

My Background: Dr John Coombes



I am primarily a teacher and researcher of information systems. I started my systems exploration (1980s) working with conservation and countryside management in such places as the Surrey Heath, whilst enjoying much of the southern part of England by bicycle. I then moved to Yorkshire (1990s) where I made a move from natural systems (BSc in Plant Sciences) to human and technical systems (MSc in Information System) at Sheffield University (my first go at systems diagramming).

Then a move to Hong Kong (1999-2020) gave me a deeper exploration of information systems in the technically advanced and business oriented cultures of East Asia. Starting off with Innovation in business incubators, then moving to study innovation and idea generation for a PhD at CityU of Hong Kong, and work at PolyU and HSU which gave me a rich experience of a multitude of cultures, not least the Hong Kong culture, and an appreciation for all the good stuff therein; food, business, entertainment, and friendship. I engaged with business people, researchers and students in the practical application of business studies and information management, often from a managerial perspective, but also delving deeper into the technical hands-on technological development perspective.

The journey continues (2020 till the current) with a move back to family and countryside (Bedfordshire UK) where I am about as engaged as ever with educational partners in UK, the Caribbean, Sri Lanka, Oman, and the University of Bedfordshire. The goal now is to further build up experience and connections in my subject and, using UK and Hong Kong as core centres, connecting in a business and technical sense with collaborators and professionals in the various nations of the world.