

Informational Capabilities: The Missing Link for the Impact of ICT on Development

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PhD Relevance:	Core theoretical or methodological framework for the DCLO conversion model.

Core Summary

This working paper proposes an Alternative Evaluation Framework (AEF) applying the capability approach to ICT. Gigler argues that physical access to ICT does not automatically improve well-being. It is mediated by informational capabilities—the individual ability to locate, process, evaluate, and convert information into knowledge, enabling people to make choices they value.

Key Excerpts from Paper

“Informational capability is the ability of an individual to search, process, evaluate and convert information into knowledge, which in turn expands their choices.”

“Simple physical access to ICTs is a necessary but insufficient condition for human development. The critical link lies in the development of informational capabilities.”

Integration in DCLO Dissertation Framework

Gigler's framework is the direct intellectual predecessor of the DCLO Index. The dissertation adapts and extends his concept of 'informational capabilities' into the digital-capability index (DCLO), measuring how structural conversion gates (like language barriers, trust, and platform health curation) impact informational agency and subsequent service access.