

# Debate Department of CAIS

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The *Communications of the Association for Information Systems (CAIS)* is dedicated to fostering the free flow of ideas within the Information Systems (IS) community; its emphasis is on originality, importance, and cogency of ideas. *CAIS* is a classical, reviewed outlet for research with every intention of being equal to the best in the field; a living discipline and disciplinary community based on lively debate. We have therefore taken the mission of *CAIS* a step further and included a standing Debate department that gives voice to the principled expression of diverse viewpoints and arguments of general interest to the IS community. As a flagship journal of the AIS, we will carry out this mission by publishing debates within every volume.

In the debate section at the *CAIS* we invite critical notes, reflection or commentary about information systems research practices, institutions, and values. Any critical or controversial topic is welcome, but we prefer positions which clearly address a phenomenon within our community in general or which deal with specific arguments made in our journals, at our conferences or in a book. In the past, *CAIS* published debates on topics such as the Value of IS research, Open Access publishing, or Peer Reviewing. While issues and opinion pieces in other IS journals often stand alone and are debated outside the journals or with some delay in subsequent journal issues the *CAIS* Debates format is designed to enable a dialogue without delay. *CAIS* is committed to publishing one complete debate per volume.

## Submission instructions

Debates are handled by solicitation. The department editor both seeks and solicits manuscripts and will, in collaboration with the author(s), determine what is appropriate to be published and what is not. Debate contributions will be peer-reviewed to elicit developmental feedback and to encourage authors, in collaboration with the department editor who makes the final decision, to better articulate their contributions. We invite prospective authors to approach the department editor via email with an informal proposal about a debate including a possible title and abstract and potential respondents. Proposals, viewpoints as well as rejoinders are to be submitted via email directly to the department editor.

While the format of a specific debate can be negotiated with the department editor depending on factors like topic and contributors, the following two debate formats are encouraged:

- 1) **Paper-Centric Debate:** Based on an original research paper on a debate-worthy topic (about 8,000-10,000 words length) between five and six academic colleagues will be invited by the department editor, based on either the authors' suggestions or chosen by the editor, to provide their rejoinder position (about 2,000-3,000 words length). The author of the original manuscript will then have the opportunity for a rejoinder to the rejoinders as a preliminary final word.
- 2) **Viewpoint-Centric Debate:** Based on one or several concise viewpoint paper on a provocative or controversial topic (about 4,000-5,000 words length) the department editor will, in collaboration with the author(s), invite five to six principled commentaries (about

2,000-3,000 words length) from scholars. The authors of the original viewpoint paper will then have the opportunity for a rejoinder.

In either case, all contributions to a debate will be published in one package. In case specific colleagues' work is addressed in a viewpoint these colleagues are invited to respond before the package is published. Once accepted for publication, the entire package of papers will enter the formal production system of CAIS.

#### **Department Editor Biography**

As a tenured Senior Lecturer in Business Information Systems at The University of Sydney Business School, I specialize in compassionate digital innovation, focusing on decentralized governance and ethical/societal implications of emerging digital technologies (blockchain, web3, ai, social media). I gravitate toward dialectical inquiry and qualitative research but remain methodologically open-minded. I'm deeply committed to mentorship, having guided dozens of research students across several countries, and actively contributing to the academic community as a reviewer and editor, recognized with teaching awards, Best AE Awards and as a Distinguished Member of the Association for Information Systems. My industry collaborations enrich my teaching, informed by a global academic background and multilingual fluency. My research appears regularly in leading journals and conferences.