

CURRICULUM VITÆ
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EDUCATION

- **Massachusetts Institute of Technology**
6/96 - 3/00
Ph.D. Degree - Media Laboratory
 - Research Assistant, Software Agents and Machine Understanding Groups.
 - Primary research activities: social agents, information agents, text analysis, evolution in natural language, language change, analysis of Internet communities, technologies for social and economic development.
 - Thesis advisor: Prof. Pattie Maes. Thesis title: Microevolutionary Language Theory
- **Massachusetts Institute of Technology**
9/94 - 6/96
Master of Science Degree - Media Laboratory
 - Thesis title: An Ecology of the Net: Message Morphology and Evolution in NetNews
 - Cumulative GPA: 4.0/4.0
- **University of California, Los Angeles**
10/84 - 6/89
Bachelor of Science Degree - Computer Science and Engineering
Course work includes: Software Engineering, Programming Languages, Data Structures, Operating Systems, Computer System Architecture, On-Line Systems, Computational Theory, Artificial Intelligence, Natural Language Processing.

WORK EXPERIENCE

- **Assistant Professor, the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs,
Adjunct Assistant Professor, College of Computing,
Georgia Institute of Technology**
9/03 - Present
 - Researching the Internet and Internet enabled services in Africa and South Asia.
 - Teaching graduate seminar in Computers, Communications, and International Development and undergraduate course in Science, Technology, and International Affairs.
 - Appointed as Nunn Security Mid-Career Fellow and researching the intersections between international development and security.
 - Principal Investigator on over \$400,000 of sponsored research.

- **Fellow, Berkman Center for Internet & Society, Harvard Law School**
6/03 - Present
Conduct policy, strategy, and technical research in information and communication technologies for social and economic development. Co-teaching course in Digital Democracy.
- **Research Affiliate, MIT Center for Technology, Policy, and Industrial Development and Program on Internet and Telecoms Convergence**
1/03 – 6/06
Principal Investigator of MIT African Internet Technologies Initiative. Supervision of students in the Technology and Policy Program.
- **Research Scientist, MIT Media Laboratory**
3/00 - 1/03
 - A research faculty position.
 - Responsibilities include advising students, teaching classes, developing and sustaining sponsor relationships, and conducting original research.
 - Primary research in technologies and policies for international social and economic development, in particular Internet and Internet-enabled systems. Ongoing research in microevolutionary models of human natural language.
- **Director, Media Lab Asia**
9/01 - 9/02
 - Research work exploring new communication and system software technologies, wireless networks, e-commerce environments, and new business models and policy work on rural Internet.
 - Considerable start-up responsibilities including developing institutional relationships, fund raising, and strategic planning.
 - Principal Investigator on US\$2 million per annum worth of research activity. Considerable work in hiring and managing research teams.
- **Visiting Research Fellow, Center for International Development, Harvard University**
1/00 - 6/02
Conduct policy, strategy, and technical research in information and communication technologies for social and economic development.
- **Research Engineer, Open Software Foundation Research Institute**
9/96 - 9/97
Architect and implement kernel PC sampling for new object oriented micro-kernel operating system.
- **Software Engineer, Thinking Machines Corporation**
6/92 - 6/94
 - Chief architect of node-based IO and Unix services for the CM-5 supercomputer message passing library. Considerable work on optimal routes for co-operative I/O operations.
 - Architecture and simulation of future filesystem, I/O, and network designs.
 - Research on parallel I/O workloads.
 - Port of large commercial relational database and development of distributed lock manager.
- **Applications Engineer, Thinking Machines Corporation**
8/89 - 6/92
 - Development within compiler group of C* communication runtime library.
 - Principal support engineer for C*, Connection Machine data parallel C language.

- **Principal Programmer, Office of Computer and Communication Resources,
The California State University**
6/86 - 9/87
Design and implement a major communications package on DOS based platform; system responsible for administration, reporting, and security of digital port selectors at all campuses of the California State University.
- **Congressional Intern, US House of Representatives**
Summer 1984
Primary responsibilities were constituent letters, casework, and legislative research.

