

Prato CIRN Community Informatics Conference 2013 PhD Stream Abstract.

Rethinking Digital Inequalities: the experience of the marginalized in community technology centers

David Nemer,: Indiana University, United States of America

My dissertation research, Rethinking Digital Inequalities: the experience of the marginalized in community technology centers, critically investigates digital technology programs in marginalized areas and illuminates the complex relationship between digital and social inclusion. Based on critical ethnography of community technology centers (CTCs) in Brazil, the dissertation asks the following two questions: what is the experience of marginalized people in these centers? How do they inform the ways we think about what constitutes “empowerment” and “disempowerment” vis-à-vis technology? The dissertation aims to develop a framework for studying CTCs in marginalized areas which emphasizes the socio-cultural dynamics of technological practices and attempts to understand such dynamics and practices on the terms of the marginalized.