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This book constitutes the refereed proceedings of the 19th International Conference on Information and Software Technologies, ICIST 2013, held in Kaunas, Lithuania, in October 2013. The 34 papers presented were carefully reviewed and selected from 60 submissions. The papers focus on the following topics: information systems, business intelligence, software engineering, and IT applications. Fruits and fruit based products are, in most cases, associated with very good sensory characteristics, health, well-being, perishability, relatively easy to mix with food products of diverse origin, amenable to be processed by conventional and novel technologies. Given the multiplicity of aspects whenever fruit preservation is considered, the editors took the challenge of covering in a thorough, comprehensive manner most aspects dealing with this topic. To accomplish these goals, the editors invited well known colleagues with expertise in specific disciplines associated with fruit preservation to contribute chapters to this book. Eighteen chapters were assembled in a sequence that would facilitate, like building blocks, to have at the same time, a birds-eye view and an in-depth coverage of traditional and novel technologies to preserve fruits. Even though processing took center stage in this book, ample space was dedicated to other relevant and timely topics on fruit preservation such as safety, consumer perception, sensory and health aspects. FEATURES: Traditional and Novel Technologies to Process Fruits Microwaves Ohmic Heating UV-C light Irradiation High Pressure Pulsed Electric Fields Ultrasound Vacuum Impregnation Membranes Ozone Hurdle Technology Topics Associated with Fruit Preservation Safety Nutrition and Health Consumer Perception Sensory Minimal Processing Packaging Unit Operations for Fruit Processing Cooling and Freezing Dehydration Frying When the United Nations announced the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2000, approximately half a million women worldwide died each year from complications associated with pregnancy and childbirth. The fifth MDG aimed to reduce the maternal mortality rate by 75 per cent between 1990 and 2015, but by the target date, the goal had not been reached. In *The Limits of Trust* Lisa Nicole Mills investigates the reasons why Mexico in particular did not meet its objective. Focusing on the states of Guerrero, Chiapas, and Oaxaca, where maternal mortality rates are the highest in the country, Mills looks into how MDG 5 has been implemented in Mexico, how it has been experienced by individuals and groups, what obstacles have been encountered, and what factors have facilitated improvements in maternal health. Using data gathered from interviews with NGOs, government officials, and health care workers, the book argues that government and feminist NGO efforts to build trust in the health care system have fallen short because of systemic failures to protect women's rights and enhance the quality of health care. In

Mexico a woman's risk of dying from a pregnancy-related complication is five times higher than in developed countries. The Limits of Trust explores the realities of implementing maternal health initiatives on the ground in rural, remote, and impoverished areas, and the steps that can be taken to successfully combat maternal mortality. Your Guide to Effective Groundwater Management Groundwater Assessment, Modeling, and Management discusses a variety of groundwater problems and outlines the solutions needed to sustain surface and ground water resources on a global scale. Contributors from around the world lend their expertise and provide an international perspective on groundwater management. They address the management of groundwater resources and pollution, waste water treatment methods, and the impact of climate change on groundwater and water availability (specifically in arid and semi-arid regions such as India and Africa). Incorporating management with science and modeling, the book covers all areas of groundwater resource assessment, modeling, and management, and combines hands-on applications with relevant theory. For Water Resource Managers and Decision Makers The book describes techniques for the assessment of groundwater potential, pollution, prevention, and remedial measures, and includes a new approach for groundwater modeling based on connections (network theory). Approximately 30 case studies and six hypothetical studies are introduced reflecting a range of themes that include: groundwater basics and the derivation of groundwater flow equations, exploration and assessment, aquifer parameterization, augmentation of aquifer, water and environment, water and agriculture, the role of models and their application, and water management policies and issues. The book describes remote sensing (RS) applications, geographical information systems (GIS), and electrical