

Michael John Watts

Qualifications

PhD	Computational Intelligence	University of Otago	2004
BSc (Hons), First Class	Information Science	University of Otago	1996

Employment History / Professional Positions

- **2012 – present:** Academic Head of Programme, Information Technology, Auckland Institute of Studies, Auckland, New Zealand
- **May-June 2014:** Visiting lecturer at Huanggang Normal University and Xuzhou Institute of Technology, China. Taught Database Technology and Object-Oriented Programming
- **2010 – 2012:** Research fellow (ARC Senior Research Associate), School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Adelaide, Australia
- **2007 – 2009:** Post-doctoral fellow, School of Biological Sciences, University of Sydney, Australia
- **2008:** Visiting Research Fellow, National Centre for Advanced Bio-Protection Technologies, Lincoln University, New Zealand
- **2004 – 2007:** Post-doctoral fellow, National Centre for Advanced Bio-Protection Technologies, Lincoln University, New Zealand
- **2002 – 2004:** Senior Teaching Fellow, Department of Information Science, School of Business, University of Otago, New Zealand
- **2000 – 2002:** Teaching Fellow, Department of Information Science, School of Business, University of Otago, New Zealand
- **1997:** Part-time research assistant, Department of Information Science, School of Business, University of Otago, New Zealand.

Research Summary

- Senior Member of the IEEE
- Peer-reviewed publications: **78**
- Other publications: **21**
- h-index: **18**
- Google Scholar citations profile: <http://tinyurl.com/77zufzd>
- See [page 7](#) for complete list of publications
- Associate editor for four international journals
- Examiner of international Doctoral and Master's theses
- Reviewer for 23 international journals
- Reviewer for 17 international conferences
- Research expertise in: computational intelligence, data mining, soft computing and ecological informatics

Teaching Summary

- Teaching experience: Fundamentals of computer programming; Computational intelligence; Data mining; Business intelligence; Information security; OOP; Database systems.
- Experience supervising Doctoral students

Michael John Watts

Research Expertise

- Data mining
- Soft computing
- Artificial neural networks
- Evolving Connectionist Systems
- Applications of computational intelligence and machine learning
- Evolutionary algorithms
- Knowledge discovery
- Ecological modelling
- Intelligent methods for ecological informatics
- Intelligent methods for bioinformatics

Technical Expertise

- object oriented design
- relational database design
- programming in C++, C#, Python, SQL, T-SQL, PHP and MATLAB

Teaching Experience

- **2015 – 17:** Course co-ordinator of “Fundamentals of Computer Programming”, introductory programming course using Python in Information Technology Programme, Auckland Institute of Studies.
- **2013 – 15, 2017:** Course co-ordinator of “Database Engineering I”, introductory database design course in Information Technology Programme, Auckland Institute of Studies.
- **2014:** Visiting lecturer at Huanggang Normal University and Xuzhou Institute of Technology, China. Taught Database Technology and Object Oriented Programming.
- **2013:** Course co-ordinator of “Business Intelligence”, third year data warehousing and data mining course in Information Technology Programme, Auckland Institute of Studies.
- **2012:** Course co-ordinator of “Information Systems Security”, third year security course in Information Technology Programme, Auckland Institute of Studies.
- **2003:** course co-ordinator of “Knowledge and Information”, second year data processing course in the Department of Information Science, School of Business, University of Otago, New Zealand
- **2000 – 03:** course co-ordinator of “Intelligent Information Systems”, third year computational intelligence course in the Department of Information Science, School of Business, University of Otago, New Zealand
- **2000–03:** course co-ordinator of “Advanced Knowledge Engineering”, fourth year computational intelligence course in the Department of Information Science, School of Business, University of Otago, New Zealand

Michael John Watts

Postgraduate Student Supervision

PhD Students

- Wei Cui, Auckland University of Technology, thesis title "*Fast Moving Object Recognition using NeuCube*" 2017
- Akshay Raj Gollahalli, Auckland University of Technology, thesis title "*A software development environment for Spiking Neural Network applications across computer platforms*" 2017
- Mariona Roiges, Lincoln University, thesis title "*The structure of global invasive species assemblages and their relationship to regional habitat variables: converting scientifically relevant data into decision relevant information*". 2015
- David Pontin, thesis title "*Factors influencing the occurrence of stinging jellyfish (*Physalia spp.*) at New Zealand beaches*", graduated 2009
- Joel Pitt, thesis title "*Modelling the spread of invasive species across heterogeneous landscapes*" graduated 2008

Master's Students

- Hui Wang, Auckland University of Technology, thesis title "*The Earliest Pedestrian Recognition using Deep Learning* 2017.

