Information Technology and our Future
Nirvikar Singh
Professor of Economics, UCSC

Abstract:

Digital information technology has already had a profound impact on the lives of those who have access to it. Low cost capture, storage, processing and communication of information will continue to change our lives, and offer the potential to tackle large scale problems as well as improve day-to-day quality of life. This talk will discuss some of the looming possibilities from harnessing information technology, focusing on the link from underlying economics to how we organize and conduct work and leisure.

About the speaker:

Professor Nirvikar Singh is Professor of Economics at the University of California, Santa Cruz. He was a founding co-director of the Santa Cruz Center for International Economics (SCCIE), which sponsors research and seminars on key policy issues in international economics. He also served as coordinator of SCCIE in 2001-03. He teaches courses on business strategy, technology and innovation, and electronic commerce, as well as graduate microeconomic theory. He served as Chair of the Department of Economics from 1992 to 1995, and Director of Graduate Programs from 1990 to 1992. His visiting research appointments have been at Stanford University; the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, Australian National University; National Institute for Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi; Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi; Centre for Development Economics, Delhi; and Erasmus University, Rotterdam. He has consulted for the World Bank and for high-tech start-ups in Silicon Valley. He received his PhD from the University of California, Berkeley, and his BSc and MSc from the London School of Economics, where he was awarded the Allyn Young Prize, Gonner Prize and Ely Devons Prize. Professor Singh’s current research topics are electronic commerce, business strategy, technology and innovation, governance and economic reform in India, federalism, international technology transfer, international water disputes, and economic growth in East Asia. He has authored over 70 research papers on these and related topics in economics.