

Dr James Howison

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Objective:

To pursue world-class research, teaching and service in top research Universities.

Current Position (January 2009-Current)

**Carnegie Mellon School of Computer Science
Post-doctoral fellow at the Institute for Software Research.**

My post-doctoral mentor is Jim Herbsleb; I work with his research group on Coordination, Technology and Distributed Work. My current focus is as co-PI on our three-year \$400,000 NSF funded project (OCI VOSS) to examine the socio-technical ecosystem of scientific software developers; the project officially began in November 2009.

Qualifications:

**The Information School at Syracuse University
PhD in Information Science and Technology Awarded May 2009**

I completed my PhD in March 2009. It deals with patterns of collaboration in free and open source projects and is entitled:

Alone Together: A socio-technical theory of motivation, coordination and collaboration technologies in organizing for free and open source software development

I was advised by Kevin Crowston and assisted by my committee: Robert Heckman, Carsten Østerlund and Donald Harter (School of Management). The dissertation won a Syracuse Graduate School Doctoral Prize.

* Awarded 2009 ICIS/ACM SIGMIS Dissertation Award (first runner up) *

In 2003/04 I was awarded the Jeffrey Katzer Memorial Fellowship, awarded annually to an outstanding iSchool PhD student. In 2006 I received a best paper award at the IFIP Open Source Research meeting (I was first author). During my PhD I contributed to the preparation and submission of 8 NSF proposals, some multi-institutional, of which 3 received funding (with Kevin Crowston as PI). In 2007 I was an invited participant at the prestigious ICIS doctoral consortium and attended the NSF-funded Inaugural Research Institute for the Science of Socio-Technical Systems (20 PhD and 20 Junior Faculty). In 2006 my business plan team won 3rd prize in the Syracuse campus wide competition.

University of NSW 2001 Study towards Masters of Information Science (transferred to PhD)

Programming, database and information management courses. This degree was pursued part-time while working. I transferred these credits to the Syracuse PhD.

University of Sydney 1995–1998 B. Economics (Social Sciences) Honours

Four year degree equivalent to B.Sc. with Honors and research Masters. Double Major in Political Economy and Government. B. Economics (Social Sciences) in 1997. Honours Research Year 1998. Thesis: *Making the (Cyber)world Safe for Capitalism: A Political Economy of Cyberspace*

University of Sydney Undergraduate Economics Scholarship, KPMG Professional Scholarship, St Paul's College Residential Scholarship, Valedictorian (Dux) Barker College 1994, Australian High School Student's Prize. (Tertiary Entrance Percentile: 99.96)

Presentations and Publications (*Pre-prints available at <http://james.howison.name>*)

4 papers under review, 9 Journal papers, 20 Conference papers/presentations or book chapters, 9 Workshop papers

Under Review or Near Submission

Howison, J, Wiggins, A and Crowston, K (under review) Validity Issues in the Use of Social Network Analysis for the Study of Online Communities. **Under second round revision at Journal for the Association of Information Systems (JAIS).**

Crowston, K., Wei, K, Howison, J., and Wiggins, A. (under review). Free/Libre Open Source Software Development: What We Know and What We Do Not Know. **Under second round review at ACM Computing Surveys.**

Bolici, F, Howison, J and Crowston, K (under review) Touchstones for Stigmergic Coordination in Software Development. **Under initial review at IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering.**

Howison, J (near submission) Layered Collaboration: A socio-technical theory of organization in free and open source software development. Working Paper (From dissertation, near submission to Information Systems Research)

Journals

Crowston, K., Howison, J., Eseryel, U. Y., and Masango, C. (2007). The role of face-to-face meetings in technology-supported self-organizing distributed teams. *IEEE Transactions on Professional Communications*, 50(3):185-203.

Crowston, K., Li, Q., Wei, K., Eseryel, U. Y., and Howison, J. (2007). Self-organization of teams for free/libre open source software development. *Information and Software Technology*, 49(6):564-575.