Theses Examined

PhD / Doctoral Theses

- Reggio Hartono, *Adaptive Methods for Spatiotemporal Stream Data Mining*. Auckland University of Technology, 2017
- Tufail Muhammad, *Selecting, Quantifying, Optimizing and Understanding Visualization Techniques: A Computational Intelligence-Based Approach*. Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology, Pakistan, 2015
- Simon Dacey, *Computational Land Use Management of Public Spaces in New Zealand*. Unitec Institute of Technology, New Zealand, 2015
- Wen Liang *Personalized Modeling for Medical Decision Support and the Case Study of Stroke Data*. Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand, 2013
- Anju Verma *Ontology Based Personalized Modeling for Chronic Disease Risk Evaluation and Knowledge Discovery: An Integrated Approach*. Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand, 2009

Master's Theses

- SiMing Li, *Evaluation and Improvement of Current Computational Tools for Metabolomics Data Analysis*. Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand, 2017
- Datong Gu, *Cross Models for Twin Recognition*. Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand, 2015

Michael John Watts

- Vivienne Breen, *Detection of Susceptibility to Multiple Sclerosis from Single Nucleotide Polymorphism Data*. Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand, 2013

Professional Affiliations, Memberships and Service

- Senior Member of the [Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers](#) (IEEE) and [Computational Intelligence Society](#) (IEEE CIS)
- Member of the [IEEE CIS standards committee](#) 2011-15
- Member of the [IEEE CIS social media subcommittee](#) 2011-14, vice-chair 2012, 2014-17
- Member of the [IEEE CIS curriculum subcommittee](#) 2012-15
- Member of the [IEEE CIS Neural Network Technical Committee](#) 2013-15
- Member of the Evolving Intelligent Systems Technical Committee IEEE Systems, Man and Cybernetics Society
- Member of the [International Neural Network Society](#) (INNS)
- Full member of the [Institute of Information Technology Professionals](#) (IITP), New Zealand
- Associate member of the [Knowledge Engineering and Discovery Research Institute](#) (KEDRI), Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand

Distinctions

- Best Paper, CITRENTZ 2017 conference, 2017
- Special Mention, Best Paper category, CITRENTZ 2016 conference, 2016
- Best poster award, Neuro-Computing and Evolving Intelligence Conference, 2003
- University of Otago Postgraduate Scholarship, University of Otago, 1998
- University of Otago Postgraduate Award, University of Otago, 1997
- Department of Information Science Summer Scholarship, November 1996 – January 1997
- Department of Information Science Summer Scholarship, November 1995- January 1996

Academic Journal Activities

Editorial Positions and Activities

- Associate editor, IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks and Learning Systems, 2015-present
- Associate editor, Complex and Intelligent Systems, 2015-present
- Associate editor, Evolving Systems, 2014-present
- Associate editor, Soft Computing, 2013-present
- Special issue editor of Evolving Systems: Applications of Kasabov's Evolving Connectionist Systems, 2013
- Co-guest editor, International Journal on Information Technology (IJIT) special issue on “Biometric Recognition and SVM”, 2005

Service as a Reviewer

- Sensors, 2017
- Evolving Systems, 2016
- International Journal of Applied Earth Observation and Geoinformation, 2015
- Applied Soft Computing, 2012, 2014
- Fuzzy Sets and Systems, 2012
- IEEE Transactions on Evolutionary Computation, 2012
- Annals of Forest Science, 2012
- World Journal of Modeling and Simulation, 2012

