“Social Information in Computer-Mediated Communication”

1.00pm – 2.00pm in 8W1.28

Abstract
Online media increasingly enable us to develop and support social relationships. Although never easier to exchange richer forms of media, communication generally remains text-based. My research focuses on the communication of social information fundamental to understanding others in text.

In particular, my work shows that qualities such as personality, emotion and trust are characterised linguistically in a text-based environment (email, blogs, IM), and generally personality and emotion can be accurately perceived from short snippets of text. There are, however, some interesting wrinkles present in the results: For example, it is more important to consider which personality trait or emotion is being considered, than talking about general accuracies.

Similarly, although I have found increased linguistic similarity relates to trust in dialogue, automatically generated dialogues including greater similarity were perceived negatively.

I will discuss some of the issues raised by this research, and conclude the talk by discussing the role of social information in computer-supported collaboration.

Biography
Alastair Gill is a Research Fellow at the Centre for Research in Social Simulation, University of Surrey, working with Nigel Gilbert. His research focuses on social aspects of computer-mediated communication and the related areas of human-computer interaction, computer-supported cooperative work, computational linguistics and cognitive science. He has previously held positions at the Centre for Technology and Social Behaviour, Northwestern University, and LEAD-CNRS, University of Burgundy, France. Alastair received his Ph.D. in Informatics from the University of Edinburgh in 2004, which he took following the M.Sc. program in Cognitive Science and Natural Language. His B.A. was in English Language and Literature.

All are welcome to attend

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