

Editorial

In the last issue of the *Scandinavian Journal of Information System* the new editorial board presented a revised scope statement of the journal. This statement confirms the traditional role of the journal of cultivating aspiring and established Scandinavian scholars. It also, however, emphasises how this is supplemented with an ambition to open up more also to contributions outside of Scandinavia that adhere – in the sense of research strand – to a “Scandinavian” tradition. In this manner, we want to work towards carving out “Scandinavia” as a trademark rather than a literal geographical demarcation.

We are happy and honoured to announce that we have recruited an advisory board that is to help us substantiate this ambition. This advisory board is recruited from the network of scholars close to “Scandinavia” together with a few, experienced people from former editorial boards of the *Scandinavian Journal of Information System*. The new advisory board consists of: Marc Berg, Dick Boland, Susanne Bødker, Claudio Ciborra, Bo Dahlbom, Jan Damsgaard, Jukka Heikkilä, Finn Kensing, Kalle Lyytinen, Lars Mathiassen, Susan Newman, Ojelanki Ngwenyama, Peter Axel Nielsen, Susan Leigh Star, Carsten Sørensen, Pål Sørsgaard, Randy Trigg, Duane Truex and Geoff Walsham.

The present issue represents the first one this collective of editors have been responsible for from inception to outlet. The first of the five papers is “Proxy Lady: Mobile Support for Opportunistic Communication” by Per Dahlberg, Fredrik Ljungberg, and Johan Sanneblad. They outline an interesting perspective on how informal and opportunistic face-to-face communication can be supported with mobile IT. Drawing on the assumption that informal communication is becoming increasingly important in modern work practices, the article describes the rationale as well as an evaluation of a PDA-based prototype for such communication. The results are a useful contribution to our knowledge about the intersection between mobile technology, work practice, and organizations.

In the paper “Designing Competence Systems: Towards Interest-Activated Technology” Rikard Lindgren and Dick Stenmark present an action case study on the design, implementation, and evaluation of a traditional competence system of Volvo Information Technology AB in Sweden. The authors also implemented and introduced a new, interest-activated recommender system prototype as a contrasting competence system. Drawing on the analyses of these two systems, Lindgren and Stenmark outline five design implications for future competence systems based on interest-activated technology.

The backdrop of the third paper is the IT scandals where resource consuming development of large IT systems never met the user’s actual needs thus questioning the requirement analysis. Mark Bergman, John Leslie King, and Kalle Lyytinen in their paper examine the current Requirements Engineering theory and characterise it as an activity reduced to documenting technical solutions for a given set of goals or problems. Referring to established decision theory they criticise the Requirements Engineering theory and advocate a heterogeneous view, where a requirement specifies a set of mappings between problem and solution spaces, which both are socially constructed and negotiated.

Scandinavian IS research has a long tradition in collaborating with industry. One of the “grand old men” in this respect - Lars Mathiassen - takes up the methodological question of how to conduct such collaborative projects in the fourth paper. It presents experiences from a recent and large collaborative project within Software Process Improvement, and presents a general framework for combining action research with experiments and conventional practice studies.

In the debate section of this issue, Eevi Beck poses the question of how practitioners and researchers relate to the political concerns inherent in IS development? The Scandinavian IS community has traditionally been engaged intensively in the politics of IS development. Eevi Beck urges us to take the dominating silence over issues of, say, power relations, as an opportunity for both junior as well as senior scholars to reflect on the trajectory of politics in

IS development. In line with the ambition of this debate section, it's time for the senior audience of SJIS to recall your experience and sum up how lessons from the past are relevant today. And it's time for "newcomers" to listen and reflect - as well as voicing your own opinions.

Eric Monteiro (Editor-in-chief)

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