resistivity methods to delineate groundwater potential zones. It also takes a look at: Inverse modeling (pilot-points method) Simulation optimization models Radionuclide migration studies through mass transport modeling Modeling for mapping groundwater potential Modeling for vertical 2-D and 3-D groundwater flow Groundwater Assessment, Modeling, and Management explores the management of water resources and the impact of climate change on groundwater. Expert contributors provide practical information on hydrologic engineering and groundwater resources management for students, researchers, scientists, and other practicing professionals in environmental engineering, hydrogeology, irrigation, geophysics, and environmental science. The sixteen-volume set comprising the LNCS volumes 11205-11220 constitutes the refereed proceedings of the 15th European Conference on Computer Vision, ECCV 2018, held in Munich, Germany, in September 2018. The 776 revised papers presented were carefully reviewed and selected from 2439 submissions. The papers are organized in topical sections on learning for vision; computational photography; human analysis; human sensing; stereo and reconstruction; optimization; matching and recognition; video attention; and poster sessions. This book uniquely employs risk and vulnerability approaches to advocate international policy options for enhancing maritime security cooperation in the Indian Ocean region. Understanding shared risks and common vulnerabilities that impact the achievement of mutual objectives in the oceanic domain present practical bases for progressing collective action. The Indian Ocean sea lanes are the world's most important thoroughfares for energy resources (oil, gas and coal) and other cargoes. Secure maritime trade routes are vital to global, regional and national economies. Further, security challenges resulting from marine environmental degradation impacted by climate change are rising. Regional and extra-regional actors need to work more closely together to impose law and order at sea, control regional conflicts, respond to humanitarian crises and natural disasters, and conserve the marine environment. This book provides an invaluable resource for political leaders, policy advisers, academic researchers, military professionals, and students of international security and strategic studies. The topic of wettability is extremely important from both fundamental and applied aspects. The applications of wettability range from self-cleaning windows to micro- and nanofluidics. This book represents the cumulative wisdom of a contingent of world-class (researchers engaged in the domain of wettability. In the last few years there has been tremendous interest in the "Lotus Leaf Effect" and in understanding its mechanism and how to replicate this effect for myriad applications. The topics of superhydrophobicity, omniphobicity and superhydrophilicity are of much contemporary interest and

these are covered in depth in this book. *Global Warming: Causes, Impacts and Solutions* covers all aspects of global warming including its causes, impacts, and engineering solutions. Energy and environment policies and strategies are scientifically discussed to expose the best ways to reduce global warming effects and protect the environment and energy sources affected by human activities. The importance of green energy consumption on the reduction of global warming, energy saving and energy security are also discussed. This book also focuses on energy management and conservation strategies for better utilization of energy sources and technologies in buildings and industry as well as ways of improving energy efficiency at the end use, and introduces basic methods for designing and sizing cost-effective systems and determining whether it is economically efficient to invest in specific energy efficiency or renewable energy projects, and describes energy audit procedures commonly used to improve the energy efficiency of residential and commercial buildings as well as industrial facilities. These features and more provide the tools necessary to reduce global warming and to improve energy management leading to higher energy efficiencies. In order to reduce the negative effects of global warming due to excessive use of fossil fuel technologies, the following alternative technologies are introduced from the engineering perspective: fuel cells, solar power generation technologies, energy recovery technologies, hydrogen energy technologies, wind energy technologies, geothermal energy technologies, and biomass energy technologies. These technologies are presented in detail and modeling studies including case studies can also be found in this book. This book investigates the multifaceted nature of change in today's Nordic Arctic and the necessary research and policy development required to address the challenges and opportunities currently faced by this region. It