

Kurtis Heimerl

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Interests

My research builds community-based systems for rural areas, with a specific focus on networking.

Academic

University of Washington Assistant Professor Computer Networks and ICTD	2016
University of California, Berkeley Postdoctoral Researcher Advisors: Eric Brewer and Tapan Parikh	2014
University of California, Berkeley Doctor of Philosophy, Computer Science Thesis: <i>Community Cellular Networks</i> Advisors: Eric Brewer and Tapan Parikh	2013
University of California, Berkeley Master of Science, Computer Science Thesis: <i>Metamouse: Improving Sharing of Existing Educational Applications</i>	2009
University of Washington Bachelor of Science, Computer Engineering (Magna Cum Laude)	2007

Current Research

Community Cellular Networks

Investigating small-scale, locally owned cellular networks. Developed extensions to OpenBTS and OpenAirInterface to enable more local content in network. Conducted longitudinal deployment of both technologies in rural Papua, Indonesia and Aurora, Philippines. Demonstrated sustainability of locally-owned cellular in Papuan context, as well as value to local community. Study and deployments ongoing.

Digital Financial Services

As part of a grant from the Gates foundation, we have begun a number of studies focused on improving access to financial services among the underbanked. My focus has been on the security and efficacy of Internet-like services such as the Interledger Protocol.

Ecological Sustainability

Ongoing research into the use of community sensing devices for resilience in Arctic communities.

Awards

UW College of Engineering "Early Career" Diamond Award	2018
MIT Technology Review "35 under 35"	2014
ISIF Asia Community Network Award	2018
Community Award at NSDI 2019: Scaling Community Cellular Networks with CommunityCellularManager	2019
Best Paper at DySPAN 2014: GSM Whitespaces: An Opportunity for Rural Cellular Service	2014
Community Award at NSDI 2013: Expanding Rural Cellular Networks with Virtual Coverage	2013
Best Paper at CHI 2012: Communitysourcing: Engaging Local Crowds to Perform Expert Work Via Physical Kiosks	2012
NSF Graduate Research Fellowship	2008
Bob Bandes Memorial Teaching Award (Honorable Mention)	2005

Selected Press

Building a “cell tower in a box” to connect some of the billions of people lacking internet access	2018
GeekWire	
Facebook Hires Founders Of Cellular-Network-In-A-Box Company Endaga	2015
Tech Crunch	
Kurtis Heimerl: 35 Innovators under 35	2014
MIT Technology Review	
New Eavesdropping Equipment Sucks All Data Off Your Phone	2014
Newsweek	
Cellular’s Open Source Future is Latched to Tallest Tree in the Village	2014
Ars Technica	
Powered by the Sun, Telcos Open up Cellphone’s Final Frontier	2012
Reuters	

Industry Experience

Facebook	Menlo Park, CA 2015-2017
Endaga team and IP joined Facebook to continue their rural access initiatives.	
Endaga, Inc	Oakland, CA 2014-2015
Founder/CEO, focused on developing simple cellular networks that can be operated by anyone. Raised 1.2M seed round from investors such as Mitch Kapor, Jeff Hammerbacher, and Sanjit Biswas. Joined Facebook August 2015.	
Range Networks	San Francisco, CA 2011-2014
Community Manager/Developer for open-source OpenBTS release.	
Microsoft Research India	Bangalore, India 2007
Intern assisting with SMS and voice technologies for the Digital Study Hall distance learning project.	
Google.com	Mountain View, CA 2007
Intern developing additions to the Hadoop map-reduce framework.	
Amazon.com	Seattle, WA 2005,2006
Intern creating scalable, secure, and extensible service-oriented architecture components.	