Michael John Watts

- European Journal of Wildlife Research, 2011
- Sports Biomechanics, 2011
- Ecological Informatics, 2011-12
- Medical and Veterinary Entomology, 2011
- International Journal of Advanced Computer Science and Applications (IJACSA), 2010-11
- IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks and Learning Systems, 2003, 2009-13
- Crop Protection, 2010
- Entomologia Experimentalis et Applicata, 2008, 2010
- Journal of Engineering Science and Technology, 2008
- Biological Control, 2008
- Journal of Advanced Computational Intelligence and Intelligent Informatics (JACIII), 2006-7, 2015
- IEEE/ACM Transactions on Computational Biology and Bioinformatics, 2007
- IEEE Transactions on Industrial Informatics, 2005-7
- IEEE/ACM Transactions on Computational Biology and Bioinformatics, 2006
- International Journal on Computational Intelligence and Applications (IJCIA), Special Issue on “Neurocomputing and hybrid methods”, 2004
- Soft Computing, special issue on “Soft Computing and Bioinformatics and Medical Informatics”, 2004

Conference Activities

Organisation, Session Chair, Invited Speaker

- Organiser, chair and reviewer, special session on “Applications of Computational Intelligence in Ecological Informatics and Environmental Modelling”, World Congress on Computational Intelligence (WCCI) 2016
- Program committee member, International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI) 2016
- Organiser, chair and reviewer, special session on “Applications of Computational Intelligence in Ecological Informatics and Environmental Modelling”, World Congress on Computational Intelligence (WCCI) 2014
- Awards chair, International Joint Conference on Neural Networks (IJCNN) 2013
- Organiser, chair and reviewer, special session on “Computational intelligence in ecological informatics” International Conference on Neural Information Processing (ICONIP) 2008
- Program committee member, International Conference on Intelligent Computing (ICIC), 2007, 2006
- Session co-chair, *Evolutionary Approaches for Supervised Learning*, International Joint Conference on Neural Networks, 2006
- Session chair, *Neural Networks and Nonlinear Systems*, International Conference on Intelligent Computing (ICIC), 2005
- Invited speaker, Workshop on Evolutionary Computation and Computational Intelligence in teaching, Congress on Evolutionary Computation, 2002
- Organising Committee member, Artificial Neural Networks and Expert Systems (ANNES), 2001

Service as a Reviewer / Program Committee Member

- Computer and Information Technology Research and Education New Zealand (CITRENZ) 2017
- Data Mining in Cybersecurity (DMC) 2015
- KES 2010
- ICONIP 2008
- Pacific Asia Conference on Information Systems (PACIS), 2007
- Congress on Evolutionary Computation (CEC), 2001-2, 2004, 2006-7
- International Joint Conference on Neural Networks (IJCNN), 2007, 2014-15
- IEEE Symposium on Computational Intelligence in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology (CIBCB), 2004-7, 2013-14
- 6th International Conference on Hybrid Intelligent Systems and 4th Conference on Neuro-Computing

Michael John Watts

- and Evolving Intelligence (HIS-NCEI 06'), 2006
- 5th Australasia-Japan Joint Workshop on Intelligent and Evolutionary Systems, 2001

Positions Held at Departmental Level

- Bio-Protection and Ecology, Lincoln University
 - Chair, post-doctoral fellow group, January 2006 – February 2007
 - Deputy Chair, post-doctoral fellow group, February 2005 – January 2006
- Department of Information Science, University of Otago
 - Convenor, Information Science Postgraduate Group, July 2001 – June 2002
 - Convenor, Knowledge Engineering Laboratory seminar series, July 2001 – 2002
 - Webmaster, Knowledge Engineering Laboratory, 1999 – 2002

Positions Held at Institutional level

- Chair of Timetabling Committee, Auckland Institute of Studies, August 2014 – present
- Student Intellectual Property Policy Consultative Group, University of Otago, April – December 2002
- Divisional Representative, Graduate Research Student Liaison Committee, University of Otago, January 2000 – June 2002
- Webmaster, Graduate Research Student Liaison Committee, University of Otago, October 2001 – June 2002

Community Service

Public Outreach

- Computational Intelligence Blog, 2010-present, <http://computational-intelligence.blogspot.com/>
- Twitter <http://www.twitter.com/DrMikeWatts>

Cultural Participation and Development

- Operated and maintained the English – Māori Translator website: <http://kel.otago.ac.nz/translator/> 1998-2004 (now discontinued)

Other Community Service

- Participant in the Third and Fourth International Science Festival “The Global Village” Expo, June 28-30, 1999 and July 1-16, 2000, Dunedin, New Zealand

Michael John Watts

List of Publications

Theses

Watts, M.J. Evolving connectionist systems: characterisation, simplification, formalisation, explanation and optimisation. PhD thesis, University of Otago, New Zealand. 2004.
<http://hdl.handle.net/10523/1489>

Book Chapters

Watts, M.J. and Kasabov, N.K. Hybrid Evolutionary-, Constructive-, and Evolving Fuzzy Neural Networks. In: *Handbook on Computational Intelligence*. World Scientific (2015) pg 745-772.