focuses its attention on the recent efforts of the Nordic community to create specialized Centers of Excellence in Arctic Research in order to facilitate this process of scientific inquiry and policy articulation. The volume seeks to describe both the steps that lead to this decision and the manner in which this undertaking has evolved. The work highlights the research efforts of the four Centers and their investigations of a variety of issues including those related to ecosystem and wildlife management, the revitalization resource dependent communities, the emergence of new climate-born diseases and the development of adequate modeling techniques to assist northern communities in their efforts at adaptation and resilience building. Major discoveries and insights arising from these and other efforts are detailed and possible policy implications considered. The book also focuses attention on the challenges of creating and supporting multidisciplinary teams of researchers to investigate such concerns and the methods and means for facilitating their collaboration and the integration of their findings to form new and useful perspectives on the nature of change in the contemporary Arctic. It also provides helpful consideration and examples of how local and indigenous communities can be engaged in the co-production of knowledge regarding the region. The volume discusses how such research findings can be best communicated and shared between scientists, policymakers and northern residents. It considers the challenges of building common concern not just among different research disciplines but also between bureaucracies and the public. Only when this bridge-building effort is undertaken can true pathways to action be established. The indiscriminate use of chemical substances in industrial processes and anthropogenic activities, have resulted in the release of these compounds into aquatic ecosystems through municipal, hospital and industrial discharges, producing various undesired effects on the environment and on species of ecological interest. These compounds, such as metals, pesticides, emerging pollutants and other substances are persistent and susceptible to biotic and/or abiotic transformations, yielding metabolites that can be more toxic than the original compounds. In this book, researchers from diverse environmental science disciplines share their experiences in countries such as Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Mexico, and critically examine the problem of contaminants in aquatic ecosystems in Latin America, as well as the risks presented by their presence. *Power System SCADA and Smart Grids* brings together in one concise volume the fundamentals and possible application functions of power system supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA). The text begins by providing an overview of SCADA systems, evolution, and use in power systems and the data acquisition process. It then describes the components of SCADA systems, from the legacy remote

terminal units (RTUs) to the latest intelligent electronic devices (IEDs), data concentrators, and master stations, as well as: Examines the building and practical implementation of different SCADA systems Offers a comprehensive discussion of the data communication, protocols, and media usage Covers substation automation (SA), which forms the basis for transmission, distribution, and customer automation Addresses distribution automation and distribution management systems (DA/DMS) and energy management systems (EMS) for transmission control centers Discusses smart distribution, smart transmission, and smart grid solutions such as smart homes with home energy management systems (HEMs), plugged hybrid electric vehicles, and more Power System SCADA and Smart Grids is designed to assist electrical engineering students, researchers, and practitioners alike in acquiring a solid understanding of SCADA systems and application functions in generation, transmission, and distribution systems, which are evolving day by day, to help them adapt to new challenges effortlessly. The book reveals the inner secrets of SCADA systems, unveils the potential of the smart grid, and inspires more minds to get involved in the development process. Provides first-hand insights into advanced fabrication techniques for solution processable organic electronics materials and devices The field of printable organic electronics has emerged as a technology which plays a major role in materials science research and development. Printable organic electronics soon compete with, and for specific applications can even outpace, conventional semiconductor devices in terms of performance, cost, and versatility. Printing techniques allow for large-scale fabrication of organic electronic components and functional devices for use as wearable electronics, health-care sensors, Internet of Things, monitoring of environment pollution and