Business Process Management Research Group
Faculty of Information Technology
Queensland University of Technology

BPM Seminar No.18/2007

Exploring emergent structures in IS research: A Critical Realist approach

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THU, 28 June 2007, 10.00-11.00am
QUT, 126 Margaret Street, level 4, meeting room 408-409

ABSTRACT

The dread about the considerable failure rate in Information Systems development, implementation and deployment is not a new phenomenon in IS research. The significant failure rate in ISD is in fact an ongoing theme of concern for ISD professionals and consequently for ISD research as well. Part of the liability for ISD failure is attributed to both obsolete approaches and goals which persist in the IS research. An emergent IS view which emphasize key issues like emergent, adaptation, contextualization, and learning seems to characterize current IS research. Theoretical or/and empirical grounded theories and frameworks have addressed IS challenges of particular disciplinary concern. Yet, the complexity of defining suitable multi-level approaches and interventions are still problematic and overlooked. It is therefore essential that robust frameworks are available to scrutinize new approaches to study, understand and explain the challenges encountered by IS professionals in practice.
This presentation introduces an analytical framework based on a design science paradigm from a critical realist perspective which can be used to enhance our understanding of why and how IS initiatives work in different circumstances.

SPEAKER

Daniela Mihailescu is a PhD Candidate in Informatics at Jönköping International Business School, Jönköping University, Sweden and associated to the Swedish Research School of Management and Information Technology, Sweden. She received her BTech in Computing Engineering (1999) and MScIS (2001) from Jönköping University. Her research interests lies primarily within Enterprise Systems, Information Systems Development and the use of ICT. Findings from her research have been published in journals and conference proceedings. She is also involved in teaching courses within the field of Informatics.