

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Chair's Message           | 1 |
| Boise Conference          | 1 |
| Masthead                  | 2 |
| New Orleans Workshop      | 3 |
| Boise Minutes             | 4 |
| Barcelona Dates           | 4 |
| Congratulations           | 6 |
| Call for Papers-Barcelona | 7 |
| Upcoming WG8.2 Events     | 8 |

## Message from the WG 8.2 Chair

**David Avison, WG8.2 Chair**

### Yet again – the best ever

We seem to say it after each WG8.2 working conference! So many people came to me to say how much they enjoyed the conference at Boise. The papers and panels were excellent of course. Our very tough reviewing process ensures that. Further, the invited speakers who came from outside the 8.2 family, also contributed a great deal. They added to our knowledge. And people – in particular, first-time friends of 8.2 of which there were a number – com-

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Report on the Successful Working Conference in Boise

**Nancy L. Russo  
Brian Fitzgerald  
Program Co-Chairs**



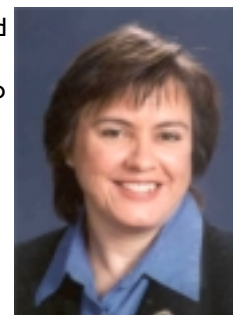
**Brian Fitzgerald (IE),**

Beautiful scenery, great weather, gracious hosts, and interesting presentations... over 80 participants, representing 20 countries, made the long journey to Boise in July for the working conference themed "Realigning Research and Practice in Information Systems Development: The Social and Organisational Perspective."

Following a warm welcome from the Provost of our host institution, Boise State University, and opening remarks from conference General Co-Chair Sue Conger, the conference kicked off with a keynote address by Michel Parent. Michel, program director of the R&D effort for "La Route Automatisée" at INRIA in France, discussed his research into a novel public transportation system based on small automated electric cars.

In the second keynote address, Robert L. Glass, president of Computing Trends, provided an

*(Continued on page 2)*



**Nancy Russo (USA),**

### Special points of interest:

- Call for Papers for the Barcelona Working Conference – 2002
- Important Information for New Orleans OASIS 2001
- WG 8.2 Chair Calls for supervisors of Ph.D. students to meet
- Boise Workshop Report and Photos

Editor: Julie E. Kendall  
School of Business-Camden  
Rutgers University  
227 Penn Street  
Camden, NJ 08102 USA

## IFIP WORKING GROUP 8.2

Website: [www.ifipwg82.org](http://www.ifipwg82.org)  
Email: [julie@thekendalls.org](mailto:julie@thekendalls.org)



Organizations and Society in  
Information Systems

**OASIS**

## IFIP WG 8.2 Officers

### WG 8.2 Secretary

Dr. Michael Myers  
University of Auckland  
Private Bag 92 019  
Auckland, New Zealand  
Phone: +64-9 373-7468 ext.7  
Fax: +64-9373-7430  
Email: [m.myers@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:m.myers@auckland.ac.nz)

### WG 8.2 Chair

Dr. David Avison  
ESSEC Business School  
Avenue Bernard Hirsch BP105  
95021 Cergy-Pontoise FRANCE  
Phone +33 (0) 1 3443 3195  
Fax: +333 (0) 1 39142981  
Email: [avison@essec.fr](mailto:avison@essec.fr)

### WG 8.2 Vice Chair

Dr. Julie E. Kendall  
Rutgers University  
School of Business-Camden  
Camden, NJ 08102 USA  
Phone: +1 (856) 225 6585  
Fax: +1 (856) 424 6157  
Email: [julie@thekendalls.org](mailto:julie@thekendalls.org)



Officers of IFIP WG 8.2 from left to right: Secretary Michael Myers (NZ), Chair Davis Avison (F), and Vice-Chair Julie Kendall (US).

## OASIS Working Conference in Boise (continued)

*(Continued from page 1)*

overview of the research he finds relevant as a practitioner. Bob's use of the term "objective" stirred considerable debate within the group, but in the end his message was well received.

Eric Raymond, the guru of open source software, was the keynote speaker on the second morning. Eric also participated in the "The Open Forum" session on Open Source Software, and entertained us that evening with his jazz flute solo.

The final keynote speaker, Pek van Andel, a medical researcher who developed an artificial cornea, discussed the nature of serendipity in science, technology and art. Allen Lee, conference General Co-Chair, closed the conference with observations from the conference and research challenges in the IS field.

