in January 2004. Her recent work on the subject is covered in an article, “Interdisciplinary Research: Trend or Transition,” in this *Items & Issues* (see pp. 6-11).

Online

The SSRC recently unveiled its redesigned website (same address, www.ssrc.org). The new site provides a clearer presentation of SSRC activities and easier navigation of its 1200+ pages. It also provides better access to the range of knowledge resources generated by individual programs, including Council-related books, online essays, etc. This is a major step in the development of a much richer and more interactive SSRC web presence—a process that will continue through the next year. The site also inaugurates the use of the new SSRC logo, and is part of a broader redesign of SSRC publications.

