



Mini-track ID: AMCISPR1042008

Mini-track title: Philosophical underpinnings of IS Development and Design Science Research
Track: General Topics

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Description

Information System (IS) research can be seen as a rich tapestry of paradigms, methods, and research approaches. Amongst others, IS development and design science – both understood as design-oriented research approaches – are established approaches in IS. However, many researchers advocating the stance of such design-oriented research often neglect or overlook the importance of basic philosophical and epistemological grounding of their research. For instance, design science is often advocated as a third paradigm that adds up to positivism and interpretivism. However, the understanding of such concepts as ‘research rigor’, ‘research validity’, and ‘research quality’ depends heavily on the underlying philosophical understanding, also in design-oriented research!

Furthermore, the debates on IS development, on the one hand, and on design science research, on the other hand, have often been conducted in different institutional contexts. Some authors take a purely technical view of software artifacts, others are more interested in the development process than the product and still other groups look only at the human and political issues and neglects the technology altogether. One of the goals of this workshop is to try to see if there is fruitful interchange among these approaches and other mainstream IS research, such as Action Research. Against this backdrop, the goal of this track to analyze possible distinct philosophical assumptions underlying these distinct debates. Such comprehensive analysis will pave way for an integrated view on the status-quo of design-oriented IS research and not only build the basis for theoretically strengthening this stream of research, but also increase rigorous relevant research in IS. The goal of the track is thus in strong alignment with the the AMCIS 2008 conference theme "Learning from the Past & Charting the Future of the Discipline" which aims at integrating the achievements of and a future vision for IS research.

Suggested Topics

Philosophical issues in design science and IS development research

- Methodological issues in design science and IS development research
- Ontological and epistemological issues in design science and IS development research
- Philosophical issues in multi-methodological research
- Philosophical issues in research evaluation
- Comparative analysis of discourses on IS development and design science research
- Methodological pluralism and its consequences
- The ‘IT artifact’ and its philosophical assumptions