

short bio

## Christena Nippert-Eng



Christena Nippert-Eng is associate professor of sociology at the Illinois Institute of Technology.

Dr. Nippert-Eng teaches several kinds of course on culture, the workplace, space and time, cognitive sociology, and fieldwork methods to a group of professional students that includes designers, engineers, and architects. Her courses also employ an amazing range of media: film, project based learning, and lecture courses. In addition to working with sociology at IIT, she collaborates with the Institute for Law and the Workplace at the Chicago-Kent College of Law and she helps direct the research of graduate students at the IIT Institute of Design.

Prof. Nippert-Eng's recent activities include serving on the Labor Committee transition team for Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich, working on the advisory board of the Incubator for Critical Inquiry into Technology and Ethnography (INCITE) at the University of Surrey, and serving as an external advisor for graduate students at the Interaction Design Institute in Ivrea, Italy. Dr. Nippert-Eng currently holds elected council positions for the Sociology of Culture and the Work, Occupations and Organizations sections of the American Sociological Association.

Chris is the author of a marvelous book titled *Home and Work: Negotiating Boundaries Through Everyday Life* published in 1996 by University of Chicago Press. She is now engaged in a research project funded by Intel Corporation, "Islands of Privacy." Chris is one of those rare scholars with the ability to present intellectually rigorous material with a clarity and charm that makes her a visible star. If social research in design issues had a Richard Feynman Prize for making good scientific research widely accessible, she would have won it long ago. Her work has been featured extensively in the media, ranging from NPR's "Talk of the Nation" and "Odyssey" to the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, Newsweek, and Fast Company.

In addition to collaborations with other scholars and non-profit organizations, Dr. Nippert-Eng designs and conducts research for industry on workplace problems. She also studies cultural factors affecting the diffusion of computer-based technology and she explores human behavior and relationships with objects and spaces. Prof. Nippert-Eng lectures widely, and she directs workshops on the use of ethnographic research methods for industrial and academic applications.