

PANEL DESCRIPTION

## FROM PARTICIPATORY DESIGN TO DEMOCRACY: SOCIAL CHANGE AS BOTH CAUSE AND EFFECT

Participatory design has larger significance than the creation of better information systems. The way we build information systems--in fact, almost all systems--impacts both the system and the environment in which it operates. This panel will explore the democratic implications of participatory technology design to both private and public sector organizations, from the perspective that at the core of participatory design are values and visions that can help rejuvenate our decision-making processes and government institutions.

Just as participatory concepts can contribute to a progressive and humanistic social agenda in our workplaces and society, the success of larger democratic movements in our society will significantly impact the spread of meaningful participatory design methodologies in the field of system development.

This interactive situation places participatory design in the middle of wide-ranging current debates on how to solve the United State's current economic and political crises. From R&D policy to factory floor procedures, from economic development strategies to union-management relationships, the panel will examine the way participatory design is part of a much larger unfolding of events.

Participants:

Steven E. Miller, Executive Office of Administration and Finance, State of Massachusetts, Rm. 1601, One Ashburton Place, Boston, MA., USA 02108. Tel. +1-617-973-0936. (National Board Member of CPSR)

Patricia Sachs, Visiting Professor, Expert systems Lab., NYNex Science and Technology, White Plains, NY, USA 10604. Tel. +1-914-644-2478

Leslie Schneider, Director, TECnet, Anderson Hall, Tufts University, Medford, MA., USA. Tel. +1-617-627-3818

Richard Sclove, Executive Director, Loka Institute, P.O. Box 355, Amherst, MA., USA 01004. Tel. +1-413-253-2828.

Langdon Winner, Professor, Dept. of Science and Technology, Renssalaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY, USA 12180. Tel. +1-518-276-8498

In *PDC'92: Proceedings of the Participatory Design Conference*. M.J. Muller, S. Kuhn, and J.A. Meskill (Eds.). Cambridge MA US, 6-7 November 1992. Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility, P.O. Box 717, Palo Alto CA 94302-0717 US, [cpsr@csli.stanford.edu](mailto:cpsr@csli.stanford.edu).