

Editors' Comments

From the Editor-in-Chief:

Dear Readers,

The International Conference on Information Systems (ICIS) is upon us. It will be the 40th edition of the premier international gathering of information systems scholars and will take place at the Internationales Congress Center in Munich, Germany. As is customary for the *MIS Quarterly Executive (MISQE)*, we will hold our editorial board meeting. The most relevant outcome of the meeting for readers and contributors will be the theme for the 2021 special issue—stay tuned, if history is any indication, it will be another timely and relevant topic.

ICIS is also when we hold the *MISQ Executive* pre-ICIS workshop, in preparation for the December 2020 special issue. This year we have planned an innovative format in preparation for a joint special issue between the *Journal of the Association for Information Systems* and *MISQE*. The special issue editors, Hind Benbya, Sirkka Jarvenpaa, Stella Pachidi, and Tom Davenport will host the workshop themed: “Artificial Intelligence in Organizations: Opportunities for Management and Implications for IS Research.” While participation in the workshop is not required to send a contribution to the special issue, a quick glance at the roster of mentors contributing to the event should erase any doubt in the value of participating, either as an author or simply as an attendee. Early indications suggest that it will be the most attended workshop in the history of *MISQE*—a testament to the quality of the topic and the efforts of the special issue and workshop editors.

One special issue is currently being planned, a second one is in full swing with the pre-ICIS workshop, and a third one has just been completed. This December 2019 issue of *MISQE* is devoted to the first set of articles from the special issue on “Delivering Business Value through Enterprise Blockchain Applications.” Mary Lacity, Rajiv Sabherwal, and Carsten Sørensen are the guest editors. On behalf of the journal, I extend my sincere thanks to them for working

tirelessly from the pre-ICIS workshop through the production stages to make sure this issue offers an informative, cohesive, and engaging set of contributions for our readers. I defer to the guest editors' own editorial to introduce the papers, and direct readers to the editorial in which Mary, Rajiv, and Carsten leverage their substantial knowledge to provide a short history of the fundamental elements of blockchain technology. This editorial is valuable in its own right and offers a solid basis for understanding the papers in the special issue.

In this Issue

In addition to the special issue papers, we are also publishing a preview of the results of the annual SIM IT Trends Study. Prepared by Leon Kappelman, Russell Torres, Ephraim McLean, Katia Guerra, Vess Johnson, Chris Mauer, Kevin Kim, and Mark Snyder, the preview provides a succinct overview of what to expect in the full results that will be published in the March 2020 issue.

Since this December 2019 issue is quite substantial already, I will temporarily dispense with the “Reflections from the Editor in Chief” section. In my last three editorials, I offered some reflections on what makes a great *MIS Quarterly Executive* article. I suggested that those of us who seek to perform rigorous research while striving to be relevant should focus on the three dimensions of timeliness, actionability, and clarity when crafting manuscripts for *MISQE*. I described timeliness and actionability in the previous two editorials and will focus on clarity in the next. Stay tuned.

Read on!

Gabriele Piccoli
Editor-in-Chief