Peer-reviewed Conference or Journal Publications

An Assessment of SMS Fraud in Pakistan	
Fahad Pervaiz, Rai Shah Nawaz, Muhammad Umer Ramzan, Maryem Zafar Usmani, Shrirang Mare, Kurtis Heimerl , Faisal Kamiran, Richard Anderson, Lubna Razaq. <i>The Second ACM Conference on Computing & Sustainable Societies (ACM COMPASS)</i> 2019	
Scaling Community Cellular Networks with CommunityCellularManager	
Shaddi Hasan, Mary Claire Barela, Matthew Johnson, Eric Brewer, Kurtis Heimerl . <i>16th USENIX Symposium on Networked Systems Design and Implementation (NSDI)</i> 2019 (Community Award)	
Fresh Insights: User Research Towards a Market Information Service for Bihari Vegetable Farmers	
Matthew Ziegler, Lokesh Garg, Shailesh Tiwary, Aditya Vashistha, Kurtis Heimerl . <i>Tenth International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development (ICTD '19)</i> 2019	
Designing Sustainable Rural Infrastructure Through the Lens of OpenCellular	
Kashif Ali, Kurtis Heimerl . <i>Communications of the ACM</i> , August 2018	
ThinSIM-based Attacks on Mobile Money Systems	
Rowan Phipps, Shrirang Mare, Peter Ney, Jennifer Rose Webster, Kurtis Heimerl . <i>First ACM conference on Computing & Sustainable Societies (COMPASS)</i> 2018	
Crowdsourcing Rural Network Maintenance and Repair via Network Messaging	
Esther Jang, Mary Claire Barela, Matt Johnson, Philip Martinez, Cedric Festin, Maragaret Lynn, Josephine Dionisio, Kurtis Heimerl . <i>ACM SIGCHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI)</i> 2018	
An Investigation of Phone Upgrades in Remote Community Cellular Networks	
Kushal Shah, Philip Martinez, Emre Tepedelenlioglu, Shaddi Hasan, Cedric Angelo Festin, Joshua Blumenstock, Jo Dionisio, Kurtis Heimerl . <i>International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development (ICTD)</i> 2017	
Towards Building a Community Cellular Network in the Philippines: Initial Site Survey Observations	
Mary Claire Barela, Mae Sincere Blanco, Philip Martinez, Miguel Carlo Purisima, Kurtis Heimerl , Matthew Podolsky, Eric Brewer, Cedric Angelo Festin. <i>International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development (ICTD)</i> 2016	

A Longitudinal Study of Local, Sustainable, Small-Scale Cellular Networks

Kurtis Heimerl, Shaddi Hasan, Kashif Ali, Eric Brewer, Tapan Parikh. *Information Technologies & International Development (ITID)* 2015

Analysis of Smartphone Adoption and Usage in a Rural Community Cellular Network

Kurtis Heimerl, Anuvind Menon, Shaddi Hasan, Kashif Ali, Eric Brewer, Tapan Parikh. *International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development (ICTD)* 2015

Rescue Base Station

Ibrahim Ghaznavi, **Kurtis Heimerl**, Umar Muneer, Abdullah Hamid, Kashif Ali, Tapan Parikh, Umar Saif. *5th Annual ACM Symposium on Computing for Development (DEV)* 2014

GSM Whitespaces: An Opportunity for Rural Cellular Service

Shaddi Hasan, **Kurtis Heimerl**, Kate Harrison, Kashif Ali, Anant Sahai, Eric Brewer. *IEEE Dynamic Spectrum Access Networks (DySPAN)* 2014 (**Best Paper Award**)

An Experiment in Reducing Cellular Base Station Power Draw With Virtual Coverage

Kurtis Heimerl, Shaddi Hasan, Kashif Ali, Tapan Parikh, Eric Brewer. *4th Annual ACM Symposium on Computing for Development (DEV)* 2013

Local, Sustainable, Small-Scale Cellular Networks

Kurtis Heimerl, Shaddi Hasan, Kashif Ali, Eric Brewer, Tapan Parikh. *International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development (ICTD)* 2013

Expanding Rural Cellular Networks with Virtual Coverage

Kurtis Heimerl, Kashif Ali, Joshua Blumenstock, Brian Gawalt, Eric Brewer. *10th USENIX symposium on Networked Systems Design and Implementation (NSDI)* 2013 (**Community Award**)

Convergence of Position Auctions under Myopic Best-Response Dynamics

Matthew Cary, Aparna Das, Benjamin Edelman, Ioannis Goitis, **Kurtis Heimerl**, Anna Karlin, Scott Kominers, Claire Mathieu, Michael Schwarz. *Transactions on Economics and Computation (TEAC)* 2013

Communitysourcing: Engaging Local Crowds to Perform Expert Work Via Physical Kiosks

Kurtis Heimerl, Brian Gawalt, Kuang Chen, Tapan Parikh, Björn Hartmann. *Annual conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI)* 2012 (**Best Paper Award**)

A Case Study on Designing Interfaces for Multiple Users in Developing Regions

Kurtis Heimerl, Janani Vasudev, Kelly Buchanan, Tapan Parikh, Eric Brewer. *1st Annual ACM Symposium on Computing for Development (DEV)* 2010

Metamouse: Improving Multi-user Sharing of Existing Educational Applications

Kurtis Heimerl, Janani Vasudev, Kelly Buchanan, Tapan Parikh, Eric Brewer. *International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development (ICTD)* 2010

Greedy Bidding Strategies for Keyword Auctions

Matthew Cary, Aparna Das, Benjamin Edelman, Ioannis Giotis, **Kurtis Heimerl**, Anna Karlin, Claire Mathieu and Michael Schwarz. *ACM Conference on Electronic Commerce (EC)* 2007

