

iCHANNEL

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From the Convener

Welcome to this edition of iSChannel. It is great to see the Journal go into a second issue and maintain the impetus, quality and interest of the first. I am sure iSChannel is going to be permanent feature of our Masters student body and will extend its range even further as we bring on stream further Masters degrees in the areas of Security and Global Sourcing. As Editor of the Journal of Information Technology and Senior Editor for several other journals, I have always valued greatly the ability of people to think through, articulate and disseminate their ideas and work. Here is an opportunity for you to get started, in a Journal run by you, read by you, and increasingly by faculty and students and alumni around the world. Welcome to a new tradition – iSChannel.

Professor Leslie Willcocks
Head of the Information Systems and Innovation Group

From the Faculty Editor

This is the second edition of the iSChannel, a journal on the social study of Information Systems, produced, edited and double-blind peer reviewed by the students of the Information Systems and Innovation Group at the LSE. The papers provide a fascinating snap-shot of the interests of the MSc students within the group. Core subjects such as Information systems development remain of concern, with articles on agility, project escalation and user involvement included in this edition. It is also interesting to note the increasing recognition of Governmental stakeholders and policy debates as central, with less of a dominant role for commercial sectors among the papers. This does not discount the commercial sectors importance, but does highlight that Information Systems has much to learn and contribute away from the commercial world. Hokwon Song's opinion piece in particular highlights how an unusual, little studied, and often disregarded area (in Song's case modern churches in the US) can provide startling points of debate for our field. Information systems should not simply be servants of the powerful elite (Baritz, 1960) of commercial organisations in financial services and consulting, but also include research and consideration of industries and sectors of society often overlooked. If we are to, as Claribelle Guungco's article requests, bridge the perceived "relevance gap" (Starkey & Madan, 2001) in management research then we must ensure that we ask the question "relevant for whom?", ensuring that all in our world are represented. I would be keen to see such areas reflected in future issues of the iSChannel.

Dr Will Venters, Faculty Editor.

Baritz, L. (1960) *Servants of power*. Wesleyan University Press, Middletown.

Starkey, K. and Madan, P. (2001) Bridging the relevance gap: Aligning stakeholders in the future of management research. *British Journal of Management* 12 (Supplement 1), S3-S24.