

Research Methods & Applications Mini-Track Organizational Systems & Technology Track

Mini Track Chairs:

Sajda Qureshi¹, Gert-Jan de Vreede² and Doug Vogel³

¹*College of Information Science and Technology, University of Nebraska Omaha.*

²*College of Information Science and Technology, University of Nebraska Omaha and Faculty of Technology, Policy and Management, Delft University of Technology.*

³*City University Hong Kong, Hong Kong.*

Organizational systems and information technologies continue to affect organizations and have opened up a myriad of methodological challenges for academics as to how to understand the effect of these technologies on organizations and for practitioners attempting to meet organizational needs. It appears that the use of multi-disciplinary, multi-methodological approaches associated with an increased awareness of the organizational complexities related to information technologies are gaining momentum. It is valuable for researchers to be able to share and compare experiences with the research approaches they use to investigate real world organizational issues. The papers in this minitrack address salient research methodology issues, and promise to generate discussion and debate with respect to investigating organizational systems and technology.

The first paper in this minitrack entitled "Toward a Framework for Classifying and Guiding Mixed Method Research in Information Systems" is authored by Stacie Petter and Michael Gallivan. This paper justifies the use of mixed methods in research designs by stating advantages that are obtained by using diverse research approaches to examine a research question. After examining literature in multiple social science disciplines, the authors adapted a framework from the field of education evaluation to classify and explain motivations for using mixed methods in research. This framework not only classifies existing literature and provides insight into possible mixed method designs, but also contains recommendations for implementing different types of mixed method research. This framework is analysed in the context of three IS mixed method studies to ensure that the framework would indeed be applicable.

The second paper entitled "Achieving Relevance in IS Research via the DAGS Framework" is authored by Lascelles Adams and James Courtney. The authors make a plea for Information Systems

research to be more relevant. They propose a framework that integrates design science, system development, action research and grounded theory methodologies in leveraging technology to achieve business effectiveness through relevancy. They suggest that the adoption of the DAGS framework as a multi-methodical approach to IS system development by more information systems researchers may allow the discipline to make contributions to the practice of information systems. In doing so the framework may foster the appropriate application and use of that information in business practices.

The final paper entitled "A Phenomenological Exploration of Collective Action Across Multiple Time Zones" is by Paul van Fenema and Sajda Qureshi. This paper uses the phenomenological approach to analyze distributed software development in an ERP manufacturer. The potency of phenomenology lies in its philosophical simplicity and it provides the researcher with the ability to study the essence of an observable but scarcely understood phenomena: How do people perform effectively and efficiently in a geographically and temporally dispersed work environment? This study provides a unique view of how globally dispersed participants achieve collective action. Following an analysis of a case studied using phenomenology, this paper concludes with a model of adaptation in polycontextual work environments.