Worner, S.P., Eschen, R., Kenis, M., Pains, D., Saikonen K., Suiter, K., Singh, S., Vanninen, I., **Watts, M.J.** Detecting and interpreting patterns within regional pest species assemblages using self-organizing maps and other clustering methods. In: *Pest risk modelling and mapping for invasive alien species*. R.C. Venette, ed. CAB Direct (2015) pg 97-114.
<http://www.cabdirect.org/abstracts/20153099615.html>

Watts, M.J. , Bianconi, A., Serapiao, A.B.S., Govone, J.S., and von Zuben, C.J. The Effectiveness of Artificial Neural Networks in Modelling the Nutritional Ecology of a Blowfly Species. In: *Ecological Modelling*. W-J Zhang, ed. Novascience Press. (2011) pg 97-114.

Watts, M.J. Towards a formalisation of evolving connectionist systems. In: *Artificial Neural Networks*. S.J. Kim, ed. Novascience Press. (2010).

Watts, M.J. and Worner, S.P. Modelling Insect Habitat Suitability with Artificial Neural Networks. In: *Insect Habitats: Characteristics, Diversity and Management*. Edina L. Harris and Newell E. Davies, eds. Novascience Press. (2010) pg 163-196.

Watts, M.J. and Kasabov, N. Neuro-genetic tools and techniques. In: *Neuro-Fuzzy Techniques for Intelligent Information Processing*. N. Kasabov and R. Kozma, eds. Heidelberg, Physica Verlag (1999) pg 97-110.
http://www.aut.ac.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/10695/neuro-gen.pdf

Kasabov, N., Kozma, R., Kilgour, R., Laws, M., Taylor, J., **Watts, M.** and Gray, A. Hybrid connectionist-based methods and systems for speech data analysis and phoneme-based speech recognition. In: *Neuro-Fuzzy Techniques for Intelligent Information Processing*. N. Kasabov and R. Kozma, eds. Heidelberg, Physica Verlag (1999) pg 241-264.
http://www.aut.ac.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0013/10750/nik-nfft.pdf

Journal Articles

Cope, R., Ross, J.V., Wittmann, T.A., **Watts, M.J.**, Cassey, P. Predicting the risk of biological invasions using environmental similarity and transport network connectedness. *Risk Analysis* (2017), doi:10.1111/risa.12870

Watts, M.J. , Fordham, D.A., Akcakaya, H.R., Aiello-Lammens, M. and Brook, B.W. Tracking metapopulation range margin changes using geographical centroids of patches weighted by population size and density. *Ecological Modelling* (2013) 269 61-69.
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0304380013004031>

Michael John Watts

Worner, S.P., Gevrey, M., Eschen, R., Kenis, M., Pains, D., Singh, S., Suiter, K. and **Watts, M.J.** Self-organising maps and other methodologies for pest prioritisation. *Neobiota* (2013) 18 83-102.
http://www.pensoft.net/J_FILES/9/articles/4042/4042-G-3-layout.pdf

Fordham, D.A., Akcakaya, H.R., Brook, B.W., Rodriguez, A., Alves, P.C., Civantos, E., Trivino, M., **Watts, M.J.**, and Araujo, M.B. Adapted conservation measures are required to save the Iberian lynx in a changing climate. *Nature Climate Change* (2013) 3(10) 899-903.
<http://www.nature.com/nclimate/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nclimate1954.html>

Haby, N.A., Prowse, T.A.A., Gregory, S., **Watts, M.J.**, Delean, S., Fordham, D.A., Foulkes, J. and Brook, B.W. Scale dependency of metapopulation models used to predict climate change impacts on small mammals. *Ecography* (2013) 36 832-841.
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1600-0587.2012.07749.x/abstract>

Prowse, T.A.A., Johnson, C.N., Lacy, R.C., Bradshaw, C.J.A., Pollak, J.P., **Watts, M.J.** and Brook, B.W. No need for disease: testing extinction hypotheses for the thylacine using multi-species metamodels. *Journal of Animal Ecology* (2013) 82(2) 355-364.

