

Title: "Developing electronic resources and computational techniques for targeting humanitarian and development interventions"

Abstract: This topical lunch aims to initiate discussion around possible collaborative research opportunities between computing and information sciences and the social sciences with respect to poverty reduction and human development issues. For example, natural dialogue systems can support the more systematic and rapid data gathering and synthesis that humanitarian agencies rely on to make appropriate decisions. Or new computational techniques might be employed to improve the precision of poverty maps and to adapt them for targeting interventions based on estimated poverty impacts. Nascent efforts in this direction are underway, at Cornell through the Institute for Computational Sustainability (<http://www.cis.cornell.edu/ics/>), and externally through Artificial Intelligence for Development (<http://ai-d.org/index.html>), a community that is trying to apply artificial intelligence research to development problems. We seek to engage faculty, staff and students interested in exploring this promising area of intersection.