Interspersed with the keynote addresses were nine paper sessions grouped broadly into the areas of developing, managing, researching, and understanding information systems. Panels on the collaboration between academics and practitioners using action research and on the hype, hope, or folly of knowledge management systems rounded out the program.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Boise Working Conference (continued)

(Continued from page 2)

We would be remiss if we did not thank the Organizing Chairs, Greg and Wita Wojtkowski, for the wonderful arrangements. Lunches were held *al fresco* in nearby parks. We enjoyed an outdoor theatre and gourmet picnic dinner. The conference banquet was held in the garden of the Boise Art Museum. (Several photos from the banquet are included in this issue of Oasis.) Thanks also to the hard-working Program Committee and other reviewers, the able staff in Boise, the enlightening keynote speakers, the inspiring General Chairs, and all of the participants who made the conference a great success!

For those of you who were unable to attend, copies of the Proceedings are available from Kluwer, at

[www.wkap.nl/book.htm/0-7923-7420-7](http://www.wkap.nl/book.htm/0-7923-7420-7).



*The Conference General Co-Chairs, Sue Conger (USA) and Allen Lee (USA) enjoy an informal chat during the Boise conference.*

## New Orleans Workshop

**9:00 AM—3:30 PM Sunday 16 December 2001**

**Wildcatter Room, Fairmont New Orleans Hotel, USA**

**Registration:** There will be a nominal registration fee for the workshop (probably on the order of US\$25) to cover the cost of coffee breaks, audio-visual equipment and copying. All attendees and presenters will be required to register. We hope to provide pre-registration (at a discount) as well as registration at the door in cash (receipts will be provided). Details will be provided on the IFIP WG 8.2 Website (<http://www.ifipwg82.org>) when they are available (check back this fall).

**Time and place:** The workshop will be in the Wildcatter Room of the ICIS 2001 Conference Hotel, the Fairmont New Orleans, in New Orleans, Louisiana, United States. The workshop will be held from 9 AM-3:30 PM on Sunday 16 December 2001, immediately prior to the ICIS 2001 conference.

**IFIP WG 8.2 Business Meeting:** All workshop attendees and anyone interested in WG 8.2 are encouraged to attend the WG business meeting that will follow the workshop at 4 PM. At the business meeting, we will discuss future workshops and working conferences, elect new members to the working group and conduct other business.

**Questions?** Please email any questions regarding this workshop to the Co-Chairs:

Joe Nandhakumar  
School of Management  
University of Bath  
Bath BA2 7AY, UK  
Tel: +44 (1225) 323469 (direct)  
Tel: +44 (1225) 826742 (School)  
Fax: +44 (1225) 323902  
Email: [mnsjn@bath.ac.uk](mailto:mnsjn@bath.ac.uk)

John R. Venable  
School of Information Systems  
Curtin University of Technology  
GPO Box U 1987  
Perth 6845, Western Australia  
Tel: +61 (8) 9266 7684  
Fax: +61 (8) 9266 3076  
Email: [VenableJ@cbs.curtin.edu.au](mailto:VenableJ@cbs.curtin.edu.au)

Kevin Crowston  
School of Information Studies  
Syracuse University  
4-206 CST  
Syracuse, NY 13244-4100 USA  
Tel: +1 (315) 443-1676  
Fax: +1 (315) 443-5806  
Email: [crowston@syrr.edu](mailto:crowston@syrr.edu)

# Minutes of the Business Meeting Boise, Idaho, United States

July 29, 2001

## Boise, Idaho, USA

The meeting was called to order at 2.30 p.m. by the Chair, David Avison (FR).

### 1. Introduction

David Avison (FR) began the meeting with a brief description of IFIP, TC 8, and IFIP Working Group 8.2.

### 2. Past Workshops and Working Conferences

David Avison (FR) reported that the accounts for the IFIP Working Group 8.2 Conference in Aalborg in 2000 have been finalised. The conference was a great success.

David Avison (FR) reported briefly on the IFIP Working Group 8.2 Oasis Workshop held in Brisbane in December 2000. He said that this was a tremendous workshop with a very good attendance.

Wita Wojtkowski (US) reported briefly on the IFIP Working Group 8.2 conference just held in Boise. The conference was a success and looked like breaking even financially.



