

EDITORIAL – A Shift towards a Social Interaction Paradigm

The explosion of unprecedented opportunities and uncertainties permeating recent adoptions of information and communication technologies (ICT), in development and in use, have required social interaction, collaborative solutions and users' mastery of technology artefacts. As a new paradigm, these developments are geared towards more responsiveness in handling change and innovation. The papers presented in this issue of the iCHANNEL collectively embody different aspects of social interaction with respect to the development and use of ICT. The breadth and depth of the selected literature, reviewed from a broad range of perspectives and fields of study, does not only shed light onto emerging challenges and opportunities in terms of social interaction but opens up a wider debate right at the heart of academia.

The first paper, **Reframing Empowerment: A new paradigm for ICT4D** by Silvia Masiero, starts with a critical discussion of the literature on technology as a social regulator. Viewing technology as a cross-contextual force, she proposes a reframed or reconstructed notion of empowerment. From this alternative perspective, empowerment is considered to be a goal of development and technology alike. By reframing empowerment as well as the role of technology, the paper proposes a shift from a theoretical perspective of situatedness to a view of technology as a multipurpose development tool that mediates social interaction as well as social power.

Addressing a wider concern in **Risk Management and User Prevention for Malware Threats**, Anand Paul draws attention to the evolving growth of Malware threats. Be it individuals or organizations, the author analysis the need for a combined strategy against virus attacks. Drawing on numerous examples, the paper argues that the battle against Malware cannot be won without taking the perspectives and attitudes of individual users into consideration. The paper concludes with the suggestion to include user-motivation, user awareness and user participation practices in order to manage the risks associated with Malware.

In **The Alignment of System and Organizational Design in ERP Implementation: A Review of The-**

oretical Perspectives, Ashish Mullick reviews the literature on the alignment of organizational structures with the structures embedded in Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems. In detail, the paper discusses the conceptual underpinnings which inform the attempts to minimize the misfit between the organizational structures as it is embedded in an ERP package and the actual structures of organizations. The author identifies two explanatory views: static and dynamic. Against this backdrop, the author suggests that a combination of these two views may be more appropriate in addressing the misalignment between organization and ERP package.

In the fourth paper, **Open Source Software: Ideology, Self Interest and the Crowd**, Tinesh Babu explores the motivational factors of individuals who contribute in the development of Open Source Software (OSS). Based on the review of various socio-technical perspectives, the author categorizes the motivations for participation into two groups; ideology and self-interest. As the paper critically reflects on the recent rise of commercial interests in OSS communities and products, the paper argues that in order to fully realize the social benefits of OSS we need to increase our understanding of what users and organizations expect from OSS.

The final paper, **Code as Storytelling: Insights about Free/Open Source Development** through an Analogy with Alternate Reality Games by Rafael Kenski, investigates the importance of joy and fun as motivators for the development of Free/Open Source Software (F/OSS). Drawing on an empirical case study, the author discusses the extrinsic and intrinsic motivations for OSS development. The evidence provided shows that factors like escapism and immersion play a significant role in F/OSS development projects.

The papers included in this volume address a variety of issues and problems through literature reviews, the design of research frameworks and empirical research. The depth and breadth of the topics reaches beyond the IS literature, to management school of thoughts, economics, sociological and political theories and concepts all in an attempt to address social interactions with respect to ICT.

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