



The Media-TIC building in Barcelona

**Internet  
Interdisciplinary  
Institute (IN3)**

c/ Roc Boronat, 117  
08018 Barcelona  
<http://in3.uoc.edu/>  
Tel. + 34 93 450 52 00

## Network

Universitat  
Oberta de  
Catalunya



## Research

## Knowledge



# IN3

**What** The Internet Interdisciplinary Institute (IN3) is a research institute of the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC) specialized in the research of the network society and the knowledge economy, as well as in the study of network technologies and specific areas of software. The IN3 offers a fully accredited Doctoral Programme on the Information and Knowledge Society, established in 2000.

**When** The Institute was created in 1999. It is funded from a plurality of sources, including the Government of Catalonia, the Government of Spain, and various research programmes from the European Commission, as well as research contracts with different foundations and institutions.

**Where** It is located in the heart of Barcelona, in a new building in the 22@ Technology District, easily accessible by public transportation from anywhere in the Barcelona area. The Media-TIC building is an information and communication technology hub designed to incubate, generate, support, and diffuse new ideas, research and development in Information and Communication Technologies and their interface with society.

**Who** Currently, the Director of the Institute is Chair Professor Manuel Castells, and the Associate Director is Dr. Meritxell Roca. The Rector of the University, Chair Professor Imma Tubella oversees the Institute, with the advice of an independent Scientific Commission, presided by Professor Martin Carnoy, from Stanford University and integrated by 13 distinguished academics from the universities California-Berkeley, Massachussets Institute of Technology, Oxford, London School of Economics, Milano, New Mexico, Politècnica de Catalunya, Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona), and Autònoma de Barcelona.

**Why** The IN3 builds bridges between UOC faculty, IN3 researchers, doctoral students, visiting researchers and internationally renowned visiting professors and lecturers. It aims to contribute to a better understanding of the network society and its implications in everyday life as well as to cutting edge research on specific areas of software and network technologies. The Institute encourages an interdisciplinary perspective, and its members reflect this diversity with a variety of backgrounds and fields of interest.

## The Life of the Institute

The IN3 organizes seminars, workshops and public lectures. Informal interaction among researchers, visiting scholars and doctoral students is encouraged. The Institute provides meeting space, a documentation center, and a common room for spontaneous conversations. The IN3 distributes periodically an electronic newsletter informing about life in the Institute.

The Institute publishes the IN3 Working Paper Series, an online publication whose objective is to disseminate the results of research activity carried out by research groups and programmes, researchers and doctoral programme students.

The IN3 is part of the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC) a pioneering virtual university headquartered in Barcelona and present around the world. Created in 1994, the UOC is widely acknowledged as a global leader in excellence in Internet-based higher education.

Find out more at: <http://www.uoc.edu>

# IN3

## Research Activities

The IN3 encompasses different research lines, organized in research groups and programmes, Knowledge Communities and seminars of reflection and debate.

### Groups

- Distributed, Parallel and Collaborative Systems (DPCS)
- K-ryptography and Information Security for Open Networks (KISON)
- Computer-Aided Software Engineering (GRES-UOC)
- Education & Network Society (ENS)
- E-Governance: electronic administration and democracy (GADE)
- Privacy and IP Protection (INTERDRET)
- Psychology, Health & the Internet (PSINET)
- Observatory of the New Economy (ONE)
- Information & Communication Technologies Interdisciplinary Research Group (i2TIC)
- Communication & New Media
- Scene Understanding and Artificial Intelligence Lab (SUNAI)

### Programmes

- Gender & ICTs
- Migration and Network Society (MNS)
- Mobile Communication, Economy & Society
- Urban Transformation in the Knowledge Society
- Cognitive Neuroscience and Information Technology (CNIT)
- Digital Culture
- Conflictology Research and Studies Centre (CREC)

### Knowledge Communities

- HAROSA
- MigraNet

### Seminars of Reflection and Debate

- Communication and Civil Society
- Health Policies

## Doctoral Programme

The IN3 hosts and gives support to the UOC's Doctoral Programme in the Information and Knowledge Society, established in 2000. This was the first doctoral programme to be offered fully online and one of the leading programmes in that field of research.

The aim of this Doctoral Programme is to provide the students with the knowledge and skills required to understand the social and technological consequences of the use of information and communication technologies and to learn how to develop innovative research activity in this field, in a broad interdisciplinary perspective.

The Doctoral Programme is primarily conducted in English through two formats: one is a fully online version; the other one combines online seminars with a physical presence in the IN3 building, with students working full time on their education and research, fully funded with a three year grant. Each academic year, grant holders have the opportunity to work with IN3 research groups and programmes and to take advantage of the interaction with professors of the IN3 visiting programme.