Bianconi, A., Dalgaard, T., Manly, B.F.J., Govone, J.S., **Watts, M.J.**, Nkala, P., Habermann, G., Huang, Y., Serapião, A.B.S. Methodological difficulties of conducting agroecological studies from a statistical perspective. *Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems* (2013) 37(4) 485-506.
<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/10440046.2012.712941#.UkyWhj8qPI9>

Harris, J.B.C., Fordham, D.A., Mooney, P.A., Pedler, L.P., Paton, D.C., Stead, M.G., **Watts, M.J.**, Araújo, M.B. & Akçakaya, R. Managing the long-term persistence of a rare cockatoo under climate change. *Journal of Applied Ecology* (2012) 49 785-794.
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1365-2664.2012.02163.x/abstract>

Fordham, D.A., **Watts, M.J.**, Delean, S., Brook, B.W., Heard, L., and Bull, M. Managed relocation as an adaptation strategy for mitigating climate change threats to the persistence of an endangered lizard. *Global Change Biology* (2012) 18(9) 2743-2755.
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1365-2486.2012.02742.x/abstract>

Fordham, D.A., Akcakaya, H.R., Araujo, M.B., Elith, J., Keith, D., Pearson, R. G., Auld, T., Mellin, C., Morgan, J., Regan, T., Tozer, M., **Watts, M.J.**, White, M., Wintle, B., Yates, C. and Brook, B.W. Plant extinction risk under climate change: are forecast range shifts alone a good indicator of species vulnerability to global warming? *Global Change Biology* (2012) 18 1357-1371.

Watts, M.J. and Worner, S.P. Using artificial neural networks to predict the distribution of bacterial crop diseases from biotic and abiotic factors. *Computational Ecology and Software* (2012) 2(1) 70-79.
[http://www.iaees.org/publications/journals/ces/articles/2012-2\(1\)/using-artificial-neural-networks-to-predict-the-distribution.pdf](http://www.iaees.org/publications/journals/ces/articles/2012-2(1)/using-artificial-neural-networks-to-predict-the-distribution.pdf)

Lam, A.Y.S., **Watts, M. J.**, Wu, D. and Estévez, P.A. IEEE CIS Social Media: Have you joined our online community? *IEEE Computational Intelligence* (2012) 7(1) 4-5,79.

Bradshaw, C.J.A., McMahon, C.R., Miller, P.S., Lacy, R.C., Verant, M.L., Pollack, J.P., Fordham, D.A., **Watts, M.J.**, Prowse, T.A.A. and Brook, B.W. Dynamics of bovine tuberculosis in Australian swamp buffalo based on coupled epidemiological and demographic models. *Journal of Applied Ecology* (2012) 49(1) 268-277.
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1365-2664.2011.02081.x/abstract>

Fordham, D.A., Wigley, T.M.L., **Watts, M.J.**, and Brook, B.W. Strengthening forecasts of climate change impacts with multi-model ensemble averaged projections using MAGICC/SCENGEN 5.3. *Ecography* (2012) 35 4-8.

Michael John Watts

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1600-0587.2011.07398.x/abstract>

Bianconi, A., Govone, J.S., Manly, B.F.J. and **Watts, M.J.** The use of a multivariate statistical procedure in analysing the germination process of two bean cultivars, compared with a univariate approach. *Proceedings of the International Academy of Ecology and Environmental Sciences* (2011) 1(2) 70-76.

[http://www.iaees.org/publications/journals/piaees/articles/2011-1\(2\)/The-use-multivariate-statistical-procedure.pdf](http://www.iaees.org/publications/journals/piaees/articles/2011-1(2)/The-use-multivariate-statistical-procedure.pdf)

Watts, M.J. and Worner, S.P. Improving cluster-based methods for investigating potential for insect species establishment: region-specific risk factors. *Computational Ecology and Software* (2011) 1(3) 138-145.

[http://www.iaees.org/publications/journals/ces/articles/2011-1\(3\)/Improving-cluster-based-methods.pdf](http://www.iaees.org/publications/journals/ces/articles/2011-1(3)/Improving-cluster-based-methods.pdf)

Watts, M.J. , Li, Y., Russell, B.D., Mellin, C., Connell, S.D. and Fordham, D.A. A novel method for mapping reefs and subtidal rocky habitats using artificial neural networks. *Ecological Modelling* (2011) 222(15) 2606-2614.

