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Foreword IRIS44: Living in a Digital World?

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SELECTED PAPERS OF THE INFORMATION SYSTEMS RESEARCH SEMINAR IN SCANDINAVIA (IRIS)

IRIS44: Living in a Digital World?

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1 About issue 12 (2021)

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2 Foreword

After last year's virtual conference, the organizers and certainly many participants hoped to meet in person again. The theme of the 44th Information Systems Research Seminar in Scandinavia (IRIS44) was *Living in a Digital World?* and it was hosted by the Norwegian University of Science and Technology from August 9th to 11th, 2021. The question mark in the theme is put aptly; while the conference called to question if we are *really* living in a digital world, the organizers also had to constantly reevaluate the question if conditions allowed for a physical conference, planned to be held in Orkanger, Norway. Unfortunately, the organizers had to decide to host a virtual conference one more time due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Nonetheless, the participants of IRIS44 discussed their research with reference to the conference's theme in six working groups based on their research topics: (1) Emerging concepts and methods, (2) Managing digital innovations, (3) Public sector, (4) Sustainable and holistic approaches to IS, (5) Ecosystems, and (6) Healthcare.

The six papers selected for the 12th issue of the *IRIS Selected Papers of the Information Systems Research Seminar in Scandinavia* include empirical work and literature reviews from the different groups. These papers underwent a double-blinded peer-review process and were nominated by the group chairs. The authors of the selected papers were asked to submit a final version of their work, which included a revision based on the discussion during the three-day seminar. The IRIS44 received in total 39 submissions, which leads to an acceptance rate of 15% for this issue.

We want to thank all the participants of IRIS44 for two very insightful and inspiring days of research presentations and discussion and wish the authors all the best with their further work.

3 Selected papers

The first paper in this issue, *The IS-Notion of Affordances: A Mapping of the Application of Affordance Theory in Information Systems Research* by Bjørnar Valbø, presents a systematic literature review on affordance theory research, including articles published in the “Basket of 8” in the last 21 years. Valbø carries out both a quantitative and qualitative analysis of the findings. Quantitatively, the study shows the increasing trend of research applying affordances theory. However, there is a divergent application of the definition of affordances. After discussing the definitions, Valbø proposes an “IS-flavoured affordance definition” which goes beyond purely technology-use and highlights the affordance resulting *from* the use of technology.

Next, Maja Lanestedt Thomassen and Magnus Li investigate in their paper *Enterprise Software Implementation as Context for Digital Innovation* how innovation takes place when implementing generic enterprise systems. A theme that deserves the attention of our IS community, and previous research gave a somewhat limited role to innovation within generic enterprise systems. The authors base their empirical research on a case of one of the largest vendors of generic enterprise software, specifically on the practice of consultancy firms specialized in its implementation. The study results in a conceptualization of how digital innovation occurs between generic enterprise software and individual needs.

In the timely paper titled *An Institutional Analysis of Digital Transformation of Covid-19 Contact Tracing during a Pandemic*, Ragnhild Bassøe Gundersen, Vetle Alvenes Utvik, Anne Asmyr Thorseng, Johan Ivar Sæbø and Petter Nielsen provide an analysis on contact-tracing in Norway. The authors investigate this unique case of rapid digital transformation in an ongoing case study and give first insights into their work. Analyzing their findings through the lens of institutional work forms, they provide a rich description of how this digital transformation led to long-term institutional changes. Interestingly, they report an institutionalization of digital contact tracing, while the former, manual contract tracing was still ongoing. A paper that certainly fits well with this year’s conference theme.

The paper *Building a Maturity Model for Developing Ethically Aligned AI Systems* investigates the ethical challenges of AI, and the difficulty of applying ethical guidelines to develop AI-based information systems. The authors Marianna Jantunen, Erika Halme, Ville Vakkuri, Kai-Kristian Kemell, Rebekah Rousi, Tommi Mikkonen, Anh Nguyen Duc and Pekka Abrahamsson propose a maturity model for AI ethics, which is intended to support the development of ethically aligned AI systems. Methodologically, their research is guided by Design Science Research to develop a maturity model. Their model is based on the Capability Maturity Model, holding principles from AI ethical guidelines.

The fourth paper, *Orchestration in Practice: A Case in Asset Intensive Industry*, by Daniel Stedjan Svendsrud, Katja Maria Hydle and Margunn Aanestad take a closer look at the orchestration of ecosystems. They specifically look at the concept of network orchestration and focus on the move from networks to ecosystems. Hence, they ask: “How do the providers of a data-centric platform orchestrate the surrounding ecosystem? and; what are the implications of our understanding of orchestration?”. Their exploratory, qualitative research presents findings based on an empirical case study of a fast-growing firm that implements a data-centric platform for heavy-asset industries.

Finally, moving to healthcare, Betty Saenyi carried out a systematic literature review in her paper, *Conceptualizing a Holistic Evaluation for Interoperable Health Information Systems*. Focusing on the evaluation of success in interoperable health information systems, Saenyi uses the Delone and McLean Success Model to present the findings, based on 59 articles included in the final review. The review has identified eight metrics. Further, organizational interoperability has been identified as an area not widely addressed, and the author proposes including organizational influence to evaluate the organizational interoperability of health information systems.

In summary, the selected papers from IRIS44 did not only contribute to engaging discussions during the seminar but also to understanding the ongoing digital transformation we live in. We were happy to be given the opportunity to carefully read the interesting work of the IRIS selected papers 2021.