Book Chapters

Connecting Communities through Mobile Networks: The VBTS-CoCoMoNets Project

Mary Claire Barela, Josephine Dionisio, **Kurtis Heimerl**, Manuel Victor Sapitula, and Cedric Angelo Festin. *Global Information Society Watch 2018: Community Networks* 2018

Building Community LTE Networks with CoLTE

Spencer Sevilla, Pathirat Kosakanchit, Matthew Johnson, **Kurtis Heimerl**. *The community network manual : how to build the Internet yourself* 2018

Workshop Papers

dLTE: Building a more WiFi-like Cellular Network (Instead of the Other Way Around)

Matthew Johnson, Spencer Sevilla, Esther Jang, **Kurtis Heimerl**. *HotNets 2018: Seventeenth ACM Workshop on Hot Topics in Networks* 2018

Unplanned Obsolescence: Hardware and Software After Collapse

Esther Jang, Matt Johnson, Edward Burnell, **Kurtis Heimerl**. *Proceedings of the 2017 Workshop on Computing Within Limits* 2017

The Village Base Station

Kurtis Heimerl, Eric Brewer. *4rd ACM Workshop on Networked Systems for the Developing World (NSDR)*, 2010

Message Phone: A User Study and Analysis of Asynchronous Messaging in Rural Uganda

Kurtis Heimerl, RJ Honicky, Eric Brewer, Tapan Parikh. *3rd ACM Workshop on Networked Systems for the Developing World (NSDR)*, 2009

Metamouse: Multiple Mice for Legacy Applications

Kurtis Heimerl, Divya Ramachandran, Joyojeet Pal, Eric Brewer, Tapan Parikh. *Proceedings of the 27th international conference extended abstracts on Human factors in computing systems (CHI Extended Abstracts)* 2009

Demonstrations

Poster and Demonstration of Expanding Rural Cellular Networks with Virtual Coverage

Kurtis Heimerl, Kashif Ali, Joshua Blumenstock, Brian Gawalt, Eric Brewer. *Demo at 10th USENIX symposium on Networked Systems Design and Implementation (NSDI)* 2013

Communitysourcing: Engaging Local Crowds to Perform Expert Work Via Physical Kiosks

Kurtis Heimerl, Brian Gawalt, Kuang Chen, Tapan Parikh, Björn Hartmann. *Interactivity at the annual conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI)* 2012

Metamouse: Multiple Mice for Legacy Applications

Kurtis Heimerl, Divya Ramachandran, Joyojeet Pal, Eric Brewer, Tapan Parikh. *Demo at International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development (ICTD)* 2009

Technical Reports

How Users Understand Cellular Infrastructure

Kurtis Heimerl, Tapan Parikh. *University of California, Berkeley Technical Report No. UCB/EECS-2012-42*

Transforming Community-based Healthcare with CommScape

Kuang Chen, **Kurtis Heimerl**, Tapan Parikh, Christine Robson and Beth Trushkowsky. *University of California, Berkeley Technical Report No. UCB/EECS-2009-155*

Enabling Innovation Below the Communication API

Ganesh Ananthanarayanan, **Kurtis Heimerl**, Matei Zaharia, Michael Demmer, Teemu Koponen, Arsalan Tavakoli, Scott Shenker, Ion Stoica. *University of California, Berkeley Technical Report UCB/EECS-2009-141*

Teaching Experience

University of Washington

Seattle, WA 2017, 2018

Lead instructor of CSE461 Computer Networks. Led classes of over eighty students and developed new course content.

University of Washington

Seattle, WA 2016, 2017

Lead instructor of CSE590 and CSEP 590 Information Communication Technologies and Development (ICTD). Created the courses, including the syllabus and grading content.

University of California, Berkeley

Berkeley, CA, 2013

Summer Undergraduate Program in Engineering Research at Berkeley (SUPERB) Mentor for Cristine Dierk working on communitysourcing and Mark Watt working on cellular security

University of California, Berkeley

Berkeley, CA 2012

Lead Instructor of undergraduate class CS-194-22: Cellphones as a computing platform

University of California, Berkeley

Berkeley, CA, 2011

Summer Undergraduate Program in Engineering Research at Berkeley (SUPERB) Mentor for Kehontas Rowe from Mills College working on communitysourcing.

University of California, Berkeley

Berkeley, CA 2010

Graduate Student Instructor of graduate class CS-294-35: Cellphones as a computing platform under Professor Eric Brewer.

