Call for Papers

IFIP Working Group 8.2

Information Systems and Organizations

WORKING CONFERENCE

Auckland, New Zealand
11-12 December 2014
http://bis2.aut.ac.nz/ifip82-2014/

Information Systems and Global Assemblages: (Re)Configuring Actors, Artefacts, Organizations

Approaches that stress the performative, processual, and relational aspects of information technology and organizational practice have received increased attention in recent years. Drawn from diverse philosophical and theoretical traditions, their boundaries are often blurred, intimating the mutability, subversiveness and tentativeness of the very phenomena they study. Discussions of agency and materiality have found a prominent place in the development of these approaches, inviting audiences to reconsider ideas of structure, power and accountability in information systems and organization. Emphasis has often been placed on micro-processes of organizing and change, revealing the contribution of interactions at specific localities to the unfolding of the organization as a whole. As such, these approaches problematize the relationship between the social and the technical, the abstract and the specific, the ostensive and the performative, the universal and the particular.

This international conference invites participants to extend these previous discussions and use the concept of 'assemblage' (Marcus & Saka, 2006) to problematize the heterogeneous, emergent and situated nature of information systems and organization. In particular, we highlight the 'global assemblage' (Collier & Ong, 2005) as a metaphor to talk about the challenging yet often creative tensions that emerge as global imperatives (geographical, intellectual, procedural and others) interact with local arrangements of actors, artefacts and organizations. Here 'global' does not mean universal or everywhere, but mobile, abstractable, and capable of recontextualization across diverse social and cultural situations: "As global forms are articulated in specific situations – or are territorialized in *assemblages* – they define new material, collective, and discursive relationships" (Collier & Ong, 2005, p.4). Examples include various forms of technoscience that "can accommodate multiple particularities" (Sassen, 2012, p. 457), such as the human genome, standards regimes, and digital networks.

We welcome research papers that engage philosophically, theoretically, methodologically and empirically with the theme of the conference. In particular, we welcome papers that transcend boundaries between theories, methods and disciplines to generate a stimulating discussion between researchers from different fields that collectively share an interest in information and communication technologies in organizations and society. Examples of possible topics for discussion are identified below, and we also welcome submissions on any topic relevant to IFIP Working Group 8.2 (http://ifipwg82.org/) beyond this specific call.

Examples of suggested topics for discussion include, but are not limited to:

- Exploring the subjects, rationalities, technics and practices that constitute information systems as heterogeneous and situated assemblages
- Materialisation of global ideas in particular contexts and the role of mediating actors, artefacts and organisations
- Problems, positions, resistances and possibilities in a global world mediated by information and communication technology
- Processes of translation, transference and transformation at the intersection between the global and local
- Variety and standardisation in the development of global assemblages
- Global assemblages involving electronic networks in diverse fields of human endeavour
- Rules and regulatory regimes and their associated sociomaterial practices in various settings
- Social networks and their organizational implications

- Digital mobility and the changing locales of work and organization
- Temporality and emergence in information systems and organizational change
- The role of time and space distance in the development of global assemblages
- 'Digital natives' and identity in global/local networks
- Information and communication technology mediated interaction and the transformation of existing social, political, economic and organizational orderings
- Addressing questions of structure and agency by concentrating on performativity and practice based perspectives within information systems and organizational research
- The imbrication or entanglement of material and human agencies in organizational practices involving information technology
- Interaction and mobility between local practices
- Convergences and divergences between literatures and theoretical approaches relating to agency and materiality
- Problematizing the development of information systems as a discipline finding its place between the universal and the particular

Submissions

We invite those interested in participating to submit one of the following:
- Full research papers (7000 words maximum)
- Shorter position papers that engage with an aspect of the conference theme (3,000 words maximum)
- Panel proposals

All submissions will be double blind reviewed by the conference program committee.

Further information on the submission process and updates on the conference will be available at the conference website: http://bis2.aut.ac.nz/ifip82-2014/

Important Dates

Deadline for paper and panel proposal submission: 1 June 2014
Notification of acceptance/rejection decisions: 31 July 2014
Deadline for final papers and proceedings materials: 1 October 2014
Date of conference: 11-12 December 2014

Conference Committee

General Chairs: Bill Doolin, *Auckland University of Technology*
Brian Fitzgerald, *University of Limerick*

Program Chairs: Nathalie Mitev, *London School of Economics and Political Science*
Eleni Lamprou, *ALBA Graduate Business School*
Bill Doolin, *Auckland University of Technology*

Organizing Chairs: Laurie McLeod, *Auckland University of Technology*
Serena Gent, *Auckland University of Technology*

References
Collier, S.J. & Ong, A. (2005). Global assemblages, anthropological problems. In A. Ong & S.J. Collier (Eds), *Global Assemblages: Technologies, Politics, and Ethics as Anthropological Problems*. Oxford: Blackwell.
Marcus, G.E. & Saka, E. (2006) Assemblage. *Theory, Culture & Society* 23(2-3): 101-109.
Sassen, S. (2012) Interactions of the technical and the social: digital formations of the powerful and the powerless. *Information, Communication & Society* 15(4): 455-478.