many others, yet-to-be-conceived applications. The first part of Solution-Processable Components for Organic Electronic Devices covers the synthesis of: soluble conjugated polymers; solution-processable nanoparticles of inorganic semiconductors; high-k nanoparticles by means of controlled radical polymerization; advanced blending techniques yielding novel materials with extraordinary properties. The book also discusses photogeneration of charge carriers in nanostructured bulk heterojunctions and charge carrier transport in multicomponent materials such as composites and nanocomposites as well as photovoltaic devices modelling. The second part of the book is devoted to organic electronic devices, such as field effect transistors, light emitting diodes, photovoltaics, photodiodes and electronic memory devices which can be produced by solution-based methods, including printing and roll-to-roll manufacturing. The book provides in-depth knowledge for experienced researchers and for those entering the field. It comprises 12 chapters focused on: ? novel organic electronics components synthesis and solution-based processing techniques ? advanced analysis of mechanisms governing charge carrier generation and transport in organic semiconductors and devices ? fabrication techniques and characterization methods of organic electronic devices Providing coverage of the state of the art of organic electronics, Solution-Processable Components for Organic Electronic Devices is an excellent book for materials scientists, applied physicists, engineering scientists, and those working in the electronics industry. The rising strength of mainland China has spurred a revival of "Chineseness" in the Philippines. Perceived during the Cold War era as economically dominant, political disloyal, and culturally different, the "Chinese" presented themselves as an integral part of the Filipino imagined community. Today, as Filipinos seek associations with China, many of them see the local Chinese community as key players in East Asian regional economic development. With the revaluating of Chineseness has come a repositioning of "Chinese" racial and cultural identity. Philippine mestizos (people of mixed ancestry) form an important sub-group of the Filipino elite, but their Chineseness was occluded as they disappeared into the emergent Filipino nation. In the twentieth century, mestizos defined themselves and based claims to privilege on "white" ancestry, but mestizos are now actively reclaiming their "Chinese" heritage. At the same time, so-called "pure Chinese" are parlaying their connections into cultural, social, symbolic, or economic capital, and leaders of mainland Chinese state companies have entered into politico-business alliances with the Filipino national elite. As the meanings of "Chinese" and "Filipino" evolve, intractable contradictions are appearing in the concepts of citizenship and national belonging. Through an examination of cinematic and literary works, The Chinese Question shows how race, class, ideology, nationality, territory, sovereignty, and mobility

are shaping the discourses of national integration, regional identification, and global cosmopolitanism. This book constitutes the revised selected papers of the workshops of the 10th International Conference on Mobile Web Information, MobiWIS 2013, held in Paphos, Cyprus, in August 2013. The conference hosted two workshops: the First International Workshop on Future Internet of Things and Cloud, FICloud 2013, focusing on the Internet of Things and its relation with cloud computing and the Fourth International Workshop on Service Discovery and Composition in Ubiquitous and Pervasive Environments, SUPE 2013, addressing the issues that characterize automatic service composition in ubiquitous and pervasive computing. The 14 papers presented were carefully reviewed and selected from various submissions. This book covers all aspects of deficiency of essential elements and excess of toxic ones in crop plants. The metal deficiency and toxicity are the two sides of same problem that are threatening to sustainable agricultural growth. The book presents prospective strategies for the management of elemental nutrition of crop plants. Chapters are arranged in a manner so as to develop a lucid picture of the topic beginning from basics to advanced research. The content is supplemented with flow charts and figures to make it convenient for readers to holistically grasp the concepts. It will be a value addition for students, research scholars and professionals in understanding the basics as well latest developments in the area of metal deficiency and excess in crop plants. The 2011 WDR on Conflict, Security and Development underlines the devastating impact of persistent conflict on a country or region's development prospects - noting that the 1.5 billion people living in conflict-affected areas are twice as likely to be in poverty. Its goal