# BRACE

## Building Research in Australasian Computing Education



**Dunedin, NZ**

(in association with ACE2004 & Australiasian Computer Science Week)

**23 January 2004—26 January 2004 (initial workshop)**

**http://www.cs.otago.ac.nz/brace**

*BRACE* is intended as a hands-on 'way in' to high-quality CS Education research for Computer Science higher-education faculty. *BRACE* will use a workshop format to bring practitioners and expert researchers together in order to initiate principled, large-scale teaching and learning research. Participation in *BRACE* involves:

- **Attending an initial workshop** which will introduce techniques and methodologies in CS Ed research, help build collaborative research relationships with other CS higher-ed faculty, and introduce a shared research problem. This workshop takes place January 23-26, 2004 in Dunedin, New Zealand.
- Carrying out research during the following academic year. Participants will gather data in their own classrooms and keep in touch via the Internet.
- **Attending a capstone workshop** in January 2005 in order to share results, analyze data, make plans for reporting and disseminating those results in professional journals, and for collaborating on follow-up research.

On completion of the program, participants should:

- have a respect for theory, evidence, multiple methods, and honesty;
- have a model of what constitutes good research and good research reporting;
- be able to frame research questions and have some idea about how to find out how to investigate them;
- be able to conduct a study once specified;
- know where to go for additional discourse and support.

Computer Science higher-education faculty interested in carrying out high-quality CS Education research are solicited to participate in the *BRACE* project. Applications are welcome from any interested party, from any country or type of institution (e.g., community college, polytechnic, university, college of further education).

## Structure of the Project

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| **Year One** | Application process | Participants are selected on the basis of submitted position papers |
| | Preliminary reading | Participants will be provided with a 'reader' of relevant selected material in advance of the workshop |
| | Workshop 1 (Dunedin, January 23-26 2004) | • introduction to CS Education research<br>• introduction of an experiment kit |
| **Interim** | Each participant executes the experiment kit | Individual data-gathering |
| | 'Where next'? | Each participant will prepare a sketch for a new research study (of their own) in advance of the second workshop. |
| **Year Two** | Workshop 2 (January 2005) | • conclusion of the experiment kit (presentation, amalgamation, and analysis of data; writing up)<br>• framing of individual research studies |
| **Follow Up** | Preparation for publication | The paper resulting from the experiment kit will be submitted for publication in a suitable venue |

## Key personnel

*Workshop Organizers:*
Anthony Robins, University of Otago, NZ,
Raymond Lister, University of Technology, Sydney, Australia

*Workshop Leaders:*
Sally Fincher, University of Kent at Canterbury, UK,
Marian Petre, Open University UK

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## Initial workshop

- **Where:** Dunedin, New Zealand
- **When:** 23 January 2004—26 January 2004

## To Apply (and further details)

**http://www.cs.otago.ac.nz/brace**

**Deadline for applications: 15 November 2003**

## Contact Details

Anthony Robins
Department of Computer Science
University of Otago
PO Box 56
DUNEDIN 9015
New Zealand

Tel: +64-3-479-8314
Fax +64-3-479-8529
Email: brace@cs.otago.ac.nz

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http://www.toolsasart.com