

DEBATE FORUM

Debate Editor

Bo Dahlbom

Now is a good time to bring out some of the recent issues of the journal, where they lie buried in stacks of papers on your desk, or safely tucked away in the dusty archives we call book shelves. For in the debate forum of this issue you will find Lars Mathiassen responding to Markku Nurminen's "Infurgy Manifesto" published in Volume 8, Number 1. And you will find Jakob Bardram and Lars Mathiassen responding to the attack against them by Gro Bjercknes in Volume 8, Number 2. While you are looking for the debate forum in these back issues, to see what Nurminen and Bjercknes actually said, you may decide to read one or more of the papers that you did not have time to read when the journal first arrived. And thus a debate forum can help

keep a journal alive, turning it into a discussion rather than an archive.

In the debate forum of this issue we also have a critical review of Scandinavian information systems research as exemplified by our own journal. Ola Henfridsson, Jonny Holmström, and Anders Söderholm, have gone through the journal from beginning to end and found that in spite of the fact that we like to pride ourselves of our "organizational competence" we seem incredibly ignorant of organization theory. Jakob Bardram and Karlheinz Kautz, being authors of two of the papers especially singled out for attack, respond.

In this issue we also have a longer, forceful attack on information systems research as practiced in the US, and thus setting the norm for international publications in our discipline. It is Claudio Ciborra's keynote speech from IRIS 20 in

Oslo, that we here publish with response from Markku S

All of the issues brought up in this debate forum warrant further discussion, and I encourage you all to submit your reactions to the forum. Only by doing so will the discussion go on.

In the debate forum the journal will publish critical notices about the state of Scandinavian information systems research in general, but we will prefer criticism with a clear address, be it a paper published in this journal (or somewhere else), a book, a conference, or some other phenomenon within the range of our community, in order to make it possible to get a dialogue going without delay.

The debate forum editor will determine what is fit to print and what is not. Critical notices will normally be sent to the one being attacked for response before it is published. The editor will take initiatives to bring about debates, but will of course be dependent on suggestions and material supplied by the community. So, please submit your angry letters, critical notices of books published, or trends observed, as well as suggestions for debates.

Contributions should be sent by email to scand-debate@cs.auc.dk.