

Michael Gurstein, Ph..D. – Bio



Dr. Gurstein often referred to as “the Father of Community Informatics” is currently Executive Director of the Centre for Community Informatics Research, Development and Training (CCIRDT) in Vancouver, Canada; has had Research Visiting Professorships at universities in Canada and the US and internationally; and is currently Adjunct Professor in the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of British Columbia. The CCIRDT has an affiliated organization based in Cape Town, South Africa, and Memoranda of Agreement with Izandla Zethu (Pretoria, SA); BIID in Bangladesh, Paisley Consulting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; and ITforChange in Bangalore, India.

A Canadian, he completed a B.A. at the University of Saskatchewan and a Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of Cambridge. From 1995 to 1999 Dr. Gurstein was the NSERC/SSHRC Associate Chair in the Management of Technological Change at the University College of Cape Breton, where he pioneered in the development of sustainable community-based technology applications and established perhaps the first multi-function telecentre in Canada. From 1992 to 1995 Dr. Gurstein was a Management Advisor with the United Nations Headquarters in New York and from 2000 to 2002 he had a number of roles including that of Team Leader (Dean) of the School of Management at the Technical University of British Columbia.

His edited book "Community Informatics: Enabling Communities with Information and Communications Technologies: (Idea Group, 2000) provided a focal point for the development of “Community Informatics” as the discipline concerned with enabling communities with Information and Communications Technologies. Dr. Gurstein has served on the Board of the Vancouver Community Network, the British Columbia Community Networking Association, and Telecommunities Canada. He is currently on the Steering Committee of the Global Telecentre Alliance, and on the High Level Panel of Advisors of the United Nation’s Global Alliance for ICT for Development. He is the Editor in Chief of the Journal of Community Informatics <http://ci-journal.net> and Foundation Chair of the Community Informatics Research Network. He has had a continuing Advisory relationship with the (Canadian) Northern Indigenous Communities Satellite Network in the creation of its Research Consortium and is an Advisor to the EU funded N4C project looking at telecommunications services for underserved and indigenous people in Northern and Central Europe.

He has consulted to the governments of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, South Africa, Nepal and Jordan; to the Ford Foundation, the Hewlett Foundation, the UN Development Program, and the European Union; and to Nortel, Mitel, Bell Canada, and Intel among others.

His most recent book is "What is Community Informatics (and Why Does It Matter)?", Polimetrica, Milan (2007)

http://eprints.rclis.org/12372/1/WHAT_IS_COMMUNITY_INFORMATICS_reading.pdf

Additional information may be found at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Gurstein

Dr. Gurstein is now actively blogging (Gurstein's Community Informatics) at <https://gurstein.wordpress.com/>