

ICTD 2007

Panel on

*The future of meaningful research in ICT
and development*

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Meaningful Research in ICTD



- Back to Basics
- Development as a contested terrain, especially in the Information Society context
- Epistemological enquiry and discourse analysis of current theory and practice

Meaning in ICTD 'theory'



- Positivist and ahistorical
- Absence of the tradition of problematization
- Development as economic development

ICTD Theory



- Contents and Discontents

■ Discourse

- ❑ Marketisation of development worldview
- ❑ Reductionism
- ❑ Status-quoism

■ Practice / Inquiry

- ❑ Lack of rigour
- ❑ Buzzwords
- ❑ Political economy – the missing link

Research to Support Projects

From

ICTD as a study of power – locations and dislocations

to

- Giddensian signposts in ICTD inquiry
 - Semantics and discursive practices
 - moral order / ideologies that set the standards and
 - Power / who is setting the ICTD research agenda
- Constructivist epistemology – towards a new paradigm - **make the truth you want**
- Research as Activism/ resistance from the bottom