*Don Falconer (AUS), and Trevor Wood-Harper (AUS) (who will serve as upcoming Program Co-chair for the Manchester 2 conference) debate their latest research findings during a break in Boise.*

*(Continued on page 5)*

## 2002 Working Conference December 12-14, Barcelona, Spain

### Global and Organizational Discourse about Information Technology

#### Important dates:

Deadline for submission: March 1, 2002  
Notification of acceptance: June 1, 2002  
Final Papers Due: July 15, 2002

#### Conference Program Co-Chairs:

Eleanor Wynn (USA)  
eleanor.wynn@intel.com

Michael Myers (NZ)  
m.myers@auckland.ac.nz

Edgar Whitley (GB)  
E.A.Whitley@lse.ac.uk



(Continued from page 4)

### 3. Forthcoming Workshops and Working Conferences

The next IFIP 8.2 Workshop will be held in New Orleans on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2001, just before ICIS. Joe Nandhakumar (GB) spoke about the workshop briefly and Kevin Crowston (US) asked people to comment on the costs/ catering requirements. An informal vote was taken showing that most people would prefer to pay slightly more so as to have tea and coffee provided at the venue.

David Avison (FR) said that the next IFIP 8.2 Working Conference will be held in Barcelona in December, 2002, just before ICIS. Eleanor Wynn (US) spoke about the conference and handed out a draft call for papers.

David Avison (FR) mentioned the possibility of a joint working conference with IFIP Working Group 9.4 to be held Athens in 15-17 June 2003 (immediately before ECIS). The tentative title of the conference is "Social Implications of Computers in Developing Countries." Angeliki Poulymenakou (GR) spoke about the conference. The Program Co-Chairs will be Mikko Korpela (FI) and Ramiro Montealegre (USA), with Angeliki Poulymenakou as Organizing Chair. It is proposed that a one-day PhD supervisor's workshop will be held before the conference.

It was MSC that the conference be approved.

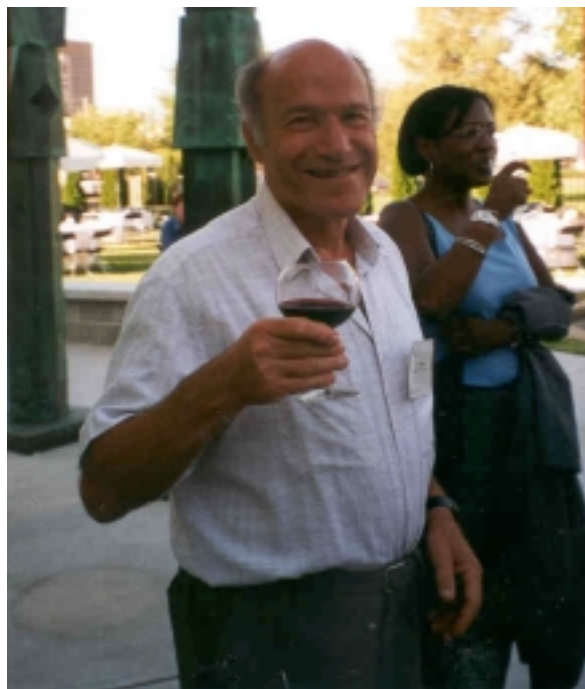
It was MSC that a PhD supervisor's workshop be held in conjunction with the conference.

David Avison (FR) mentioned the possibility of an Oasis workshop immediately before ICIS 2003 but this has yet to be arranged.

Duane Truex (US) talked about the "Manchester 2" conference to be held in 2004, 20 years after the original Working Group 8.2 conference in Manchester. The proposed title of the conference is "Relevant theory and informed practice: A Twenty Year Perspective on IS Research." The Organising Chair is Debra Howcroft (GB), with the Program Co-Chairs being Bonnie Kaplan (US), Duane Truex (US), Dave Wastell (GB) and Trevor Wood-Harper (GB). General Chairs are Frank Land (GB) and Richard Baskerville (US). The conference will probably be held in June 2004.



Gus Hosein (GB) and Ojelanki Ngwenyama (USA) confer with Edgar Whitley (GB), who will serve as Program Co-chair for the upcoming IFIP WG 8.2 Barcelona working conference in 2002.



Frank Land (GB) toasts the conference organizers during an informal reception in Boise.

David Avison (FR) mentioned we are looking for proposals for a working conference in the USA in 2005, since three of the previous conferences will have been held in Europe.