The programme is structured in two stages: a period of prior training, including a Master's Degree in Information and Knowledge Society and an organised research period. The research period of the Doctoral Programme is provided in two different itineraries, which reinforce students' specialisation: Information and Knowledge society and Information and network and technologies. The entire programme includes methodological courses, thematic and research seminars and other training activities designed to improve students' skills and competences.

It ends with the research activity that leads to the production and defense of a Doctoral Thesis.

To sum up, the Doctoral Programme qualifies students to be able to:

- reach a systematic understanding of the uses and changes which come with IT in a specific field of social, humanities or technological studies.
- reach an interdisciplinary comprehension of the global changes which come with the current emergence of an information and knowledge society.
- obtain general knowledge and master a wide range of research methodologies (qualitative and quantitative).
- perform critical analyses and assess and summarise new and complex ideas.
- know how to present a field or research project with the originality, rigour, feasibility and scale required in academic spheres.
- know how to contribute with an original and substantial research to academic knowledge.
- know how to communicate the results of the scientific work to the academic community as a whole and society in general.
- keep in touch with international scientific networks and recognised experts and take part in scientific exchange communities.
- foster technological, social or cultural progress in an information and knowledge-based society within academic and professional contexts.
- stand out due to their skills in social innovation and the use of technology in their respective fields of specialisation.

## IN3 Visiting Programme

The Institute appoints every year a number of researchers and lectures under various programmes:

- Visiting Professors, invited by the Institute, who conduct seminars for doctoral students and researchers.
- Visiting Scholars, sponsored and hosted by the Institute but not funded.
- Resident Investigators, restricted to UOC regular faculty, who spend 12 months conducting their research at the Institute full time.
- Postdoctoral programme, investigators required to conduct research and studies in areas directly relevant to existing research projects. Postdoctoral investigators are expected to play an active part in the academic community of the Institute.

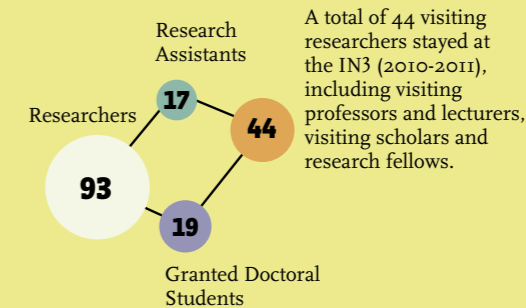
## IN3 Resources and Documentation Centre

The IN3 Resources and Documentation Centre specializes in the research field of information and network society. The book collection includes the latest scientific publications on digital culture, e-law, e-governance, web 2.0, e-Learning, e-marketing and digital divide among other topics. Through the Virtual Library, IN3's researchers have access to different information resources, scientific databases and e-journals, as well as e-books. The centre also offers support services to the researchers helping them to increase the quality and excellence of their work. Opening times: Monday to Thursday from 9am to 6pm, and Friday from 8am to 2pm.



## The IN3 in Figures

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### OUTSTANDING PROJECTS:

#### Projecte Internet Catalunya (PIC)

It is an interdisciplinary research programme (2001-2007) on the information society in Catalonia. Overall, 55,600 interviews were conducted, of which 15,000 face to face, and the rest by questionnaires over the Internet. Project Internet Catalonia, was co-directed by Chair Professors Manuel Castells and Imma Tubella. <http://www.uoc.edu/in3/pic/eng/>

#### HAROSA Knowledge Community

It is an international network of research groups whose main goal is to promote and develop collaborative e-research on new Hybrid Algorithms for solving Realistic Routing, Scheduling and system reliability/Availability problems. It is coordinated by the Distributed, Parallel and Collaborative Systems (DPCS) research group. <http://in3.uoc.edu/web/IN3/HAROSA>

#### Gender & ICTs Research Programme

The Gender and ICTs programme tackles the issue of why gender discrimination persists in the information society, with the aim of corroborating and explaining inequality as well as detecting trends and attitudes. The study focuses not only on online access and use but also the meagre presence of women in ICT-related studies and professions. The programme is directed by Chair Professor Cecilia Castaño. <http://in3.uoc.edu/web/IN3/gender-and-ict/>

*“IN3 is an exciting and rewarding place to teach, to do research, to be challenged and stimulated by exceptionally thoughtful students and colleagues from all over the world.”*

Marty Kaplan  
Norman Lear Center  
USC Annenberg School  
for Communication

*“The beautiful building with its light, high-technology offices and the thriving multi-disciplinary research community in Barcelona which gathers here - these things made it a wonderful place for me to visit, research and think about political life on the Internet.”*

Helen Margetts  
Oxford Internet Institute

*“The IN3 is one of the few worldwide hubs for research in Internet studies that combines the excellence of research with the fruitful debates and ongoing discussions that its visiting professor program sustain. Clearly IN3 is one of the places where the knowledge of social change brought by the widespread use of Internet is being built.”*

Gustavo Cardoso  
ISCTE, Lisbon University Institute