

## Matthew Kam

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**From:** seminars-list-admin@ICSI.Berkeley.EDU on behalf of Lila Finhill [lfinhill@ICSI.Berkeley.EDU]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 27, 2003 4:13 PM  
**To:** seminars@icsi.berkeley.edu  
**Subject:** ICSI Talk: Tuesday, April 1st

The International Computer Science Institute  
is pleased to present a talk:

Imagining an African Silicon Valley:  
Prospects and Perils for Software Hackers in Accra, Ghana

Gregg Zachary  
Visiting Scholar, ICSI  
greggzachary@hotmail.com

Tuesday, April 1, 2001  
ICSI, Rm 607  
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

**Abstract:**

In the past 20 years, nearly every major city in the world, and many minor ones, have aspired to create their own centers of innovation. These cities were first inspired by the economic ascendance of California's Silicon Valley and, more recently, by the rapid emergence of the once-peripheral European cities of Helsinki and Dublin as centers of high-tech excellence. Government, business and society have interacted in different ways in order to give birth to innovation centers around the world. While results have varied, technopoles are fixtures of urban geography in Europe, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and the U.S. -- in short, everywhere in the world except sub-Saharan Africa. In my presentation, I will not examine why sub-Saharan Africa has proved inhospitable terrain for what Peter Hall and Manuel Castells have termed "technopoles," or clusters of information technology businesses. Rather I will examine the software activity in a single African city I know well and present two contrasting political-economic approaches as to how this city might germinate, nurture and sustain the first African technopole. In brief, I will imagine an African Silicon Valley and suggest some policies and actions that might help civil society, government and business to invent one.

This talk will be held in the Main Lecture Hall at ICSI.  
1947 Center Street, Sixth Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704-1198  
(On Center between Milvia and Martin Luther King Jr. Way)  
[<http://www.icsi.berkeley.edu/location.html>]

If you are interested in checking the availability of papers regarding this talk, please refer to URL or e-mail address under the speaker's name above.

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