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- **Co-Founder and EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**
Information Technologies and International Development
Published by the MIT Press
- **ICT Consultant**
The World Bank, United Nations, USAID, and ITU
Consultant on national ICT policies, rural connectivity, energy systems, and other issues.
- **Faculty Council**
MIT Program on Human Rights and Justice
- **Steering Committee**
Digital Opportunities Task Force Non-profit Organizations (DOT Force NPO)
- **Executive Committee**
Microsoft Community Technology Learning Center Advisory Council
- **Program Committee Member and Conference Co-Chair**
Member of the Program Committee for a number of international conferences. Conference Chair for programs in Cambridge, MA, India, and Ghana.
- **External Reviewer**
External reviewer for a number of journals including *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London*.
- **Visiting Scholar**
European Media Laboratory, Heidelberg Germany
6/97 - 12/97
- **Summer Student**
Santa Fe Institute, Complex Systems Summer School, 1995

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- M. L. Best & K. Wade. The Internet and Democracy: Global catalyst or democratic dud? *Globalizations*, In Review.
- M. L. Best & S. Maier. Gender and ICT Use in Rural South India. *Gender Technology and Development*, In Review.
- R. Kumar & M.L. Best. Social Impact and Diffusion of Telecenter Use: A Study from the Sustainable Access in Rural India Project. *Community Informatics*. In Review.
- M.L. Best & K. Wade. Democratic and Anti-Democratic Regulators of the Internet: A Framework. *The Information Society*. In Review.
- R. Kumar & M. L. Best. Impact and Sustainability of E-Government Services in Developing Countries: Lessons Learned from Tamil Nadu, India. *The Information Society*, 22(1), 2006.
- M. L. Best. Kali, Creator and Destroyer: A Personal Recollection on Media Lab Asia. *Information for Development*, 4(1), 2006.
- M. L. Best. Adaptive Value within Natural Language Discourse. *Interaction Studies*, 7(1), 2006.

- M. L. Best. A Personal Recollection on Media Lab Asia. *Journal of Development Communication*, 16(1), 51-57, 2005.
- V. Maugis, N. Choucri, S.E. Madnick, M.D. Siegel, S.E. Gillett, M.L. Best, et al. Global e-readiness - for what? Readiness for e-banking. *Journal of Information Technology for Development*, 11(4), 313-342, 2005.
- I. Neto, M. L. Best & S. E. Gillet. License-Exempt Wireless Policy: Results of an African Survey. *Information Technologies and International Development*, 2(3), 73-90, 2005.
- M.L Best. Can the Internet be a Human Right? *Human Rights & Human Welfare*, 4(1), 2004.
- M.A. Escobedo & M.L. Best. Convivo Communicator: An interface-adaptive VoIP system for poor quality networks. *Journal of Information, Communication & Ethics in Society*, 1(3), 2003.
- E.J. Wilson III & M.L. Best. China Versus India: Contrasting Strategies, What Consequences? *Information Technologies and International Development*, 1(1), 2003.
- M.L. Best. Whither Wireless Networks for Rural Development. *Rural Development Dialogue*, 23(4), 2002.
- H. Shakeel, B. Miller, S. Weber & M.L Best. Comparing Urban and Rural Telecenters Costs. *Electronic Journal on Information Systems in Developing Countries*, 4, 2001.
- M.L. Best. Towards Computational Memetics. *Journal of Memetics*, 4(2), 2001.
- M.L. Best. How culture can guide evolution: An inquiry into gene/meme enhancement and opposition. *Journal of Adaptive Behavior*, 7(3), 281-298, 1999.
- M.L. Best & R. Pocklington. Meaning as use: Transmission fidelity and evolution in NetNews. *Journal of Theoretical Biology*, 196(3), 389-395, 1999.
- M.L. Best. Memes on memes: A critique of memetic models. *Journal of Memetics*, 2(1), 1998.
- M.L. Best. Corporal ecologies and population fitness on the net. *Journal of Artificial Life*, 3(4), 1998.
- M.L. Best. Models for interacting populations of memes. *Journal of Memetics*, 1(2), 1997.
- R. Pocklington & M.L. Best. Cultural evolution and units of selection in replicating text. *Journal of Theoretical Biology*, 188(1), 1997.
- N. Nieuwejaar, D. Kotz, A. Purakayastha, C.S. Ellis & M.L. Best. File-access characteristics of parallel scientific workloads. *IEEE Transactions on Parallel and Distributed Processing*, 7(10), 1996.