Howison, J., Conklin, M., and Crowston, K. (2006). Flossmole: A collaborative repository for floss research data and analysis. *International Journal of Information Technology and Web Engineering*. 1(3):17-26.

Crowston, K., Howison, J., and Annabi, H. (2006). Information systems success in free and open source software development: Theory and measures. *Software Process: Improvement and Practice, Special Issue on Free/Open Source Software Processes*. (11)2 :123-148.

Crowston, K. and Howison, J. (2006). Assessing the health of open source communities. *IEEE Computer*, 39(5):89-91.

Crowston, K. and Howison, J. (2006). Hierarchy and centralization in free and open source software team communications. *Knowledge, Technology and Policy, Special Edition on Free, Libre and Open Source Software Communities* 18(4): 65-85.

Crowston, K. and Howison, J. (2005). The social structure of open source software development teams. *First Monday*, 10(26).

McKnight, L. W., Howison, J., and Bradner, S. (2004). Wireless grids: Distributed resource sharing by mobile, nomadic and fixed devices. *IEEE Internet Computing*, 8(4):24-31.

Burns, M. and Howison, J. (2001). Napster fabbing: Internet delivery of physical products. *Rapid Prototyping Journal*, 7(4):194-196.

Conferences and Book Chapters (inc. 3 ICIS, 2 HICSS, 4 IFIP Open Source, 1 AoM Best Paper proceedings, 2 AoM presentations)

Crowston, K., Wiggins, A., and Howison, J. (2010). Analyzing leadership dynamics in distributed group communication. In *In Proceedings of Hawaii Information Conference on System Science (HICSS)*, Hawaii.

Li, Q., Heckman, R., Allen, E., Crowston, K., Eseryel, U. Y., Howison, J., and Wiggins, A. (2008). Asynchronous decision-making in distributed teams (poster presentation). In *Computer Supported Collaborative Work*.

Andrea Wiggins, James Howison & Kevin Crowston (2009) Heartbeat: Measuring Active User Base and Potential User Interest in FLOSS Projects. **Proceedings of the Fifth International Conference on Open Source Software (IFIP 2.13).**

