



PRESS INFORMATION

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iSchools and Microsoft Research Announce Social Media Expo Finalists

- Selected teams hail from Polytechnic University of Valencia, Rutgers, University of Toronto, UC Irvine and UCLA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: The iSchools organization and Microsoft Research are pleased to announce the five student-team finalists in this year's iConference Social Media Expo. This year's theme was government open data and social media. The following five projects, listed alphabetically by title, are slated for presentation at iConference 2015, which takes place March 24-27, 2015, in Newport Beach, California, USA.

Title: "*eMigrate*: Aggregating Government Open Data for Enhanced Job Category Selection in Support of Immigration Applications"

School: University of Toronto: Faculty of Information

Team: Eva Hourihan Jansen, Jenna Jacobson, Gabby Resch

Faculty Sponsor: Rhonda McEwen

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HUI5vB2C-Uc>

Title: "The Police Officer Involved Homicides Database Project"

School: University of California, Los Angeles: Department of Information Studies

Team: Morgan Currie, Brittany Paris, Irene Paschetto, Jennifer Pierre, Ashley E. Sands

Faculty Sponsor: Leah Lievrouw

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hNy0YhPyv8I>

Title: "Racial Violence Archive: Public Information System on Incidents of Violence during the Civil Rights Period"

School: University of California, Irvine: The Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences

Team: Hosub Lee, Michael Bellato, Sowmya Jain, Fernando Spanghero, Roeland Singer-heinze, Ya-Wen Lin, Sunakshi Gupta, Geoff Ward

Faculty Sponsor: Alfred Kobsa

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yfkTr8W8bsk>

Title: "Society Key: Integrating Social Media Data with Governmental Open Data to Encourage Community Wellbeing"

School: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey: School of Communication and Information

Team: Ziad Matni, Jennifer Sonne, Dongho Choi

Faculty Sponsor: Chirag Shah

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y0aF3yJTs-E>

Title: “*TransparencyScience*. Return on research investment, where do the funds go?”

School: Polytechnic University of Valencia: School of Informatics

Team: Lidia Contreras, Cristina I. Font, Paulina Morillo, Diego Vallejo

Faculty Sponsor: Antonia Ferrer Sapena

Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m_kJ6UKIt4k

Organized in collaboration with FUSE Labs of Microsoft Research, the Social Media Expo recognizes exceptional interdisciplinary research and development work from iSchool programs specializing in social media. Students from the international 59-member iSchools organization were invited form teams of 3-5 to conduct a specific research, design, development or community engagement project. The year’s theme was government open data and social media, and teams were asked to submit a video presentation and written abstract.

Each of the selected teams receives a \$3,000 grant from Microsoft Research to help offset the cost of attending the iConference to make their presentations in person. The 2015 Social Media Expo session is slated for Wednesday, March 25, 2015, from 3:30 to 5:00 pm. The Expo Organizing Committee will announce its decision on the best presentation at the conclusion of the session.

The iConference is an international gathering of scholars and researchers concerned with critical information issues in contemporary society. The iConference is presented by the iSchools organization, and hosted each year by a different member school. The 2015 host is the Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences, University of California, Irvine; the conference theme is Create-Collaborate-Celebrate.

The iSchools organization is a worldwide association of Information Schools dedicated to advancing the information field. These schools, colleges, and departments have been newly created or are evolving from programs formerly focused on specific tracks such as information technology, library science, informatics, information science, and more.

Microsoft Research is a long-time friend and supporter of the iConference. Founded in 1991, Microsoft Research is dedicated to conducting both basic and applied research in computer science and software engineering. More than 850 Ph.D. researchers openly collaborate with leading academic, government, and industry researchers to advance the state-of-the-art of computing and solve world problems through technological innovation. In addition to its generous support of the iConference, Microsoft Research also funds the iConference’s annual Lee Dirks Best Paper Award.

More information about the 2015 Social Media Expo can be found here:
<http://ischools.org/the-iconeference/program/social-media-expo/>

Link to video feed on YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRgUY0ZP3Vzxq098T7Igtqw/feed>

More about the iConference can be found on the conference website:
<http://ischools.org/the-iconeference/>

For more on the iSchools, visit: <http://ischools.org>

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