Pontin, D.R., Schliebs, S., Worner, S.P. and **Watts, M.J.** Finding relevant data in noisy, complex ecological times series: a comparison of two feature selection methods. *Ecological Modelling* (2011) 222(10) 1657-1665.

Watts, M.J. Using data clustering as a method of estimating the risk of establishment of bacterial crop diseases. *Computational Ecology and Software* (2011) 1(1) 1-13.

<http://www.iaees.org/publications/journals/ces/articles/2011-1%281%29/Using-data-clustering-as-a-method-of-estimating-the-risk.pdf>

Watts, M.J. A decade of Kasabov's Evolving Connectionist Systems: A Review. *IEEE Transactions on Systems, Man and Cybernetics Part C - Applications and Reviews* (2009) 39(3) 253-269.

<http://ecos.watts.net.nz/Literature/Watts.pdf>

Watts, M.J., Worner, S.P., Estimating the risk of insect species invasion: Kohonen self-organising maps versus k-means clustering. In: *Ecological Modelling* (2009) 220(6) 821-829.

Watts, M.J. and Worner, S.P. Comparing Ensemble and Cascaded Neural Networks that Combine Biotic and Abiotic Variables to Predict Insect Species Distribution. In: *Ecological Informatics* (2008) 3(6) 354-366.

Watts, M.J. and Worner, S.P. Using Artificial Neural Networks to Determine the Relative Contribution of Abiotic Factors Influencing the Establishment of Insect Pest Species. In: *Ecological Informatics* (2008) 3(1) 64-74.

Watts, M.J. and Worner, S.P. Comparison of a Self Organising Map and Simple Evolving Connectionist System for Predicting Insect Pest Establishment. In: *International Journal of Information Technology*. (2006) 12(6) 35-42.

http://www.icis.ntu.edu.sg/scs-ijit/1206/IJIT-1206_05.pdf

Watts, M.J. ANN Rule Extraction using Evolutionary Programmed Fuzzy Membership Functions. In: *International Journal of Information Technology: Special Issue on Evolutionary Algorithm and Advanced Learning System* (2005) 11(10) 45-53.

http://intjit.org/cms/journal/volume/11/10/1110_6.pdf

Watts, M.J. Fuzzy Rule Extraction from Simple Evolving Connectionist Systems. In: *International Journal of Computational Intelligence and Applications, Special Issue on Neuro-Computing and Hybrid Methods for Evolving Intelligence* (2004) 4(3) 299-308.

Michael John Watts

Ghobakhlou, A., **Watts, M.J.** and Kasabov, N.K. Adaptive speech recognition with evolving connectionist systems. In: *Information sciences* (2003) 156(1-2): 71-83.

Moyle, S. and **Watts, M.J.** Neural Nets Raise the Roof. *IEEE Intelligent Systems*, January-February 2003, Vol. 18, Issue 1. IEEE Computer Society, 2003, 8-10.

Kasabov, N.K. and Kozma, R. and **Watts, M. J.** Phoneme-based speech recognition via fuzzy neural networks modeling and learning. In: *Information Sciences*, (1998) 110(1-2): 61-79.

Kasabov, N., Kim, J, **Watts, M.J.** and Gray, A. FuNN/2 - A fuzzy neural network architecture for adaptive learning and knowledge acquisition in multi-modular distributed environments. In: *Information Sciences* (1997) 101(3-4): 155-175.

http://www.aut.ac.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0012/10362/funn96_20.pdf

Refereed Conference Papers

Watts, M.J., Cabiling, D. and Choe, K.W. (2017) Student Impressions of Laptops for Information Technology Students. In: Proceedings of the 30th Annual CITRENZ Conference 2017.

Abdelhamid, N., Cabiling, D., **Watts, M.J.**, and Choe, K.W. Intelligently Derived Features that Influence Students' Perceptions on e-Textbooks. In: Proceedings of the 30th Annual CITRENZ Conference 2017.

Cabiling, D., Kumar, R., Choe, K.W. and **Watts, M.J.** MOODLE: An Analysis of its Utilisation, Benefits, Problems and IT Support as Perceived by the Students of Auckland Institute of Studies. In: Proceedings of the 30th Annual CITRENZ Conference 2017.

