



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

## University Graduate School 2008-2009

### Academic Bulletin

## Social Informatics

### School of Library and Information Science Bloomington

#### Program Director

Howard Rosenbaum\*

#### Departmental URL

[rkcsi.indiana.edu/](http://rkcsi.indiana.edu/)

#### Steering Committee members

Christine Ogan\* (School of Journalism, School of Informatics),  
Harmeet Sawhney\* (Telecommunications)

## Core Faculty

(An asterisk [\*] denotes membership in the University Graduate School faculty with the endorsement to direct doctoral dissertations.)

#### Professors

Blaise Cronin\* (School of Library and Information Science), Alan Dennis\* (Kelley School of Business), Thomas Duffy\* (School of Education), Jeffrey Hart\* (Political Science), Susan Herring\* (School of Library and Information Science), Ann Massey\* (Kelley School of Business), Christine Ogan\* (School of Journalism, School of Informatics)

#### Associate Professors

Katy Borner (School of Library and Information Science), Erik Bucy\* (Telecommunications), Alice Robbin\* (School of Library and Information Science), Howard Rosenbaum\* (School of Library and Information Science), Harmeet Sawhney\* (Telecommunications)

## Ph.D. Minor in Social Informatics

Social Informatics (SI) refers to the interdisciplinary study of the design, uses, and consequences of information and communications technologies (ICT) that takes into account their interaction with institutional and cultural contexts. Social Informatics research examines the roles of technologies in social and organizational change and the social shaping of ICT. SI research and SI courses are organized within diverse fields, including information systems, telecommunications, journalism, information science, and political science. One key goal of the field is

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to shape ICTs and policies relevant to them in order to enhance human communication and lead to more acceptable technological developments at organizational and social levels.

### Course Requirement for the Ph.D. Minor in Social Informatics (12 credit hours)

This minor consists of four courses (12 credits), selected from an approved list of courses as described below. Please note that a student minoring in SI cannot include classes from his or her home department in the minor. Students who complete the Ph.D. minor in SI at Indiana University must demonstrate proficiency in a set of courses that examines the design, uses, consequences and/or policies of ICT use in social, cultural, or institutional contexts. The SI Ph.D. minor emphasizes theoretical and methodological issues, as well as substantive issues.

The student must submit a written proposal to the Steering Committee describing a detailed course of study. The proposal will explain the student's focus of study, its relationship to SI, the relationship of proposed SI courses to the overall program of study, and the likely dissertation topic or area. It will also include the name of the student's SI Ph.D. minor advisor. While the SI Ph.D. minor is likely to be completed before a student develops a detailed dissertation proposal, it is expected that the dissertation will address issues related to social informatics. If a student is interested in a course that is not on the approved course list, he or she can petition the director and Steering Committee to have the course included as part of the minor; the procedure is described below.

The complete proposal must be approved by the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee must also attest that the approved course of study has been completed successfully. Students seeking the Ph.D. minor in SI must obtain the approval of their Ph.D. Advisory Committees. The range of courses listed on the RKCSI courses at <http://rkcsi.indiana.edu/index.php/courses> is designed to enable students to construct a program for the Ph.D. minor in SI that is relevant to their primary research interests. This program of courses should include some courses that have strong theoretical and/or methodological content, as well as substantive issues. Students who propose taking "topics courses" (such as L597, R601, and S601/602) as electives to help satisfy these requirements must satisfy the Steering Committee that the particular course they wish to take is relevant to the subject matter of SI. Further courses will be added to the list on an ongoing basis at the discretion of the Steering Committee.

## Courses

### Specific Course Requirements

Students seeking a Ph.D. minor in Social Informatics must complete four graduate level courses (12 hours) that have been selected from the courses listed on the RKCSI Courses at Indiana page; this list includes courses that have been specifically identified as approved for the Ph.D. minor. One of the four courses for the SI minor must be taken in the School of Journalism, the Department of Telecommunications, or the School of Library and Information Science and this course, which will serve as a foundation course for the minor, must be approved by the committee. This course should be taken first and may not be in the student's home school or department. Other courses in these schools and departments may be taken as electives. Possibilities include:

#### School of Journalism

J530 Issues in New Communication Technologies  
J614 Communication and National Development

#### School of Library and Information Science

S514 Computerization in Society  
S518 Communication in Electronic Environments

#### Telecommunications Department

T551 Communication, Technology, and Society  
T601 Origins of the Information Age

In addition, students can propose, in consultation with their advisors, that their minor include other SI courses that are not on this list or that are on the list, but have not yet been formally approved for the SI minor. Such proposals should include syllabi and other detailed information about the course. The proposal should make a convincing case that the course is aligned with one or more main SI themes, such as the complex relationships among technology, people, their work and/or play, and the contexts within which people interact with technology.

### Electives

Students seeking the Ph.D. minor in social informatics must complete an additional three courses (9 credit hours). These additional courses must be selected from the list above or the following list. The elective courses should be taken from at least two departments or schools other than the student's home academic unit. The Social Informatics Program is developing rapidly at IU, and we expect that additional doctoral-level courses will be offered each year. Students can propose that their minors include other social informatics courses that are not included on this list. Such proposals should include syllabi and other detailed information about the course.

#### School of Library and Information Science

S513 Organizational Informatics  
S541 Information Policy  
S542 International Information Issues  
S544 Gender and Computerization  
S643 The Information Industry  
S652 Digital Libraries  
S661 Concepts and Contemporary Issues in Human-Computer Interaction

#### Kelley School of Business

S600 Foundations in Information Systems Research  
S602 Information Systems Technology Research  
S606 IS Strategy and Management Research  
S607 Collaborative Technologies Research  
S796 Special Topics

#### Cognitive Science Program

Q540 Philosophical Foundations of the Cognitive and Information Sciences

#### Department of Communication and Culture

CMCL 620: Media, Politics, and Power: Ethnographic Approaches to New Media: Configuring the Object of Analysis in New Media Research

#### School of Education

P550 Cognition and Semiotics

#### School of Informatics

I503 Social Impact of Information Technologies  
I605 Social Foundations of Informatics  
I690 Seminar in Social Informatics II: Political and Economic Issues

#### Department of Political Science

Y665 Public Law and Policy

#### Department of Telecommunications

T602 Interactivity and New Media  
T610 The Networked Society