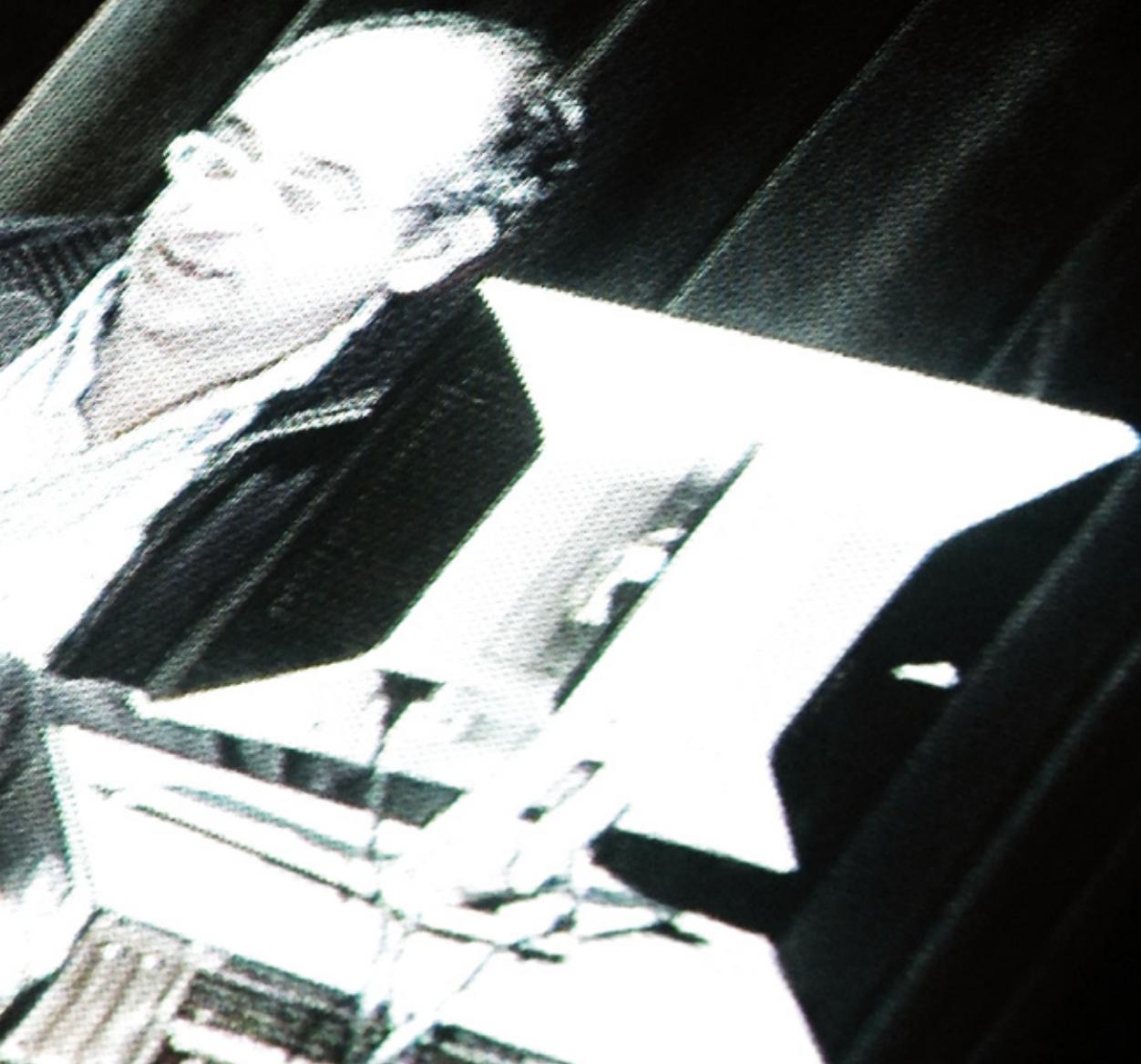




Research

**Lines of Research
and Research Groups**

**Doctorate on the
Information and
Knowledge Society**



Lines of Research and Research Groups

Outstanding among the measures to foment research are the increase in funding and in the time devoted to research by the academic staff, and the consolidation of the

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research groups of the IN3.

