

# Computing



at the **Margins**

**symposium**  
May 6 & 7, 2009  
Georgia Tech



## **Symposium Agenda**

The Computing at the Margins symposium will open on the afternoon of May 6 with a keynote address and reception. May 7 will consist of a variety of speakers and panel discussions from leaders from industry, academia, and the non-profit and foundation sector.

**The symposium agenda is organized around four broad themes:**

### **Nomadcity**

Globally, our population is increasingly mobile and transient: from job seekers who must move every few months or years to find work, to the urban homeless, to those displaced by conflict, to transnationals and broader national and international diasporas. Technology has a key role to play here, providing continuity of access and information mobility to populations on the move.

### **Diversity**

Mainstream computing systems have traditionally targeted only a narrow slice of the diverse global population; in fact, only recently has the core technical infrastructure of computing evolved to the ability to represent multiple languages well. Bringing an understanding of the broader cultural, linguistic, and gender diversities on our planet is essential for widening the currently narrow focus of computing technology and informing what technologies could and should be built.

### **Scarcity**

Most computing technologies are designed with a world of plenty in mind: ready access to power, ubiquitous connectivity, and ample bandwidth. What would it mean to design computing technologies for a world in which key resources—such as technical infrastructure or even monetary resources—are scarce? Designing for scarcity rather than abundance can lead to innovative new technologies that meet the needs of previously excluded populations while advancing the field toward more sustainable solutions that scale beyond marginal communities.

### **Human Capacity**

Human capacity—both physical and mental—forms a spectrum along which we all lie. Technologies designed for the “norm” may exclude those with disabilities, those who lack education or literacy skills, or even people whose abilities may be lessened through age. Broadening the scope of computing to focus on the full spectrum of human capacity can open the benefits of technology to more people.

**6** Wednesday  
**May**

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4:30 p.m.

**Registration Opens**

5 p.m.–6:30 p.m.

**Opening Keynote**

The Honorable Dr. Lawrence Konmla Bropleh  
Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism,  
Republic of Liberia

6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

**Evening Reception/Student  
Poster Presentations**

Technology Square Research Building

Thursday  
**May 7**

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8 a.m.–8:30 a.m.

**Breakfast**

8:30 a.m.–9 a.m.

**Opening Remarks/Welcome**

Aaron Bobick  
Chair, School of Interactive Computing,  
Georgia Tech

9 a.m.–10 a.m.

**Session 1–Scarcity**

Wendy Kellogg  
Manager, Social Computing Group, IBM Research

Leysia Palen  
Assistant Professor, Department of Computer  
Science, University of Colorado Boulder

W. Keith Edwards  
Associate Professor, School of  
Interactive Computing, Georgia Tech

10 a.m.–10:30 a.m.

**Break/Student Poster Presentations**

10:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

**Session 2–Nomadicity**

Ellen W. Zegura  
Chair, School of Computer Science, Georgia Tech  
Head, Network Science and Engineering Council

Steve Albertson  
New Initiatives Director, Community Voice Mail

Ken Banks  
Founder, kiwanja.net

**11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.**

## **Lunch**

Lunch Keynote

Andrew McLaughlin  
Director, Global Public Policy and  
Governmental Affairs, Google

Member, Obama Administration TIGR Transition Team

**1:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m.**

## **Session 3–Diversity**

Michael L. Best  
Assistant Professor, Sam Nunn School of  
International Affairs and School of Interactive  
Computing, Georgia Tech

Katrin Verclas  
Co-founder and Editor, MobileActive.org

danah boyd  
Researcher, Microsoft Research New England  
Fellow, Harvard Law School Berkman Center  
for Internet and Society

**2:30 p.m.–3 p.m.**

## **Break/Student Poster Presentations**

**3 p.m.–4 p.m.**

## **Session 4–Human Capacity**

Beki Grinter  
Associate Professor, School of  
Interactive Computing, Georgia Tech  
Associate Dean, College of Computing, Georgia Tech

Akhtar Badshah  
Senior Director of Community Affairs, Microsoft

**4 p.m.–4:30 p.m.**

## **Closing Remarks**

Elizabeth D. Mynatt  
Director, GVU Center, Georgia Tech  
Associate Dean, College of Computing, Georgia Tech

**4:30 p.m.–6 p.m.**

## **Executive Roundtable (Private Event)**

## Keynote Speakers



### **The Honorable Dr. Lawrence Konmla Bropleh**

Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism  
Republic of Liberia

As the Minister of Information, Culture & Tourism Laurence Konmla Bropleh combines vision, leadership, and clarity in communicating the successes, challenges and constraints his native Liberia faces. Since his appointment two-and-half years ago, Minister Bropleh has embarked upon an ambitious reform agenda. And as the Chief Spokesman of the Liberian Government, Minister Bropleh has won praises for his ability to say the plain truth –and nothing but the truth–about what Government is or is not doing.

Dr. Bropleh attended the United Methodist Elementary School in Buchanan, Grand Bassa County, before graduating from Monrovia College High School in 1988. He worked as an intern at the Liberia Broadcasting System in Paynesville in 1989. He enrolled at Morgan State University to study law and journalism but dropped out and became a minister of the Gospel. He later enrolled at Crown College in Takoma, Washington from which he graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration (Cum Laude). He earned a Doctorate Degree in Ministry from the Wesley Theological Seminary, American University of Washington DC.

He was appointed Permanent Representative of the World Council of Churches to the United Nations in 2003. He served as a pastor of the United Methodist Church from 1991 to 1997 before joining the Church's Global Ministries as Regional Executive Secretary for Sub-Saharan Africa, Director of Africa Initiatives and Senior Minister for United Methodist Church Baltimore-Washington Conference. Bropleh resided in the United States for more than 15 years. He is chief executive officer of the J.E. Bropleh Foundation, which caters to the needs of orphan and vulnerable children.



## **Andrew McLaughlin**

**Director of Public Policy and Government Affairs  
Google**

Andrew McLaughlin is Director of Global Public Policy and Government Affairs for Google Inc. Core policy issues for Google include privacy and data protection, censorship and content regulation, innovation regulation (copyrights, patents, and trademarks), communications and media policy, antitrust and competition, spectrum reform, and the regulation of communications networks, standards, and technologies.

From 1999-2002, Andrew worked to launch and manage the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), serving as Vice President, Chief Policy Officer, and Chief Financial Officer. ICANN is the Internet's technical coordinating organization, overseeing its systems of unique identifiers, such as domain names and IP addresses.

From 2002-2003, Andrew taught at Harvard Law while working on Internet and telecom law reform projects in a number of developing countries, including Ghana, Mongolia, Kenya, Afghanistan, and South Africa. He was a co-founder of CIPESA, a technology policy think-tank and advocacy center based at Makerere University in Uganda. Since joining Google, Andrew has continued that work as a member of the Board of Directors of Bridges.org, an international non-profit organization based in Cape Town that promotes the effective use of information and communications technology in the developing world.

Andrew's undergraduate degree is from Yale University, where he majored in history, and his law degree is from Harvard Law School. In 2000, Time named Andrew one of its Digital Dozen. In 2001, he was named a Global Leader for Tomorrow by the World Economic Forum. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Young Leaders Forum of the National Committee on US-China Relations.

Event Website  
[www.computing-margins.org](http://www.computing-margins.org)



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