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A Study of Heterogeneous Actors’ Involvement in Global Information System Project Control

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Abstract

Global IS projects are problematic activities for organizations that undertake them. Studies investigating the control of these projects have taken a human-focused view of project control and provide limited insights about the ways in which both human and nonhuman (i.e., heterogeneous) actors (Law 1986) may be involved in the control of these projects (e.g., nonhuman actors’ use as control mechanisms). This research seeks to complement these existing studies by investigating in an in-depth fashion the involvement of these varied actors, how the involvement of these actors emerges and changes over the course of projects, and the consequences of these diverse actors’ involvement for global IS project control. Four interpretive case studies of global IS project control are being conducted. When complete, this study has the potential to contribute valuable insights about the ways in which these varied actors may be involved in the control of these challenging projects.

Keywords: Long-Distance Control, Project Management, Project Governance, Global Information Systems Projects, Information and Communication Technologies