

## Editorial: On IRIE Vol. 8

IRIE definitely does not follow the traditional model of a journal. In contrary, it is available online (only) - for free for everybody anywhere in the world who has access to the Internet. You may read these lines on your desktop or your laptop at home, at work or while travelling whenever you like. And, you may perceive all this as quite modern (or at least quite convenient due to the modern technologies involved). Nonetheless, this issue No. 8 will inform you that all this is water under the bridge as the post-desktop era of human-computer-interaction has arrived.

As opposed to the desktop paradigm, in which users directly and consciously engage a single device for a specialized purpose, ubiquitous computing (UbiComp) envisions the engagement of many computational devices and systems simultaneously, in the course of ordinary activities, with users who may not necessarily even be aware of such an engagement.

What would be e.g. the implication for a (modern) journal such as IRIE? Will UbiComp fundamentally change the very nature of the journal itself? Will it then become pervasive, ambient, sentient, context sensitive or any of the other concepts connected with UbiComp and what would that look like? In the end, we will have to see. However, for now scientific journals are not yet in the focus of the use cases envisioned by UbiComp think tanks at present or even in the near future. These are more in line with the extension of computing power into everyday scenarios ('things that think'). That is exactly where UbiComp receives its ethical explosiveness.

In that case, we have to rethink not only many ethical concepts, but also some very basic philosophical notions like reality and subjectivity. If the traditional reality of things develops into a computed ambience and if decisions taken in a certain situation are more and more dependent of artificial agents we may not even be aware of, then this will fundamentally change our basic understanding, not only of moral responsibility, but also of persons acting in the world itself.

The authors of this issue nonetheless discuss these problems the traditional way: within very interesting articles - ranging from visionary to critical; from more descriptive to more normative.

The guest editors of this issue, David Phillips, Toronto, and Klaus Wieglering, Stuttgart, have done a wonderful job in setting the agenda with their elaborate call for papers, selecting the articles and organizing their review.

We are very happy with the outcome and hope you once again will appreciate this issue of IRIE as a valuable input for your academic and professional work.

Yours sincerely,

*the Editors*