BOOK & BOOK CHAPTERS

- M. L. Best (Ed.). *Last Mile Initiative Innovations: Research Findings from the Georgia Institute of Technology*. 2006.
- M.L. Best & B. Pehrson. The Broadband Era Arrives. *Trends in Telecommunication Reform 2006*. International Telecommunication Union. 2006.
- M.L. Best & B. Pehrson. Understanding Broadband Technologies. *Trends in Telecommunication Reform 2006*. International Telecommunication Union. 2006.
- M.L. Best. The Wireless Revolution and Universal Access. *Trends in Telecommunication Reform 2003*. International Telecommunication Union. 2003.
- M.L. Best & C.M. Maclay. Community Internet Access in Rural Areas: Solving the Economic Sustainability Puzzle. *The Global Information Technology Report 2001-2002: Readiness for the Networked World*. Oxford University Press. 2002.

POPULAR PRESS & EDITORIALS

- M. L. Best & E.J. Wilson, III. Information Will Be Free. *Information Technologies and International Development*, 3(1), 2006.
- E. J. Wilson, III, M. L. Best & D. Kleine. Open Access Publishing and the Creative Community. *Information Technologies and International Development*, 2(4), iii - iv, 2005.
- E.J. Wilson, III, M.L. Best & D. Kleine. Moving Beyond "The Real Digital Divide". *Information Technologies and International Development*, 2(3), iii-v, 2005.
- E. J. Wilson, III & M. L. Best. Creating Necessary Knowledge. *Information Technologies and International Development*, 2(2), iii-v, 2004.
- M.L Best & E.J. Wilson III. Can IT Start-Ups Slay Telecommunication Incumbents? Stories of David Versus Goliath. *Information Technologies and International Development*, 2(1), 2004.
- M. L. Best, E. J. Wilson, III & C. Maclay. The World Summit in Reflection: A Deliberative Dialogue on the WSIS. *Information Technologies and International Development*, 1(3-4), 1-3, 2004.
- E. J. Wilson, III & M. L. Best. Looking Back, Moving Forward. *Information Technologies and International Development*, 1(3-4), v - vii, 2004.
- E.J. Wilson III & M.L. Best. What Can We Expect from the World Summit? *Information Technologies and International Development*, 1(2), 2003.
- M.L. Best & E.J. Wilson III. A Growing Community of Interest. *Information Technologies and International Development*, 1(1), 2003.
- M.L. Best, A. Jhunjunwala & C.M. Maclay, Link up rural India. *The Economic Times*, April 4, 2001.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PAPERS

- M.L. Best. A Global Survey of Spectrum License Exemptions. Paper presented at the *The 34th Research Conference on Communication, Information and Internet Policy (TPRC)*. To Appear.
- I Neto, M.L. Best & S.E. Gillet. Wireless Networks for the Developing World: The Regulation and Use of License Exempt Radio Bands in Africa. Paper presented at *The 32nd Research Conference on Communication, Information and Internet Policy (TPRC)*, 2004.
- I. Neto, M. L. Best & S. E. Gillet. License-Exempt Wireless Policy: Results of an African Survey. Paper presented at *15th Biennial Conference of the International Telecommunications Society (ITS)*, Berlin, Germany, 2004.
- M. Sin, M. Escobedo & M.L. Best. A Directory Service for Multi-literate Users. Paper presented at *IEEE International Conference on Multimedia*, 2004.
- M.L. Best, A. Jhunjunwala, C. Maclay & J. Sinha. Sustainable Access in Rural India: Preliminary results and early successes. In *e-Sri Lanka from Vision to Reality: Proceedings of the 22nd National Information Technology Conference*, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 2003.
- H. Shakeel & M.L. Best. Community Knowledge Sharing: An Internet application to support communications across literacy levels. In J.R. Herkert (Ed.), *Social Implications of Information and Communication Technology* (pp. 37-44). New York, NY: IEEE Press. 2002.

M.L. Best, L. Burnes, M. Escobedo & H. Shakeel. Village Area Network, Bohechio. In S. Krishna & S. Madon (Eds.), *Proceedings of the Seventh International Working Conference of IFIP WG 9.4* (p. 211-220). Bangalore, India. 2002.