University of Washington

Seattle, WA 2006-2007

Teacher's assistant for operating systems courses under Professor Ed Lazowska

University of Washington

Seattle, WA 2005

Teacher's assistant for introductory computer programming courses under Professor Hal Perkins and Lecturer Stuart Reges.

Academic Service

Demos Chair: ACM ICTD 2019

Notes Chair: ACM COMPASS 2018

Program Committee: ACM CHI 2020

Program Committee: ACM COMPASS 2018,2019

Program Committee: ICTD 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017,2019

Program Committee: ACM DEV 2014, 5

Program Committee: HotMobile 2015

Program Committee: CHI Work-in-Progress 2013, 2014

Reviewer: CHI 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019

Reviewer: CHI Late Breaking Work 2018

Reviewer: IMWUT 2017,2019

Reviewer: UIST 2014

Reviewer: UIST Demos 2012

Reviewer: ITID 2011

Selected Presentations

Technologies for Decentralized Urban Community Cellular Networks

IETF Global Alliance For Internet For All (GALA) Working Group, July 2019, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Community Networking @ UW

ISAT SNAP DARPA Workshop, April 2019, Berkeley, California, USA

Expanding Cellular Coverage with Community Networks

Catholic Relief Services Webinar, September 2017, Online

Community Cellular Networks

Asia Institute of Technology Networking Seminar, July 2017, Bangkok, Thailand

Community Cellular Networks

GSM Association Lunch, June 2017, London, UK

Community Cellular Manager

OpenCellular Workshop, June 2017, Nairobi, Kenya

Expanding Cellular Coverage with Community Networks

NYC Cellular Class, February 2017, New York, New York, USA

Community Cellular Manager

TIP Summit, November 2016, Menlo Park, California, USA

Community Cellular Networks: Infrastructure for Financial Inclusion

Evidence to Action, May 2016, San Francisco, California, USA

Community Cellular Networks

Liberation Technology Seminar, October 2015, Palo Alto, California, USA

Community Cellular Networks

Royal Holloway University Seminar, April 2015, Egham, UK

Community Cellular Networks

University of Indonesia Networks Seminar, March 2015, Jakarta, Indonesia

Community Cellular Networks

Rightscon Manila, March 2015, Manila, Philippines

Community Cellular

Indonesian Broadcasting Expo (IBX) October 2014, Bandung, Indonesia

Community Cellular

Jagongan Media Rakyat (JMR) October 2014, Jogjakarta, Indonesia

GSM White Spaces: An Opportunity for Rural Coverage

New York University, September 2014, NYC, NY

Community Cellular Networks

MIT D-Lab, September 2014, Boston, MA

Building Community Cellular Networks With Endaga

EmTech September 2014, Boston, MA

Building Community Cellular Networks With Endaga

USAID Frontiers in Development September 2014, Washington, DC

Technology and Infrastructure for Developing Regions

Facebook/Internet.org, July 2014, Palo Alto, CA

Community Cellular Networks in Rural Papua, Indonesia

Center for Southeast Asia Studies, February 2014, Berkeley, California

Building and Running Community Cellular Networks with OpenBTS

IEEE Engineering For Change Webinar, November 2013, Broadcast Online

Technology in Delivering Social Impact

Social Impact Speaker Series, University of California, Berkeley, November 2013, Berkeley, California, USA

Community Cellular Networks

Google, October 2013, Mountain View, CA, USA

Community Cellular Networks

Facebook, October 2013, Menlo Park, CA, USA

The Village Base Station: Community Cellular Radio

Pakistan-ICTD Workshop, Lahore University of Management Sciences, January 2013, Lahore, Pakistan

Mobile Security Survival Guide: What Every Activist and Rights Defender Needs to Know

Google Internet at Liberty, June 2012, Washington DC, USA

Communitysourcing: Engaging Local Crowds to Perform Expert Work Via Physical Kiosks

BiD Seminar, University of California, Berkeley, April 2012, Berkeley, California, USA

Introduction to OpenBTS/hands-on hacking

Lookout Mobile Security, March 2012, San Francisco, California, USA

The Evil Telco

OpenBTS HackDay - the Open Mobile Network, June 2011, New York, New York, USA

MetaMouse: Improving the Sharing of Existing Applications

CITRIS Talk, University of California, Berkeley, March 2010, Berkeley, California, USA

References

Eric Brewer

Professor, Computer Science, University of California, Berkeley

brewer@eecs.berkeley.edu

Tapan Parikh

Associate Professor, Cornell Tech

tapan@represent.org

Richard Anderson

Professor, Computer Science, University of Washington

anderson@cs.washington.edu

Bill Thies

Researcher, Microsoft Research India

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Last updated: August 7, 2019