is to contribute concrete, practical suggestions on conflict and fragility. Design and Development of New Nanocarriers focuses on the design and development of new nanocarriers used in pharmaceutical applications that have emerged in recent years. In particular, the pharmaceutical uses of microfluidic techniques, supramolecular design of nanocapsules, smart hydrogels, polymeric micelles, exosomes and metal nanoparticles are discussed in detail. Written by a diverse group of international researchers, this book is a valuable reference resource for those working in both biomaterials science and the pharmaceutical industry. Shows how nanomanufacturing techniques can help to create more effective, cheaper pharmaceutical products Explores how nanofabrication techniques developed in the lab have been translated to commercial applications in recent years Explains safety and regulatory aspects of the use of nanomanufacturing processes in the pharmaceutical industry Learning Analytics become the key for Personalised Learning and Teaching thanks to the storage, categorisation and smart retrieval of Big Data. Thousands of user data can be tracked online via Learning Management Systems, instant messaging channels, social networks and other ways of communication. Always with the explicit authorisation from the end user, being a student, a teacher, a manager or a persona in a different role, an instructional designer can design a way to produce a practical dashboard that helps him improve that very user's performance, interaction, motivation or just grading. This book provides a thorough approach on how education, as such, from teaching to learning through management, is improved by a smart analysis of available data, making visible and useful behaviours, predictions and patterns that are hinder to the regular eye without the process of massive data. Peter DeJong and Insoo Kim Berg's INTERVIEWING FOR SOLUTIONS features a proven, solutions-oriented approach to basic interviewing that views clients as competent, helps them to visualize the changes they want, and builds on what they are already doing that works. Throughout the book, the authors present models for solution-focused work, illustrated by examples and supported by research. Important Notice: Media content referenced within the product description or the product text may not be available in the ebook version. After a brief introduction and contextualization on the Internet of Things (IoT) and Web of Things (WoT) paradigms, this timely new book describes one of the first research initiatives aimed at tackling the several challenges involved in building a middleware-layer infrastructure capable of realizing the WoT vision: the SmartSensor infrastructure. It is based on current standardization efforts and designed to manage a specific type of physical devices, those organized to shape a Wireless Sensor Network (WSN), where sensors work collaboratively, extracting data and transmitting it to external networks to be further analysed and processed. Middleware Solutions for the Internet of Things describes this infrastructure and its RESTful-

based programming model that allows developers create applications without having specific knowledge about physical devices or networking environments. It is also shown, step by step, how to create a Web Mashup application using SmartSensor. "Managing Complexity, Reducing Perplexity" is devoted to an overview of the status of the art in the study of complex systems, with particular focus on the analysis of systems pertaining to living matter. Both senior scientists and young researchers from diverse and prestigious institutions with a deliberately interdisciplinary cut were invited, in order to compare approaches and problems from different disciplines. The common aim of the contributions was to analyze the complexity of living systems by means of new mathematical paradigms that are more adherent to reality and which are able to generate both exploratory and predictive models that are capable of achieving a deeper insight into life science phenomena. The year is 2025. Levan Lamarr, a former Marine, is dying of cancer. His wife, Mira, is pregnant and due to deliver their first child in a week. A mysterious scientist named Dr. Jonah Salter contacts the Lamarrs and offers Levan a probable cure. The scientist's device, the Entangler, can, in theory, restore the patient's health. Bheem, his trusted Artificial Intelligence, aids Dr. Salter during the reset process. During the healing procedure, the device creates a Quantum Entanglement between two of Levan's bodies, each of which is in a parallel universe. Both bodies share a single consciousness. This entanglement is expected to last a few days. Levan, who is cured, perceives both universes superimposed. The two universes are identical until Dr. Salter creates a divergence. But a series of unexpected events follow and things go horribly wrong.

