Panel Discussion:
Hofstede's Hypothesis and Some Slovakian Evidence

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Introduction

Hofstede's position is that individuals' social-cultural environments constrain and allow their actions and reactions to their personal situations. Hofstede's position is based on his world-wide (at the time) survey. In that survey, conducted at a time in history when certain social-cultural groups were not accessible, and in subsequent publications about the survey's results, rankings of social-cultural groups in terms of power distance and uncertainty avoidance indices (to name two) were estimated. One set of these rankings had to do with the social-cultural environment of Slovakia.

The panel is a presentation and a discussion of evidence, concerning personal attitudes circumscribed by a social-cultural environment, collected in Slovakia by V. Burcik based on Hofstede's survey. The panel pursues ideas and themes related to the influences of social-cultural environments on experience and theories about business and curriculum developed in other papers presented by the panel members. struction. *Chronicle of Higher Education,* A33-A34

Biographies

Gary J. DeLorenzo, D.Sc., Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science at California University of Pennsylvania in California, Pennsylvania, has spent more than 30 years in industry as programmer, analyst, consultant and manager before entering academia. In his academic career, he has gained a reputation as someone who brings people together, shares his industrial experience with students, and brings his energy and knowledge for collaborative efforts. He has led initiatives at the university in areas such as marketing and recruitment to increase student enrollment, service learning projects for information system majors, and startup business incubation projects. He and his students provide ongoing data base consulting and application support services for the John Heinz History Museum, Pittsburgh, PA, the largest history museum in Pennsylvania. He was a visiting professor at Robert Morris University in 2004 and 2008, and has presented and published his research both nationally and internationally.
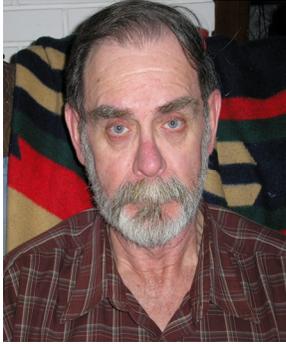
Robert Joseph Skovira is a University Professor of Computer Information Systems in the Department of Computer and Information Systems, School of Communications and Information Systems, at Robert Morris University, Pittsburgh PA USA. He teaches undergraduate and graduate (MS) courses including Java Programming, Secure Programming, Knowledge Management, Global, Economic, Social, and Ethical Issues of Computing, Decision Support Systems, Information Design, and Ethical and Legal Issues of Technology. In the Doctor of Science program he teaches Ethnography of Information Systems. He was a visiting professor at Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia, in 1997 and 2006. Dr. Skovira's research interests include information and information system use within organizations (politics of information, information system bias, secure programming), cultural and moral frameworks, decision making and knowledge mapping, and information design and thinking visually.

Frederick G. Kohun, Ph.D., Associate Provost and University Professor at Robert Morris University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania has more than 33 years experience as a professor, department head, and academic administrator in the information systems field. He holds a bachelor degree in economics from Georgetown University, graduate degrees in economics and information science, from the University of Pittsburgh, and a Ph.D. in applied history in technology from Carnegie Mellon University. At Robert Morris University he led the design and implementation of eight technology based academic programs at the undergraduate and graduate level (including a doctoral program) as well as the attainment of ABET-CAC accreditation. He is known both nationally and internationally from his numerous publications and presentations in health informatics, decision support, technological impact, and culture as well as his active involvement as an accreditation evaluator and team leader.