

Big data for development: Responsible use of mobile meta-data to support public purposes

Jetwing Lagoon, Negombo, 8 August 2014

	Presentation	Speaker(s)
0900-0915	Welcome and overview	Rohan Samarajiva (LIRNEasia), Sriganesh Lokanathan (LIRNEasia)
0915-1030	How mobile meta data can inform development policy questions: Illustrations from Sri Lanka	Danaja Maldeniya (LIRNEasia), Kaushalya Madhawa (LIRNEasia), Gabriel Kreindler (MIT/ LIRNEasia)
1030-1100	Break	
1100-1130	International experiences: Leveraging big data for Development in the Global South	Joshua Blumenstock (U Washington)
1130-1200	Discussion: Transaction costs of releasing mobile meta data and possible solutions	Discussion initiated by Sriganesh Lokanathan
1200-1300	Panel. Operators' perspectives	Moderator: Rohan Samarajiva Panelists TBA
1300-1400	Lunch	
1400-1530	Discussion: Draft code of conduct	Discussion led by Rohan Samarajiva
1530-1600	Break	
1600-1700	Panel. Mainstreaming big data for development: Opportunities and challenges	Moderator: Helani Galpaya (LIRNEasia) Panelists: Amal Kumarage (U Moratuwa), Joshua Blumenstock, Pulak Ghosh (IIM-Bangalore), Sriganesh Lokanathan
1700-1730	Next steps and closing	Helani Galpaya

Speaker profiles

Joshua Blumenstock is an Assistant Professor at the Information School, an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Computer Science and Engineering, and the Director of the DataLab at the University of Washington. His research develops methods and theory for the analysis of large-scale behavioral datasets, with a focus on how such data can be used to understand processes of human and economic development in poor and marginalized regions of the world. Recent projects use terabyte-scale data on network communication to understand the lasting impacts of corruption and violence (Afghanistan), the impact of ethnic segregation on the structure of social networks (Estonia), the role of migrants in labor markets (Rwanda and Pakistan), and the potential for Mobile Money and similar mobile phone-based technologies to reduce economic frictions and improve welfare and well-being (Rwanda, Uganda, and Tanzania). Prior to joining UW, Joshua was a post-doctoral scholar in the Department of Economics at Yale University. He has a Ph.D. in Information Management and a M.A. in Economics from U.C. Berkeley, and Bachelor's degrees in Computer Science and Physics from Wesleyan University. He is a recipient of the Intel Faculty Early Career Honor and a former fellow of the Thomas J. Watson Foundation and the Harvard Institutes of Medicine. His current projects are supported by the National Science Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Innovations for Poverty Action, USAID, and the U.K. Department for International Development.

Helani Galpaya is LIRNEasia's Chief Executive Officer. Helani leads LIRNEasia's 2012-2014 IDRC funded research on improving customer life cycle management practices in the delivery of electricity and e-government services using ICTs. She recently completed an assessment of how the poor in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka use telecenters to access government services. For UNCTAD and GTZ she authored a report on how government procurement practices can be used to promote a country's ICT sector and for the World Bank/InfoDev Broadband Toolkit, a report on broadband strategies in Sri Lanka. She has been an invited speaker at various international forums on topics ranging from m-Government to ICT indicators to communicating research to policy makers. Prior to LIRNEasia, Helani worked at the ICT Agency of Sri Lanka, implementing the World-Bank funded e-Sri Lanka initiative. Prior to her return to Sri Lanka, she worked in the United States at Booz & Co., Marengo Research, Citibank, and Merrill Lynch. Helani holds a Masters in Technology and Policy from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a Bachelor's in Computer Science from Mount Holyoke College, USA.