Activism and the role everyday people play in making a change in society are increasingly popular topics in the world right now, especially as younger generations begin to speak out. From traditional protests to activities on college campuses, to the use of social media, more individuals are finding accessible platforms with which to share their views and become more actively involved in politics and social welfare. With the emergence of new technologies and a spotlight on important social issues, people are able to become more involved in society than ever before as they fight for what they believe. It is essential to consider the recent trends, technologies, and movements in order to understand where society is headed in the future. The Research Anthology on Citizen Engagement and Activism for Social Change examines a plethora of innovative research surrounding social change and the various ways citizens are involved in shaping society. Covering topics such as accountability, social media, voter turnout, and leadership, it is an ideal work for activists, sociologists, social workers, politicians, public administrators, sociologists, journalists, policymakers, social media analysts, government administrators, academicians, researchers, practitioners, and students. As competition between value chains on globalized markets is constantly getting fiercer, there is a growing trend to achieve closer collaboration and integration within these value chains and increasingly more complex supply networks. Additionally, in the wake of the thrilling possibilities of using information technology and its potential in boosting the performance of supply chains, researchers are increasingly looking for technology-enabled solutions for a better supply chain performance management. This volume, edited by Thorsten Blecker, Wolfgang Kersten and Christian Ringle, provides valuable insights into: - Maritime Logistics – Challenges and Opportunities - Leveraging Logistics Processes for Supply Chain Performance Management - Innovative Technology Solutions in Supply Chains - Knowledge Management in Logistics. This volume appeals to researchers and practitioners alike, who are interested in current contributions by international authors, providing theoretical, empirical and case-study oriented background and information on their research work. This book lifts the taboo on maladaptation, a different driver of environmentally induced migration, which shines a light on the negative consequences arising from the solutions to climate change, adaptation and mitigation policies. Through a systematic analysis and critique of existing mitigation and adaptation policies under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and international development community, and supplemented by a small empirical study in Indonesia, this book catalogues how maladaptation is manufactured under existing climate change solutions. It posits that customary communities in general- and women in particular- are disproportionately affected by the dominant market-driven logics that underscore current climate change solutions adopted by the UNFCCC. The injustice of maladaptation is

highlighted as multi-faceted and explored using political, economic, social and ecological lenses, and the concept of environmental reintegration is also explored as a possible solution to this issue. Further possibilities are then presented in the Afterword, as a combination of what the new (post-neoliberalism) conjuncture could potentially look like. This volume will be of great interest to students, scholars and practitioners of climate change, environmental policy, environmental migration and displacement, development studies, I/NGOs and civil society actors and activists more broadly. As the need for proficient power resources continues to grow, it is becoming increasingly important to implement new strategies and technologies in energy distribution to meet consumption needs. The employment of smart grid networks assists in the efficient allocation of energy resources. Smart Grid as a Solution for Renewable and Efficient Energy features emergent research and trends in energy consumption and management, as well as communication techniques utilized to monitor power transmission and usage. Emphasizing developments and challenges occurring in the field, this book is a critical resource for researchers and students concerned with signal processing, power demand management, energy storage procedures, and control techniques within smart grid networks. This text is an introduction to the use of control in distributed power generation. It shows the reader how reliable control can be achieved so as to realize the potential of small networks of diverse energy sources, either singly or in coordination, for meeting concerns of energy cost, energy security and environmental protection. The book demonstrates how such microgrids, interconnecting groups of generating units and loads within a local area, can be an effective means of balancing electrical supply and demand. It takes advantage of the ability to connect and disconnect microgrids from the main body of the power grid to give flexibility in response to special events, planned or unplanned. In order to capture the main opportunities for expanding the power grid and to present the plethora of associated open problems in control theory Control and Optimization of Distributed Generation Systems is organized to treat three key themes, namely: system architecture and integration; modelling and analysis; and communications and control. Each chapter makes use of examples and simulations and appropriate problems to help the reader study. Tools helpful to the reader in accessing the mathematical analysis presented within the main body of the book are given in an appendix. Control and Optimization of Distributed Generation