IN3: basic and applied social research relating to the information society

The Internet Interdisciplinary Institute (IN3) is the research institute of the UOC. As such, it brings together and provides services oriented toward providing support to the research activities of the academic staff of the UOC and of its own personnel: researchers, doctoral grant-holders, and research assistants. The research carried out at the IN3 covers a wide range of subjects in the general area of the information society, and is fundamentally of an inter-disciplinary nature. Although many of the projects belong to the sphere of basic social research – and are sustained in empirical, quantitative or qualitative analyses – different projects of a more applied kind in the area of e-learning or technologies for the Internet are equally important. Some of the subjects on which work is being done are the new economy, computer security, e-learning, the network society, electronic governance, the new communications media, the digital culture, and the juridical aspects of the information society.



Research, one of the foundations of the University

Throughout 2006 a new policy oriented toward establishing research as one of the foundations of the University was adopted. In this regard, measures have been taken to increase the time devoted to research by the academic staff, internal assistance to research has been substantially increased, a process of internal recognition of research groups has begun, and three new programmes in areas of especial relevance have been opened.

Twenty-nine IN3 research groups have been consolidated

The IN3 has recognised twenty-nine research groups formed by experts from within the University itself and from other universities. This recognition, of an internal character, aims to allow more accurate planning of the fomenting, promotion, and visibility of research and of the activities that give it support. Groups carry out their work in spheres as different as law, art, or psychology.

Research is, together with training and the dissemination of knowledge, one of the traits that define and delimit a university and give it a character of its own.

The UOC centres its research on the study of the effects of ICT on people and the influence of ICT on the changes that are coming about in the information society.

Research groups

Computer applications in cultural heritage (OLIBA)

Legal and tax aspects of the Welfare State in the Information Society (TICTRIBUTS)

Science and mathematics on the Web (CIMANET)

Audiovisual communications and digital culture: creation, participation, industrial and social uses (COMCAD)

Communication and technology (PIC-C)

Virtual communities. Interdisciplinary research (GIRCOM)

Digital Common Culture: Knowledge, Experience and Communication (KEC)

European law on security and ICT (DEUSETIC)

Distance school and university education (EDUS)

Education and society on the Web (ENS)

E-governance: electronic administration and democracy (GADE)

Software engineering (GRES-UOC)

Literary studies and digital technologies (HERMENEIA)

Knowledge and information management in organisations (KIMO)

Information and Communication Systems and Services (ICSS)

Justice in the Information Society (JustICia)

K-ryptography and Information Security for Open Networks (KISON)

Language Processing Group (LPG)

Museology, museography, ICT, and heritage (MUSEIA)

New emerging forms of digital culture (GROUPWARE.CAT)

New Economy Observatory (ONE)

International Peace Organisation (GROIP)

Personalisation of e-learning environments (PERSONAL)

Intellectual property and the Internet (PI2)

Psychology, health and the Web (PSINET)

Distributed, parallel and collaborative systems (DPCS)

Technology and social action (ATIC)

Information technologies, universities and the Network Society (ITUNS)

Collaborative work and learning in virtual environments (TACEV)

End of the research project on e-governance and attention to the public, within the Project Internet Catalonia

Three new research programmes constituted

In the academic year 2005-2006 three new research programmes have been launched at the UOC, namely GÈNERE (Gènere i societat de la informació), IMSI (Immigració i societat de la informació) and NEGRISC (Negociació de risc).

End of the second phase of the PIC research into e-governance and attention to the public.

The second phase of the PIC programme has now finished. It dealt with 'E-governance and Citizen Information. The Generalitat de Catalunya in the international context'. The basic objective of this research project was the analysis of the process of change in the traditional relationships between the Administration and citizens brought about by the implantation of electronic governance initiatives within an autonomous-region administration such as the Generalitat de Catalunya.

The Project Internet Catalonia, begun on in the year 2001 and directed by Professors Manuel Castells and Imma Tubella, has as its basic aim the analysis of the process of transition toward the information society in Catalonia. The project is divided into various sub-projects in accordance with the sector of Catalan society being studied: homes and everyday life; businesses; the University; schools; the communications media; public Administration; and the area of health.



