## **About the Contributors**

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**Kwasi Boateng** is a faculty member at the School of Mass Communication at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. His research focuses on new communication technologies, their everyday application, and cultural impact. He has authored and coauthored books, book chapters, peer-reviewed journal articles, and given research and technical presentations at various conferences. He organizes workshops for high and middle school students on Web design and open source tools for online communication.

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**Stacey L. Connaughton** (Ph.D. The University of Texas at Austin, 2002) is an Associate Professor and the Associate Head of School in the Brian Lamb School of Communication at Purdue University. Her research examines leadership and identification in geographically distributed contexts, particularly as these issues relate to virtual teams and political parties. Her research has been funded by the National Science Foundation, the Carnegie Foundation, the Russell Sage Foundation, and Purdue's Center for International Business Education and Research. Her research has appeared in *Small Group Research*, *Journal of Communication*, *Management Communication Quarterly*, *Communication Studies*, *Corporate Communication:* An International Journal, Knowledge Management Review, and has authored a book, *Inviting Latino Voters: Party Messages and Latino Party Identification*. Dr. Connaughton is the Director

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Madelyn Flammia is an Associate Professor of English at the University of Central Florida in Orlando, Florida. She teaches both graduate and undergraduate courses in Technical Communication. Dr. Flammia is the co-author of *Intercultural Communication: A New Approach to International Relations and Global Challenges* and the editor of the Society for Technical Communication anthology, *Perspectives on the Profession of Technical Communication*. She has published articles in *IEEE Transactions on Professional Communication*, *Technical Communication*, and the *Journal of Technical Writing and Communication* among others. Dr. Flammia has given presentations on intercultural communication and on global virtual teams at professional conferences and for corporate audiences.

Beth Gitlin, MBA, MA, is a Ph.D. candidate in Industrial Organizational Psychology with an international concentration at the Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne, Florida. She is currently the Director for the Women's Business Center at FIT in addition to being an affiliate of the Institute for Cross Cultural Management. She teaches courses in cross cultural management and business development as an adjunct professor in the Nathan M. Bisk College of Business. Most recently, she was president and owner of Global Passages LLC,, an international trade consulting company. In addition, she has 18 years of experience in retailing, manufacturing and the importing and exporting of consumer-packaged goods. Prior to owning Global Passages, she was vice president of imports and product development for General Foam Plastics Corp., a manufacturer and importer-exporter of seasonal product. Additionally, she served nine years with Wal-Mart in various merchandising and international positions with responsibilities involving trade with over 26 different countries. She also served four years as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army Signal Corps. She earned an MBA degree at Chaminade University of Honolulu and a master's degree in Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii. Ms. Gitlin's current research interest includes leadership in global virtual teams, women, and leadership in global organizations and women's global economic development within the field of Humanitarian Work Psychology.

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Pellas Nikolaos is a Ph.D. Candidate at the Department of Product and Systems Design Engineering, University of the Aegean, in Greece. He obtained a Masters degree in Education with ICT in the field of e-learning with the utilization of virtual worlds in 2010 from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. In 2011, he wrote a research book about the pedagogical added value of virtual environments in the e-learning process in which he seeks to present a better administration of the organizational complexity between avatars' interactions with a proposed collaborative "cybernetic" model. Currently, he has begun his dissertation research that applies to the configuration and co-manipulation of virtual worlds in e-Education. Learning applications with the teamwork technique "Jigsaw" and the investigation of engagement factors association with the users' presence in virtual communities of inquiry are also in his research field. He has an extensive experience in teaching different disciplines of e-Education, especially in adult groups and students of the Secondary Education. His research interests include the use of ICT in e-Education with more emphasis on learning process with "open-source" virtual worlds as "Metaverse" skins according to the contemporary instructional formats.

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Ahmet Yilmaz graduated from Industrial Engineering and completed his master's degree in the same field. In parallel of master's degree study, he started his professional career in a company in private sector as a quality assurance engineer and continued as production planning manager. As today, he works in an multinational company as a coordinator of Integrated Management Systems including quality, environment, health, safety, information safety and process management.

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