M.L. Best. Coevolving mutualists guide simulated evolution. In M.A. Bedau, J.S. McCaskill, N.H. Packard & S. Rasmussen (Eds.), *Artificial Life VII: Proceedings of the Seventh International Conference*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. 2000.

M.U. Bers & M.L. Best. Rural connected communities: A project in online collaborative journalism. In C Hoadley & J. Roschelle (Eds.), *Computer Support for Collaborative Learning (CSCL'99)* (pp. 41-47). 1999.

M.L. Best. Coevolving mutualists guide simulated evolution. In W. Banzhaf, J. Daida, A.E. Eiben, M.H. Garzon, V. Honavar, M. Jakiela & R.E. Smith (Eds.) *Proceedings of the Genetic and Evolutionary Computation Conference* (p. 941). San Francisco, CA: Morgan Kaufmann Publishers. 1999.

M.L. Best. Memes and genetic opposition. In *Proceedings of the 15th International Congress on Cybernetics (Association Internat. de Cybernetique, Namur)*, 1998.

M.L. Best. Models for interacting populations of memes: Competition and niche behavior. In *Proceedings of the Fourth European Conference on Artificial Life*, 1997.

M. L. Best. CHARISMA: A smart look at parallel file access patterns. In *Proceedings of the Fifth Annual MIT Student Workshop on Scalable Computing*, 1995.

A. Purakayastha, C. Ellis, D. Kotz, N. Nieuwejaar & M.L. Best. Characterizing parallel file-access patterns on a large-scale multiprocessor. In *Proceedings of the Ninth International Parallel Processing Symposium*, 1995.

M.L. Best, A. Greenberg, C. Stanfill & L.W. Tucker. CMMD I/O: A parallel Unix I/O. In *IEEE Seventh International Parallel Processing Symposium*, 1993.

SELECTED RECENT INVITED TALKS

M.L. Best. (September 21, 2006). *HCI4D*. Paper presented at College of Computing HCI MS Symposium, Georgia Tech, Atlanta GA.

M.L. Best. (September 13, 2006). *GATech Liberia ICT4D Project*. Paper presented at e-Liberia Vision Working Meeting, Georgia Tech, Atlanta GA.

M.L. Best. (October 18, 2006). *Design for Development: Rethinking Computers and the Internet for Africa and South Asia*. Paper presented at GVU Brown Bag, Georgia Tech, Atlanta GA.

M.L. Best. (November 18, 2006). *Harnessing ICT's: Cutting-Edge Perspectives*. Paper presented at Frontiers of Knowledge in Science and Technology for Africa University of Cape Town, South Africa.

M.L. Best. (May 31, 2006). *Rwanda: Towards a Knowledge-Based Economy*. Paper presented at Kigali Institute of Science and Technology, Kigali, Rwanda.

M.L. Best and E.J. Wilson, III. (May 25, 2006). *Open Access Publishing and ICTD*. Paper presented at International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development, University of California, Berkely.

M.L. Best. (May 16, 2006). *Computing in Developing Countries*. Paper presented at College of Computing Advisory Board Meeting, Georgia Tech, Atlanta GA.

M.L. Best. (May 3, 2006). *(Weak) Digital Institutions: Soybeans and Death Certificates in Rural India*. Paper presented at Berkmen Center for Internet and Society, Harvard University, Cambridge MA.

M.L. Best. (March 27, 2006). *ICT's and Economic Growth with Equity: A research agenda*. Paper presented at Sam Nunn Bank of America Policy Forum, Georgia Tech, Atlanta GA.