A study on minority languages has been presented at Strasbourg

Miquel Strubell, Professor in the Faculty of Languages and Cultures at the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya presented to the Parliament of Strasbourg the results of the ADUM study on the minority languages in the European Union. The UOC, with the collaboration of other European research and academic centres, created a web to provide a meeting and information area for specialists in this area. ADUM received funding from the European Commission.



The Scientific Committee for Research and Doctorates holds its annual meeting

The Scientific Committee of the IN3, made up of researchers from national and international universities and chaired by the Research Professor of the UOC, Manuel Castells, meets annually to evaluate the strategic lines of the IN3 and the doctoral studies of the University, as well as to assess research activity and guarantee the adequacy of its subject-focus.

In 2006 the Scientific Committee met on the 6th and 7th of June, and at that time, in addition to the usual meetings with the Directors of the IN3, various sessions of assessment and interchange of opinions were held among those responsible for the research groups of the University and the members of the Committee, in order to carry out a more accurate follow-up of the UOC's research activity.

The members of the Scientific Committee of the IN3, all of whom have long and distinguished careers as researchers, are the following:

Scientific Committee

- Martin Carnoy (University of Stanford)
- Cecilia Castaño (Complutense University of Madrid)
- Manuel Castells (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya)
- Vinton G. Cerf (Internet Evangelist Google/Regus)
- Betty Collis (University of Twente)
- William Dutton (Oxford Internet Institute)
- Jerry Feldman (University of California, Berkeley)
- Miguel Ángel Lagunas (Polytechnic University of Catalonia)
- Vicente López (Pompeu Fabra University)
- Robin Mansell (London School of Economics)
- Guido Martinotti (University of Milan)
- William J. Mitchell (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
- Vicenç Navarro (Pompeu Fabra University)
- Emilio Ontiveros (Autonomous University of Madrid)

The annual meeting of the Scientific Committee of the IN3 allows the evaluation and discovery of ways of focussing on subjects, thanks to the participation of world experts in the sphere of research.

Doctorate on the Information and Knowledge Society

The Doctoral programme is growing in the number of courses, students, theses read, and theses in progress.

In the academic year 2005-2006 the teaching offer of the Doctoral programme on the Information and Knowledge Society consisted of a total of sixteen courses on the fundamental content of the sphere of the programme, three courses whose content related to the methodology and the techniques of research, and eight seminars on research, as many as there are spheres on which the research activity of the UOC focuses.

In respect of the research activity linked to the programme, in this course the Doctoral thesis *Análisis de la formación de las políticas de sociedad de la información en Cataluña* ('Analysis of the Formation of Information Society Policies in Catalonia') (1993-2003) was presented and defended by Ricardo Ruiz de Querol; the thesis supervisor was Dr Manuel Castells. With this thesis, the total number of theses presented at the UOC, from the beginning of the Doctoral programme in the academic year 2000-2001, is four.

Throughout the academic year, the Doctoral Committee has evaluated and approved a total of eight Doctoral thesis projects which, when added to those approved in previous years, make a total of 48 doctoral theses being worked on at the end of the 2005-2006 academic year.

This year the Advanced Studies Diploma Tribunal sat twice. The first time was in November 2005 and the second in May 2006. Between the two sittings, a total of seventy-seven students obtained the Diploma, forty-four in the first sitting and thirty in the second. The total number of Diplomas of Advanced Studies awarded since the beginning of the Doctoral programme is now two-hundred and twenty-nine.

In addition, in the 2005-2006 academic year the first application-process for IN3 grants for Doctoral students was announced. Ten places were made available for doing a doctoral thesis at the UOC, with an annual grant requiring exclusive dedication and allowing renewal for a maximum of four years. In September 2006 these grant-holders attended their work-centres in the IN3 building in the Parc Mediterrani de la Tecnologia, located at Castelldefels, near Barcelona.

The UOC launches a programme of grants for Doctoral theses

In the 2005-2006 academic year, a total of 48 students were doing a Doctoral thesis.

Finally, in regard to new students, the 2005-2006 academic year saw the incorporation of a total of one-hundred and seventy-eight students, forty-five of whom were from Catalonia, fifty-one from the rest of the Spanish state, and the remaining eighty-two from abroad. Their distribution per country can be seen in the following map. These students must be added to those who re-enrolled in one or more of the courses or seminars of the programme, and who number one hundred and fifty-six.



Provenance of Doctoral students

