Editors' Comments ▬▬▬▬▬▬

From the Editor-in-Chief:

Dear Readers,

To begin, we at *MISQE* would like to thank all who participated in the pre-ICIS 2017 and the HICSS 2018 workshops on the Digital Workforce. Organizers Michelle Kaarst-Brown, Fred Niederman, Tim Weitzel, and Jeria Quesenberry organized two excellent workshops marked by interesting presentations and lively discussions. We thank all of our presenters who travelled to Seoul or to Hawaii to present their work. We look forward to the December issue featuring the papers accepted to the special issue on the Digital Workforce.

Please think about submitting to the *HICSS* 2019 minitrack on practice-based research. Now in its 4th year, this minitrack invites authors to submit in-depth research that provides rich stories, unique insights, and useful conceptual frameworks for information systems practice. This minitrack seeks to showcase high quality practice-oriented research as a key source of insight for practitioners and researchers. The deadline for submission is June 15, 2018.

In this first issue of 2018, we have three research articles and the report of the annual Society of Information Management's IT trends survey. The first paper, written by Nadège Levallet and Yolande Chan, is titled "Role of Digital Capabilities in Unleashing the Power of Managerial Improvisation." The paper identifies two digital capabilities that organizations can use to foster managerial improvisation in response to unexpected events. The paper was initially presented at the ICIS 2015 practice-oriented research track. The authors present three types of managerial improvisation that vary according to the amount of time pressure and the degree of uncertainty. The authors illustrate these forms of improvisation using two cases studies, highlighting the role of digital capabilities in responding to the unexpected threats facing management.

The second paper, "Established Companies' Strategic Responses to Sharing Economy Threats," is authored by Chen Zhang, William Kettinger, Prajakta Kolte, and Shungjin Yoo, all of the University of Memphis. This paper is part of the December 2017 special issue on the Sharing Economy. This paper looks at the sharing economy from the perspective of traditional firms. Traditional or "pipeline" firms are accustomed to sensing and responding to threats in their environment from other pipeline firms but are often blindsided by the potential disruptions from the sharing economy. The authors devise a sensing and assessing checklist for executives in pipeline firms and apply this to the accommodation sector and the package delivery sector. From this, the authors derive five strategic response options for established companies when a platform-based entrant emerges in the industry.

The third article in this issue tells the story of how a BPO provider extended its operations to provide robotic process automation (RPA) services to clients. Titled "How OpusCapita Used Internal RPA Capabilities to Offer Services to Clients" and written by Petri Hallikainen, Riitta Bekkhus, and Shan Pan, this paper explains the threats and opportunities provided by RPA. The article describes the pre-implementation, pilot implementation, and expansion stages of OpusCapita's journey into RPA.

And lastly, the fourth article in this issue presents the findings of the annual Society of Information Management's IT trends survey. Leon Kappelman, Vess Johnson, Chris Maurer, Ephraim McLean, Russell Torres, Alsius David, and Quynh Nguyen collaborated to survey 4,213 SIM members, 1,178 of whom responded from 769 different organizations. As always, this study provides valuable information to practitioners, academics and students of IT.

Powerpoint slides of *MISQE* research articles are available on the MISQE.org website.

Dorothy E. Leidner
Editor-in-Chief