- Crowston, K., Howison, J., and Wiggins, A. (2008). eSocial science for free/libre open source software researchers. In **Proceedings of the 4th International Conference on eSocial Science**, Manchester, UK.
- Howison, J., Wiggins, A., and Crowston, K. (2008). eResearch workflows for studying free and open source software development. In **Proceedings of the Fourth International Conference on Open Source Software (IFIP 2.13)**.
- Wiggins, A., Howison, J., and Crowston, K. (2008). Social dynamics of FLOSS team communication across channels. In **Proceedings of the Fourth International Conference on Open Source Software (IFIP 2.13)**, Milan, Italy.
- Scialdone, M., Li, N., Howison, J., Heckman, R., and Crowston, K. (2008). Group maintenance in technology-supported distributed teams. In **Best Paper Proceedings of Academy of Management Annual Meeting**, Anaheim, CA.
- McKnight, L., Lehr, W and Howison, J. (2007) Coordinating User and Device Behavior in Wireless Grids. in Fitzek, Frank H.P.; Katz, Marcos D. (Eds.) **Cognitive Wireless Networks: Concepts, Methodologies and Visions Inspiring the Age of Enlightenment of Wireless Communications**. Springer.
- Heckman, R., Crowston, K., Li, Q., Allen, E., Eseryel, U. Y., Howison, J., and Wei, K. (2006). Emergent decision-making practices in technology-supported self-organizing distributed teams. In **International Conference on Information Systems (ICIS 2006)**.
- Li, Q., Crowston, K., Heckman, R., and Howison, J. (2006). Language and power in self-organizing distributed teams. In **Academy of Management, OCIS division, Interactive presentation**.
- Howison, J., Inoue, K., and Crowston, K. (2006). Social dynamics of free and open source team communications. In Proceedings of the **IFIP 2nd International Conference on Open Source Software**, Lake Como, Italy. **Received a best paper award**
- Cogburn, D. L., Johnsen, J. F., Bhattacharyya, S., Sharif, R. M., and Howison, J. (2006). Distributed deliberative citizens: Exploring the impact of collaboratories on transnational NGO network participation in WSIS. In **Proceedings of the 2006 International Communications Association (ICA) Conference of the Americas**, Lima, Peru. August 3-5.
- Crowston, K., Wei, K., Li, Q., and Howison, J. (2006). Core and periphery in free/libre and open source software team communications. In **Proceedings of the 38th Annual Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences (HICSS)**.
- Crowston, K., Wei, K., Li, Q., Eseryel, U. Y., and Howison, J. (2005c). Coordination of free/libre and open source software development. In **Proceedings of International Conference on Information Systems (ICIS) 2005**.
- Crowston, K., Howison, J., Masango, C., and Eseryel, Y. U. (2005b). Face-to-face interactions in self-organizing distributed teams. Presented at *the Organization, Communication and Information Systems (OCIS) division, Academy of Management Conference*. Hawaii, USA.
- Crowston, K., Rubleske, J., and Howison, J. (2006). Coordination theory and its application in HCI. In Zhang, P. and Galletta, D., editors, **Human-Computer Interaction in Management Information Systems: Foundations, Advances in Management Information Systems Series**, pages 120–138. M. E. Sharpe, Inc.
- Goodrum, A. and Howison, J. (2005). Why can't I manage images like MP3s: The evolution and intent of citation metadata standards. In **IS&T/SPIE 2005 (Electronic Imaging)**.
- Crowston, K., Annabi, H., Howison, J., and Masango, C. (2005a). Effective work practices for FLOSS development: A model and propositions. In **Proc. of Hawaii International Conference On System Sciences (HICSS)**.
- Howison, J., Conklin, M. S., and Crowston, K. (2005). OSSmole: A collaborative repository for FLOSS research data and analyses. In **Proc. of 1st International Conference on Open Source Software**, Genova, Italy.

- Howison, J. and Goodrum, A. (2004). Why can't I manage academic papers like MP3s? The evolution and intent of metadata standards. In *Proceedings of the 2004 Colleges, Code and Intellectual Property Conference*, number 57 in **ACRL Publications in Librarianship**, College Park, MD.
- Crowston, K., Annabi, H., and Howison, J. (2003). Defining open source software project success. In *Proc. of International Conference on Information Systems (ICIS 2003)*.

Workshops

- Howison, J and Herbsleb, J D (2010) Socio-technical Logics of Correctness in the scientific software development ecosystem. **Workshop on Dynamics of Scientific Collaboration at CSCW 2010. Feb 7.**
- Conklin, M. S., Howison, J., and Crowston, K. (2005). Collaboration using OSSmole: a repository of FLOSS data and analyses. In *Proc. of Mining Software Repositories (MSR) Workshop at International Conference on Software Engineering (ICSE)*, St Louis, Missouri.
- Crowston, K., Annabi, H., Howison, J., and Masango, C. (2004a). Effective work practices for FLOSS development: A model and propositions. In *Proc. of AIS Sponsored Theory Development Workshop at ICIS 2004*.
- Crowston, K., Annabi, H., Howison, J., and Masango, C. (2004b). Effective work practices for FLOSS development: A model and propositions. In *Proc. of Workshop on Interdisciplinary Software Engineering Research (WISER) at ACM SIGSOFT 2004*.
- Crowston, K., Annabi, H., Howison, J., and Masango, C. (2004c). Towards a portfolio of FLOSS project success measures. In *Proc. of the Open Source Workshop of the International Conference on Software Engineering (ICSE 2004)*.
- Howison, J. and Crowston, K. (2004a). The perils and pitfalls of mining sourceforge. In *Proc. of Workshop on Mining Software Repositories at the International Conference on Software Engineering ICSE*.
- Howison, J. and Crowston, K. (2004b). Studying free software with free software and free methods. In *1st Australian Open Source Development Conference*.
- Crowston, K. and Howison, J. (2003). The social structure of open source software development teams. In *OASIS 2003 Workshop (IFIP 8.2 WG)*.
- Howison, J. (2003). The role of reputation in virtual markets for wireless grids. In *Position papers of The NSF Interdisciplinary Symposium on Reputation Mechanisms in Online Communities*, MIT, Cambridge, MA, USA.