Pulak Ghosh is a Professor of Quantitative Methods at the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB). Prior to joining IIMB, he was part of the faculty at Georgia State University and Emory University. His teaching and research interests are in econometrics, business analytics, predictive analytics, financial modeling and statistics. He has done his Masters in statistics from Calcutta and Ph.D. in statistics from Oakland University, USA. He has more than 10 years of experience in academia and industry having published over 60 research articles in internationally reputed journals including Journal of the American Statistical Association, Management Science, Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, MIS quarterly etc. Most of his research is based on practical problems from industry. He is currently in the editorial board of Journal of the Royal statistical Society, series A, Journal of Statistics and Applications, Journal of Applied Probability and Statistics, Co-editor of Electronic Commerce Research and Applications. He also served in the Editorial board of Journal of the American Statistical Association.

Gabriel Kreindler is a third year graduate student in the Economics Department at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His research interests include technology and development, migration, diffusion of information and behavior, and social networks. At LIRNEasia, Gabriel works on understanding large-scale mobility, connectedness and consumption of populations via the Big Data for Development research. He has a Bachelors degree with summa cum laude in Mathematics from Princeton University and an MPhil in economics with distinction from the University of Oxford.

Amal Kumarage is a Senior Professor in the Department of Transport & Logistics Management at the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka. As an academic and researcher he has published over 40 research papers some of which have won awards. His research is focused on regional development, investment analysis and poverty alleviation. In an advisory capacity to Government of Sri Lanka he has been instrumental in several important policy and strategy studies in transport, highways, urban development and planning sectors. He has served two terms as the Chairman of the National Transport Commission, where he has successfully negotiated and introduced several strategic reforms in the bus sector. He also has served as an Advisor to the Government of the Maldives and in numerous studies for World Bank, ADB and SIDA in study projects in Sri Lanka and other countries.

Sriganesh Lokanathan is a Senior Research Manager at LIRNEasia where he currently leads LIRNEasia's research on Big Data for Development. He is responsible for developing partnerships as well as the big data analytics needed to harness mobile network big data to answer broad questions related to human development. Currently this work involves the development of actionable insights for transportation and urban development in Sri Lanka.

He holds a Bachelors degree in Computer Science, from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a Master's degree in Public Policy from the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy of the National University of Singapore.

Kaushalya Madhawa is a researcher working on LIRNEasia's Big Data for Development project. He carries out exploratory data analysis to identify spatiotemporal patterns in various socio-economic variables using mobile network big data. His focus areas include machine learning, mathematics and quantum mechanics. He holds a BSc. in Computer Science & Engineering, from University of Moratuwa and is currently studying for a Masters in Computer Science at University of Colombo

Danaja Maldeniya is a researcher working on LIRNEasia's Big Data for Development project. His area of responsibility involves identifying human mobility patterns and developing transport-forecasting models using mobile network big data. His focus areas include machine learning, visual analytics and social network analysis. He holds a BSc. in Computer Science & Engineering, from University of Moratuwa and is currently studying for a Masters in Computer Science at University of Colombo.

Rohan Samarajiva is founding Chair of LIRNEasia, an infrastructure policy and regulation think tank active across emerging economies in South and South East Asia and the Pacific. He was its CEO until 2012. He serves on the Boards of Communication Policy Research south, Research ICT Africa and the Lanka Software Foundation. Before setting up LIRNEasia, Samarajiva was Team Leader at the Sri Lanka Ministry for Economic Reform, Science and Technology, responsible for infrastructure reforms, Director General of Telecommunications and a founder director of the ICT Agency of Sri Lanka. Previously, he was Honorary Professor at the University of Moratuwa, Visiting Professor of Economics of Infrastructures at the Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands and Associate Professor of Communication and Public Policy at the Ohio State University in the US. Relevant publications include: *Customer information: Privacy and competitive implications*, NRRI 92-11 (with R. Burns & R. Mukherjee). Columbus OH: National Regulatory Research Institute, 1992; Surveillance by design: Public networks and the control of consumption, in *Communication by Design: The Politics of Information and Communication Technologies*, eds. R. Mansell & R. Silverstone, pp. 129-156. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996; and Interactivity as though privacy mattered, in *Technology and privacy: The new landscape*, eds. P. E. Agre & M. Rotenberg, pp. 277-309. Cambridge MA: MIT Press.