David Avison (FR) mentioned we are looking for proposals for a working conference in the USA in 2005, since three of the previous conferences will have been held in Europe.

### 4. Awards

David Avison (FR) briefly discussed the awards for IFIP 8.2 and said that

(Continued on page 6)

# Minutes of the Boise Business Meeting

(continued from page 1)

(Continued from page 5)

Ken Kendall (US) is chairing a committee to nominate people for these awards.

## 5. Oasis

David Avison (FR) mentioned that Georgia State University has paid for the Oasis newsletter to be printed and mailed out to all members and friends for many years, and SUNY Binghamton before that. However, their agreed term of support is now over. David Avison (FR) asked for a vote of thanks to be recorded for GSU's contribution to the work of IFIP WG 8.2.



*Catching up with friends at the Boise working conference are Anju Mursu , H. Abimola Soriyan, and Mikko Korpela (from left to right).*

It was MSC that Oasis will be published only on the web in the future.

It was also suggested that a notice should be sent out on the 8.2 listserv when it is published.

## 6. Elections for Committee (2003-2005)

It was MSC that Richard Baskerville (US) be appointed Chair of the new Elections Committee. A new committee will need to be elected in 2002 to serve from 2003-2005.

## 7. New Members

David Avison (FR) mentioned that people who have attended two recent business meetings are eligible to join IFIP WG 8.2. Names were solicited for individuals who were qualified and interested in becoming members of IFIP WG 8.2. The following people were approved for membership, subject to a check on attendance by the Secretary:

Robert Davison (HK), Carsten Sorensen (GB), Mike Cushman (GB), Knut Rolland (NO), John Campbell (AU), Jacob Norbjerg (DK), Helena Holmstrom (SE), Mart Roost (ESTONIA), Annakarin Nyberg (SE).

## 8. Any other business

Kevin Crowston (US) asked about the possibility of having the proceedings of the IFIP WG 8.2 Conferences on the web. Jan Pries-Heje (DK) mentioned that this has already been proposed at the TC8 meeting and is being discussed at that level. It was MSC that the meeting be closed.

**Michael D. Myers (NZ), Secretary**

---

## Congratulations

**Kenneth E. Kendall (USA)** will be inducted as a Fellow of the Decision Sciences Institute (DSI). Ken is a past Chair of WG 8.2 and is currently a professor of ecommerce and information technology at Rutgers University.

---

*Do you want to contribute an essay or editorial? Do you have a promotion or other news to share?  
Please contact Julie Kendall, OASIS Editor at [julie@thekendalls.org](mailto:julie@thekendalls.org)*

# Call for Papers Barcelona, Spain December 12-14, 2002

## Working Conference on: Global and Organizational Discourse about Information Technology

Over the past 20 years, the field of information systems has grown dramatically in theoretical diversity and global reach. This growth is reflected in the language and rhetorical arguments that policy-makers and organizational stakeholders use when they talk about their IT plans. As IT penetrates further into organizational and global life, it becomes ever more important to articulate assumptions embedded in the discourse about it. This will help to clarify the complex and yet conceptually improvised or pasted-up worldview that becomes embodied in systems. The assumptions point to particular domains of discourse. The discourse sets up conventions and boundaries. It thus shapes what can or cannot legitimately be talked about, researched, addressed, or solved within the scope of IT. There are many ways of analyzing and making visible the meaning and consequences of organizational discourse: for example, hermeneutics, discourse analysis, conversation analysis, speech-act analysis, language-action perspective, cognitive mapping, and semiotics, amongst others.

We solicit research papers in two key areas:

- 1) Global and regional discourses about technology. How is policy framed, how are budgets justified, what are perceived as the key needs and preconditions for technology at the national or regional level? This includes developing countries, global corporations and national policy arguments.
- 2) Discourses within organizations already sophisticated in technology use. What are the issues, assumptions and goals implied in IT globalization, scope expansion and enterprise deployment, or innovations such as e-commerce and knowledge management?

We particularly welcome papers that directly analyze specific language from actual case environments or texts. This analysis can come from any of the methods described above, or others. The idea is to paint a clear picture of language-in-action and how it works to influence the direction of IT in the world and in organizations.