- M.L. Best. (March 13, 2006). *Technology Trends*. Paper presented at ITU Virtual Conference on New Technologies.
- M.L. Best. (April 4, 2006). *Memetics: An Analysis of Internet Conversations*. Paper presented at DARPA Memetics Workshop
- M. L. Best. (2005, November 17). *USAID's LMI @ WSIS: Challenges to Access*. Paper presented at World Summit on the Information Society, USAID parallel event, Tunis, Tunisia.
- M. L. Best. (2005, November 14). *Broadband Provisioning for Developing Countries*. Paper presented at Global Symposium for Regulators, Tunis, Tunisia.
- M. L. Best. (2005, November 4). *Internet / Democracy: And its Authoritarian Responses*. Paper presented at Modern Technology and Political Change, The Nixon Center,
- M. L. Best. (2005, October 8). *License-exempt Wireless Policies: Unleashing the Internet for Rural Development*. Paper presented at Wireless Communication and Development: A Global Perspective, USC Annenberg School.
- M. L. Best. (2005, August 16). *Revolutions in Rural Internet*. Paper presented at Conference on Rural Internetization, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic.
- M. L. Best. (2005, June 23). *ICT's and International Development: Village Information Centers and their National Context*. Paper presented at Kigali Institute of Science and Technology, Kigali, Rwanda.
- M. L. Best. (2005, June 20). *ICT for Rural Development*. Paper presented at Science & Technology Knowledge Forum, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- M. L. Best. (2005, June 2). *Internet and E-government*. Paper presented at USAID Mission Brown Bag, New Delhi, India.
- M. L. Best. (2005, May 12). *Internet, Freedom, and Democracy*. Paper presented at Cyber-Influence Project Conference Series, Mclean, VA.
- M. L. Best. (2005, March 22). *Internet, Freedom, and Democracy*. Paper presented at Berkman Center for Internet and Society, Harvard Law School,
- M. L. Best. (2005, March 4). *Kali, Creator and Destroyer: A Personal Recollection on Media Lab Asia*. Paper presented at Bridging the Digital Divides: Best Practices and False Perceptions, Oxford Internet Institute.
- M. L. Best. (2005, February 26). *Broadband Solutions*. Paper presented at Workshop on Telecommunications and Rural Access Policy, Abuja, Nigeria.
- M. L. Best & S. Maier. (2005, February 19). *Empowered Through the Internet? Gender, Caste and Computers in Rural South India*. Paper presented at Human Rights in Crisis, Georgia Tech.
- M. L. Best. (2005, February 2). *The Role of the Internet in Value Chain Re-Engineering: Soybeans and Death Certificates in Rural India*. Paper presented at Upgrading SMEs in Value Chains Conference, World Bank, Washington D.C.
- M. L. Best. (2005, January 10). *Internet and Democracy*. Paper presented at Higher Education, Information Technology and Sustainable Development: The central role of universities in building knowledge societies in Asia, Africa and Latin America, Manila, Philippines.
- M. L. Best. (2004, December 9). *Wither the Revolution? Wireless Networks for Cost Effective Broadband*. Paper presented at Global Symposium for Regulators, Geneva, Switzerland.
- M. L. Best. (2004, December 9). *Rural Internet in Action: Case Studies from the Dominican Republic and India*. Paper presented at Global Symposium for Regulators Press Conference, Geneva, Switzerland.
- M. L. Best. (2004, November 29). *Internet, Freedom, and Democracy*. Paper presented at Sam Nunn Security Program Seminar, Georgia Tech.
- M. L. Best. (2004, October 7). *ICT and Renewable Energy for Sustainable Development*. Paper presented at Climate Change Issues & Initiatives in the ICT Industry, Montebello, Quebec.

M. L. Best. (2004, October 3). *Sustainability and Rural Access*. Paper presented at Forum on Advancing Theory on National IT Policy, Cairo, Egypt.

M. L. Best. (2004, September 15). *Broadband Solutions*. Paper presented at ITU/USAID Workshop on Rural Access to Telecommunications for CIS and Baltic States, Almaty, Kazakhstan.

M. L. Best. (2004, September 13). *Overview of Policy and Regulatory Issues Promoting Rural Access*. Paper presented at ITU/USAID Workshop on Rural Access to Telecommunications for CIS and Baltic States, Almaty, Kazakhstan.

M. L. Best. (2004, August 26). *Community Access to Communications: 10 Questions – Provisional Answers*. Paper presented at International Seminar on ICT Policy Reform and Rural Communication Infrastructure, Tokyo, Japan.

M.L. Best (2004, June 25). *Revolutions in Rural Internet: Wireless Technologies, Policies, and Business Models*. Paper presented at the 3rd Annual Digital Bridge Africa Conference, Lagos, Nigeria.

PATENT

J.L. Frankel, M.L. Best, *et al.* *System for compiling parallel communications instructions including their embedded data transfer information*. United States Patent Number 5,335,491, 1994.