Teaching

- Guest Lecture on "Interacting with Open Source Projects" at CMU and Maryland's iSchool.
- Master's Capstone class (cost-modeling) in Fall 2006. Prepared and taught online.
- Workshop on Web mining with Perl. 15 students, 4 classes over 2 weeks. Prepared and taught.
- Taught three invited lectures within introductory Information Management course
- Taught English to 2 sections of 40 engineering students at Changmai University, Thailand

Invited Presentations

- Presented Tutorial on Open Source and Business at O'Reilly Open Source Conference, July 2006.
- Presented Tutorial on Open Source communities at LinuxAsia, January 2006 (paid)
- Presenter/Participant at 2005 O'Reilly FOOCamp (Invite only event)
- Presenter at 2001 O'Reilly Peer to peer Conference (Napster Fabbing)

Employment

2001–2002 Consultant, Control Risks Group, Sydney, Australia

Control Risks is a London-based global business risk consultancy specializing in Political & Security Risks, Crisis Management, Investigations and IT Security. In addition to consulting in the general practice I had responsibility for Online Political risk product in Australia and the Pacific.

2000 Project Officer, PECC/TIFF, Los Angeles, USA

Project Officer, Pacific Economic Cooperation Council's Telecommunications and Information Industries Forum (PECC/TIIF) a Pacific Rim region non-profit trade and development promotion council. Gained skills in managing work requirements in an internationally distributed workplace, developed knowledge of information industries in the region. Responsibilities include coordinating IT Skills & Training alliance, PECC delegation to APEC Ministerial Meeting, research and drafting for presentations at intergovernmental and industry meetings. External Expert reviewer for a UNCTAD/WTO paper titled Electronic Commerce in Developing Countries' Frequently Asked Questions.

1999 Oct–Dec, Research, Asian Forum on Human Rights and Development, Bangkok, Thailand

Coordinated logistics for a conference on human rights campaigning for internally displaced peoples. Produced report for UN meeting including analysis, case studies and campaigning strategies.

1999 Mar–Oct, Editor and Assessor for DEP, Chiangmai, Thailand

Editor and Assessor for Distance Education Program, an independent NGO providing distance education to Burmese refugees. Teacher at Chiangmai University (Thailand), including writing courses. Presented a seminar in Public Speaking at the University in July 1999. Two of my students won the national public speaking competition and a trip to Australia to compete.

1996–1998 Consultant KPMG Management Consulting, Sydney, Australia

Secretary for the Management Consulting Business Development Working Group. Worked closely with the Chairperson to organize and coordinate meetings and provide research support. Researched and wrote reports for national management consulting committee. Reports included critique of KPMG's international electronic networking arrangements.

Skills :

- Programming in Ruby (on Rails), Perl, Java, C/C++, exceptional general computing skills, including Linux.
- Film & Theatrical lead roles, Direction and editing of numerous short films.

Organizational Memberships:

Academy of Management (OCIS division), Association for Information Systems (AIS), Electronic Freedom Foundation (EFF), Free Software Foundation (FSF).

Interests and Sports:

Free and Open Source Software: Developer on Bibdesk, a free software reference manager

Sports: Skiing (represented University of Sydney), Sailing: Australian champs in Etchells and Sydney 38⁺, over 1500 mile offshore race experience, Squash: Secretary of Syracuse University squash club, Golf.