Possible topics for papers include:

- Analyses of the fit of system development models to organizational rhetoric
- Studies of texts that disclose a view of technology
- Theoretical approaches to the study of organizational discourse
- Distinctions implied in explanations of work and business models
- The use of metaphors in computing, planning and information systems development
- Discourse analysis of participants in IS projects
- How the language of technology is used to set social agendas
- Studies of communication genres
- Ethnographic semantics of IT planning, development and evaluation
- Schemes of representation
- Critical analyses of discourses
- Communicative and strategic action studies
- Philosophical issues of language and representation

Submitted papers must not have been previously presented or published and must not be under consideration for presentation or publication elsewhere.

General Chair:  
Program Co-Chairs

David Avison (FR)  
Eleanor Wynn (USA)  
Michael Myers (NZ)  
Edgar Whitley (GB)  
Rafael Andreu (Spain)

avison@essec.fr  
eleanor.wynn@intel.com  
m.myers@auckland.ac.nz  
E.A.Whitley@lse.ac.uk  
andreu@iese.edu

Organizing Chair:

## Chair's Message (continued from page 1)

mented on the friendly welcome they received. The outside events included an out-of-doors production of Amadeus, a visit to a museum and a trip rafting down the river. Thank you everyone. Only the singing and acting were criticised. I thought mine was one of the most potent death scenes in memory – others had a different view. I fear that alcohol got the better of some of our singing voices, though as usual the Scandinavians took the prize. Many thanks to Wita and Greg Wojtkowski for their superb organisational skills.

### Debate

An innovation at this conference was the discourse that took place over lunch on the last day of the conference (before the business meeting). This was led by Edgar Whitley (GB). Participants were asked to raise issues that would not fit within the normal formal agenda of the business meeting. The brainstorming session was very successful, with many issues being reported back. Edgar will send a message to the list serve giving a list of these topics. It is to be hoped that people will join in so that eventually we will have concrete suggestions for the next business meeting to further the group in the long run. People also made suggestions for future working conference themes during this session.

### Publication

One suggestion made in the debate was for our conference proceedings to be made generally available on the web after passing a period of time in book form only. In fact the meeting of Technical Committee 8 which preceded the conference has put forward to IFIP this very suggestion. Our proposal was for proceedings to be available one year following initial publication. Of course this needs the agreement of IFIP and the publishers, but we are hopeful that we will be successful.



*Planning the Estonian strategy for the traditional after dinner national song competition, are Mart Roost (L) and Veskiöja Taro (R), Tallinn Technical University.*

### Technical Committee 8

TC8 which includes the chairs of WG8.2 and the other TC8 working groups (on IS development, decision support systems, e-commerce and smart cards) met in Salzburg just before the conference on e-commerce in June. Other people participating in the annual TC8 meeting included IFIP national representatives. The chair was Bernard Glasson, though he has now been replaced by the new chair Dewald Roode. Congratulations Dewald and thanks Bernie! We agreed the future events for the working groups and also planned a strategy for TC8 as a whole. The next TC 8 meeting will be held before the IFIP World Congress, Montreal, next August. It is a bit early, but you may think about aspects that you want me to raise for consideration by IFIP over the next few months.

### Ph.D. Supervisors' Workshop

One proposal I made at the meeting was for a supervisors workshop. There are many PhD consortia now available and these are both excellent and successful. Sometimes weaknesses in PhD students reflects indifferent supervision. Yet there are few opportunities for research supervisors to discuss their craft. I proposed at the business meeting that we have such a workshop before our 2003 working conference. This was agreed by both IFIP TC8 and 8.2 members and many people came forward with suggestions and offers of help. This augers well for the event! If anyone else is interested please contact me.

## Upcoming IFIP WG 8.2 conferences and workshops

- [Oasis Workshop](#), New Orleans, Louisiana, US, 16 December 2001 (meeting immediately before the ICIS 2001 Conference).
- [Organizational Discourse About Information Technology](#), Working Conference, Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain, 12-14 December 2002 (immediately before the ICIS 2002 Conference). Submissions are due 1 March 2002.
- [Social Implications of Computers in Developing Countries](#), Joint IFIP Working Group 8.2/9.4 Working Conference, Athens, Greece, 15-17 June 2003 (just before the ECIS 2003 Conference in Naples, Italy).
- [Oasis Workshop](#), planned for immediately before ICIS 2003 (location to be announced).
- [Manchester 2: Relevant Theory and Informed Practice: A Twenty Year Perspective on IS Research](#), Working Conference, Manchester, England, summer 2004.