Systems will enable readers new to the field of distributed power generation and networked control, whether experienced academic migrating from another field or graduate student beginning a research career, to familiarize themselves with the important points of the control and regulation of microgrids. It will also be useful for practising power engineers wishing to keep abreast of changes in power grids necessitated by the diversification of generating methods. Advances in Ecological Research is one of the most successful series in the highly competitive field of ecology. This thematic volume focuses on large scale ecology, publishing important reviews that contribute to our understanding of the field. Presents the most updated information on the field of large scale ecology, publishing topical and important reviews Provides all information that relates to a thorough understanding of the field Includes data on physiology, populations, and communities of plants and animals Essays that address the question: how can people and class agency change this destructive course of history? Capitalism's addiction to fossil fuels is heating our planet at a pace and scale never before experienced. Extreme weather patterns, rising sea levels and accelerating feedback loops are a commonplace feature of our lives. The number of environmental refugees is increasing and several island states and low-lying countries are becoming vulnerable. Corporate-induced climate change has set us on an ecocidal path of species extinction. Governments and their international platforms such as the Paris Climate Agreement deliver too little, too late. Most states, including South Africa, continue on their carbon-intensive energy paths, with devastating results. Political leaders across the world are failing to provide systemic solutions to the climate crisis. This is the context in which we must ask ourselves: how can people and class agency change this destructive course of history? Volume three in the Democratic Marxism series, The Climate Crisis investigates eco-socialist alternatives that are emerging. It presents the thinking of leading climate justice activists, campaigners and social movements advancing systemic alternatives and developing bottom-up, just transitions to sustain life. Through a combination of

theoretical and empirical work, the authors collectively examine the challenges and opportunities inherent in the current moment. This volume builds on the class-struggle focus of Volume 2 by placing ecological issues at the centre of democratic Marxism. Most importantly, it explores ways to renew historical socialism with democratic, eco-socialist alternatives to meet current challenges in South Africa and the world. Driven by new regulations, new market structures, and new energy resources, the smart grid has been the trigger for profound changes in the way that electricity is generated, distributed, managed, and consumed. The smart grid has raised the traditional power grid by using a two-way electricity and information flow to create an advanced, automated power supply network. However, these pioneering smart grid technologies must grow to adapt to the demands of the current digital society. In today's digital landscape, we can access feasible data and knowledge that were merely inconceivable. This Special Issue aims to address the landscape in which smart grids are progressing, due to the advent of pervasive technologies like the Internet of Things (IoT). It will be the advanced exploitation of the massive amounts of data generated from (low-cost) IoT sensors that will become the main driver to evolve the concept of the smart grid, currently focused on infrastructure, towards the digital energy network paradigm, focused on service. Furthermore, collective intelligence will improve the processes of decision making and empower citizens. Original manuscripts focusing on state-of-the-art IoT networking and communications, M2M communications, cyberphysical system architectures, big data analytics or cloud computing applied to digital energy platforms, including design methodologies and practical implementation aspects, are welcome. The Handbook of Global Climate and Environment Policy presents an authoritative and comprehensive overview of global policy on climate and the environment. It combines the strengths of an interdisciplinary team of experts from around the world to explore current debates and the latest thinking in the search for global environmental solutions. Explores the environmental challenges we currently face, and the concepts and approaches to solving these Questions the role of global actors, institutions and processes, and considers the links between global climate and environment policy, and that of the global economy Highlights the connections between social science research and global policy Brings together authoritative coverage of recent research by internationally-renowned experts from around the world, including from North America, Europe, and Asia Provides an essential resource guide for students and researchers from across a wide range of related disciplines – from politics and international relations, to environmental sciences and sociology – and for global policy practitioners This book provides a unique survey displaying the power of Riccati equations to describe reversible and irreversible processes in physics and, in particular, quantum physics. Quantum mechanics is supposedly linear, invariant under time-reversal, conserving energy and, in contrast to classical theories, essentially based on the use of complex quantities. However, on a macroscopic level, processes apparently obey nonlinear irreversible evolution equations and dissipate energy. The Riccati equation, a nonlinear equation that can be linearized, has the potential to link these two worlds when applied