SAID BUSINESS SCHOOL, University of Oxford

SEMINAR SERIES / Trinity 2012

Convenor: Felix Reed-Tsochas, CABDyN Complexity Centre, Saïd Business School

'Agent-based modelling in education, public engagement, policy making, discussions, and research'

Dr Ken Kahn
Oxford University Computing Services

Tuesday 12th June 2012, 12.30 -14.00
Seminar Room 14, Saïd Business School

Ken Kahn is a senior researcher at the Oxford University Computing Services leading the Modelling4All project that combines ideas of accessible modelling within a web 2.0 community. It builds upon the prior Constructing2Learn Project. He is working part-time in the Metafora Project at the London Knowledge Lab. He is working on making a web version of eXpresser that integrates well with the Metafora system and tools. Ken recently piloted an OLPC Project in West Papua. He is the designer and developer of ToonTalk a programming system for children that provides concrete analogs of advanced computational abstractions with a video game look and feel. Many of his papers can be found here.
Ken did his doctoral research in at the MIT AI Lab in the 1970s. During the 1980s he did research in AI, visual, and concurrent programming languages before focusing on programming languages for children.

ABSTRACT:

Agent-based modelling is of increasing importance in research. Many and varied phenomena can be explored by experimenting with computer simulations of artificial societies of interacting heterogeneous individuals. In this talk the focus will be on the role of agent-based modelling beyond research. As part of the Oxford University Modelling4All Project (modelling4all.org), we have been exploring the role of agent-based modelling in education, public engagement, and policy making. We believe the key to making agent-based modelling accessible to a wide audience is to provide tools where models are open, transparent, modular, easy to compose out of high level components, and well-suited for sharing on the Web.