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# Yesterday's Tomorrows at the Dawn of ICIS: 30 Year Re-Visions from the 1st ICIS Doctoral Consortium

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# YESTERDAY'S TOMORROWS AT THE DAWN OF ICIS: 30 YEAR RE-VISIONS FROM THE 1<sup>ST</sup> ICIS DOCTORAL CONSORTIUM

*ICIS 2009 Panel*

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## **Abstract**

*ICIS 2009 marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1<sup>st</sup> ICIS Doctoral Consortium held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. There were 19 student participants at that doctoral consortium, and 9 faculty – all full of anticipation, excitement, and some apprehension: where would the IS field lead them? Or where could they lead it? What did the future hold? What were the visions of the future for the IS field? This panel re-examines yesterday's tomorrow's and re-visions what they had seen 30 years ago to see what we can learn today for the next 30 years for the future of the IS field and IS research. This panel seeks to give a sense of history and of past visions, while devoting a large part of the panel time and discussion to generating insights for the future of the IS field. The panel is co-chaired by three of the student participants of the 1<sup>st</sup> ICIS 1980 Doctoral Consortium (Ariav, Dos Santos, and El Sawy). The two key panelists/speakers, Peter G.W. Keen and Michael Ginzberg were at the 1<sup>st</sup> ICIS as plenary speakers and doctoral consortium faculty.*

**Keywords:** Future of IS, IS research agenda, ICIS Doctoral Consortium, learning from history.

## **Panelist/Speaker #1: Peter G.W. Keen, Chairman, Keen Innovations.**

At the 1st ICIS in 1980, Peter Keen, then at the MIT Sloan School of Management, was an influential academic evangelist who had a vision that the IS field could develop by drawing upon the theories of other established reference disciplines in a cumulative tradition. His famous still-quoted talk was titled “*MIS Research: Reference Disciplines and a Cumulative Tradition.*” He eventually decided he would have more impact on the world of management practice and innovation. Peter will use the benefit of 20/20 hindsight to briefly outline what the key issues in IS research and practice were back then, and what they turned out to be. After a quick look back, he will then direct most of his remarks to drawing lessons for the future and what may lie ahead for the Information Systems field and how it may evolve.

## **Panelist/Speaker #2: Michael Ginzberg, Dean, Sy Syms School of Business, Yeshiva University.**

Michael Ginzberg, then at New York University, was both a plenary speaker at the 1980 ICIS and faculty at the 1<sup>st</sup> ICIS Doctoral Consortium. He eventually transitioned from the traditional research academic role to deanships at Case Western University, University of Delaware, and Yeshiva University. Michael will use the insights from his dual roles as seasoned IS academic and business school dean to give us his insights on how the role and positioning of the IS field has changed in business schools since the 1<sup>st</sup> ICIS in 1980, how it is expected to change in the future, and what we can learn from that for the next generation of IS scholars.

## **Panelists/Speakers #3: The 1<sup>st</sup> ICIS Doctoral Student Participants**

We will gather as many of the 19 participants as we can (see complete list below) to share their thoughts, including the three panel co-chairs (Ariav, Dos Santos, El Sawy). The students in the doctoral consortium have become established academics in their own right ranging from business school deans to award winning writers to button-down professors – as well as successful practitioners and influencers. Each of the participants who agree to appear will be asked to share a brief “one minute” thought on a prediction about an issue in the IS field that they believed in 1980, what it turned out to be, and what insight that provides for future generations of IS scholars.

## **List of Participants, Conference on Information Systems, 1980 Doctoral Consortium**

### **Students:**

Robert M. Akscyn (Carnegie-Mellon University); Gad Ariav (University of Pennsylvania); William J. Cosgrove (University of Nebraska-Lincoln); William DeLone (University of California, Los Angeles); Brian L. Dos Santos (Case Western Reserve University); Omar A. El Sawy (Stanford University); Les Gasser (University of California, Irvine); Virginia Gibson (State University of New York); John A. Lehman (University of Michigan); Charles E. Paddock (University of Houston); Hasan Pirkul (University of Rochester); Philip J. Pyburn (Harvard University); Reagan M. Ramsower (University of Minnesota); James Senyszyn (New York University); Peretz Shoval (University of Pittsburgh); Jack Stott (University of Arizona); Jerry Tillman (University of Georgia); Michael E. Treacy (Massachusetts Institution of Technology); Surya B. Yadav (Georgia State University).

### **Faculty:**

Marty Bariff (Case Western Reserve University); Izak Benbasat (University of British Columbia); Gary Dickson (University of Minnesota); Michael Ginzberg (New York University); Richard D. Hackathorn (University of Colorado); John Henderson (Florida State University); Benn Konsynski (University of Arizona); Charles H. Kriebel (Carnegie-Mellon University); Jeffrey Moore (Stanford University).