to complex quantities. The nonlinearity can provide information about the phase-amplitude correlations of the complex quantities that cannot be obtained from the linearized form. As revealed in this wide ranging treatment, Riccati equations can also be found in many diverse fields of physics from Bose-Einstein-condensates to cosmology. The book will appeal to graduate students and theoretical physicists interested in a consistent mathematical description of physical laws. As games grow ever-more ubiquitous in our culture and communities, they have become popular staples in public library collections and are increasing in prominence in academic ones. Many librarians, especially those who are not themselves gamers or are only acquainted with a handful of games, are ill-prepared to successfully advise patrons who use games. This book provides the tools to help adult and youth services librarians to better understand the gaming landscape and better serve gamers in discovery of new games—whether they are new to gaming or seasoned players—through advisory services. This book maps all types of games—board, roleplaying, digital, and virtual reality—providing all the information needed to understand and appropriately recommend games to library users. Organized by game type, hundreds of descriptions offer not only bibliographic information (title, publication date, series, and format/platform), but genre classifications, target age

ranges for players, notes on gameplay and user behavior type, and short descriptions of the game's basic premise and appeals. Though seasonally dry tropical forests are equally as important to global biodiversity as tropical rainforests, and are one of the most representative and highly endangered ecosystems in Latin America, knowledge about them remains limited because of the relative paucity of attention paid to them by scientists and researchers and a lack of published information on the subject. Seasonally Dry Tropical Forests seeks to address this shortcoming by bringing together a range of experts in diverse fields including biology, ecology, biogeography, and biogeochemistry, to review, synthesize, and explain the current state of our collective knowledge on the ecology and conservation of seasonally dry tropical forests. The book offers a synthetic and cross-disciplinary review of recent work with an expansive scope, including sections on distribution, diversity, ecosystem function, and human impacts. Throughout, contributors emphasize conservation issues, particularly emerging threats and promising solutions, with key chapters on climate change, fragmentation, restoration, ecosystem services, and sustainable use. Seasonally dry tropical forests are extremely rich in biodiversity, and are seriously threatened. They represent scientific terrain that is poorly explored, and there is an urgent need for increased understanding of the system's basic ecology. Seasonally Dry Tropical Forests represents an important step in bringing together the most current scientific information about this vital ecosystem and disseminating it to the scientific and conservation communities.

Electric power systems are headed for a true changing of the guard, due to the urgent need for achieving sustainable energy delivery. Fortunately, the development of new technologies is driving the transition of power systems toward a carbon-free paradigm while maintaining the current standards of quality, efficiency, and resilience. The introduction of HVDC and FACTS in the 20th century, taking advantage of dramatic improvements in power electronics and control, gave rise to unprecedented levels of flexibility and speed of response in comparison with traditional electromechanical devices. This flexibility is nowadays required more than ever in order to solve a puzzle with pieces that do not always fit perfectly. This Special Issue aims to address the role that FACTS and HVDC systems can play in helping electric power systems face the challenges of the near future. The aim of the book is to introduce the state-of-the-art technologies in the field of robotics, mechatronics and automation in agriculture in order to summarize and review the improvements in the methodologies in agricultural robotics. Advances made in the past decades are described, including robotics for agriculture, mechatronics for agriculture, kinematics, dynamics and control analysis of agricultural robotics, and a wide range of topics in the field of robotics, mechatronics and automation for agricultural applications. This book provides an overview of the latest research and development of new technologies for cognitive radio, mobile communications, and wireless networks. The contributors discuss the research and requirement analysis and initial standardization work towards 5G cellular systems and the capacity problems it presents. They show how cognitive radio, with the capability to flexibly adapt its parameters, has been proposed as the enabling technology for unlicensed secondary users to dynamically access the licensed spectrum owned by legacy primary users on a negotiated or an opportunistic basis. They go on to show how cognitive radio is now perceived in a much broader paradigm that will contribute to solve the resource allocation problem that 5G requirements raise. The chapters represent hand-selected expanded papers from EAI sponsored and hosted conferences such as the 12th EAI International Conference on Mobile and Ubiquitous Systems, the 11th EAI International Conference on Heterogeneous Networking for Quality, Reliability, Security and Robustness, the 10th International Conference on Cognitive Radio Oriented Wireless Networks, the 8th International Conference on Mobile Multimedia Communications, and the EAI International Conference on Software Defined Wireless Networks and Cognitive Technologies for IoT.