Han, B. and **Watts, M.J.** (2016) Predicting the Academic Performance of International Students on an Ongoing Basis. In: Proceedings of the 29th Annual CITRENZ Conference 2016 pg 48-53.

Watts, M.J., Albakry, K., Choe, K.W., Han, B., Hookings, A., Fonua, H., Kumar, R., Ahmadi, K., and Ketu'u, S. (2016) A Student Laptop Roll-out for International Information Technology Students. In: Proceedings of the 29th Annual CITRENZ Conference 2016 pg 76-80.

Watts, M.J. (2016) Sleep Learning and Max-Min Aggregation of Evolving Connectionist Systems. In: Proceedings of the International Joint Conference on Neural Networks (IJCNN) 2016 pg 4325-4330.

Watts, M.J. (2014) Evolving Connectionist Systems can Predict Outbreaks of the Aphid *Rhopalosiphum padi*. In: Proceedings of the International Joint Conference on Neural Networks (IJCNN) 2014 pg 646-650.

Bianconi, A., **Watts, M. J.**, Huang, Y., Serapião, A. B. S., Govone, J. S., Mi, X., Habermann, G. and Ferrarini, A. (2014) Applying Computational Intelligence Methods to Modeling and Predicting Common Bean Germination Rates. In: Proceedings of the International Joint Conference on Neural Networks (IJCNN) 2014 pg 658-662.

Watts, M.J. and Worner, S.P. Predicting the Distribution of Fungal Crop Diseases from Abiotic and Biotic Factors using Multi-layer Perceptrons. In: Proceedings of ICONIP 2008, LNCS 5506 pg 899-906.

Pontin, D.R., Worner, S.P. and **Watts, M.J.** Using Time Lagged Input Data to Improve Prediction of Stinging Jellyfish Occurrence at New Zealand Beaches by Multi-Layer Perceptrons. In: Proceedings of ICONIP 2008, LNCS 5506 pg 907-914.

Michael John Watts

Worner S.P., **Watts M.J.**, Pitt J.P.W. & Gevrey M. Being prepared: ecological informatics and computational intelligence methods applied to invasive insect risk assessment. International Congress of Entomology, 6-11 July, Durban, South Africa, 2008

Pontin, D.R., **Watts, M.J.** and Worner, S.P. Using Multi-Layer Perceptrons to Predict the Presence of Jellyfish of the Genus *Physalia* at New Zealand Beaches. *International Joint Conference on Neural Networks 2008, Hong Kong, June 1-6, 2008*. pg1171-1176

Worner, S.P. and **Watts, M.J.** Null Model Analysis of a Self Organising Map of Invasive Species Distributions. *5th International Conference on Ecological Informatics (ISEI5) Novel Computational Techniques for Improved Management, Understanding and Forecasting of Complex Ecological Data December 4 – 6, 2006, Santa Barbara, CA, USA 2006*.

Watts, M.J. and Worner, S.P. Null-model Validation of MLP Input Contribution Analysis in Ecology. 6th International Conference on Hybrid Intelligent Systems (HIS 06') and 4th Conference on Neuro-Computing and Evolving Intelligence (NCEI '06). 13-15 December, AUT Technology Park, Auckland, New Zealand

Worner, S.P., **Watts, M.J.** and M. Gevrey. 2006. Bootstrapping a self organising map model to estimate the uncertainty in assemblages of alien invasive species. *Proceedings Management of sustainability and ecological modelling. International Congress of Ecological Modelling, August 28 - September 1, Ube -Yamaguchi, Japan 2006*. pg 206-207 (2006)

Watts, M.J. and Worner, S.P. Using MLP to Determine Abiotic Factors Influencing the Establishment of Insect Pest Species. In: *Proceedings of 2006 International Joint Conference on Neural Networks (IJCNN 2006), Vancouver, Canada*, pg 3506-3511 (2006)

Watts, M.J. Nominal-Scale Evolving Connectionist Systems. In: *Proceedings of 2006 International Joint Conference on Neural Networks (IJCNN 2006), Vancouver, Canada*, pg 4057-4061 (2006)

Watts, M.J. ANN Rule Extraction using Evolutionary Programmed Fuzzy Membership Functions. In: *Proceedings of 2005 International Conference on Intelligent Computing (ICIC 2005), Hefei, PRC* pg 2517-2526 (2005).

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