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Inaugural Debate Section - Debate Editor's Note

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Communications of the Association for Information Systems

CAIS 

Inaugural Debate Section - Debate Editor's Note

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Editor's Note: The article was handled by the Department Editor for Debates.

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Communications of the Association for Information Systems (CAIS) is intended to foster the free flow of ideas within the Information Systems (IS) community; its emphasis is on originality, importance, and cogency of ideas; it is also a vehicle for case studies, survey articles, tutorials, and other materials of general interest to the IS community. The Journal is a classical, reviewed outlet for research with every intention of being equal to the best in the field; a living discipline and disciplinary community based on lively debate. We are therefore taking the mission of CAIS a step further and with this issue start a debate forum and section. Some of the IS community and AIS flagship journals such as *Management Information Systems Quarterly (MISQ)* or the *European Journal of Information Systems (EJIS)* provide space for issue and opinion pieces.

At CAIS we now also invite critical notices about information systems research in a specific format. Any critical or controversial topic is welcome, but we prefer positions which clearly address a phenomenon within our community in general or which deal with specific arguments made in our journals, at our conferences or in a book.

While issues and opinion pieces often stand alone and are debated outside the journals or with some delay in subsequent journal issues the CAIS format is designed to enable a dialogue without delay.

The section editor seeks and solicits manuscripts and will, in collaboration with the author(s), determine what is appropriate to be published and what is not.

On the basis of an original standpoint paper (about 10000 words length) between five and six academic colleagues will be invited by the section editor, based on either the authors' suggestions or chosen by the editor, to provide their rejoinder position (about 3000 words length). The author of the original manuscript will then have the opportunity for a rejoinder to the rejoinders as a preliminary final word. All this will be published in one package. In case specific colleagues' work is addressed in a viewpoint these colleagues are invited to respond before the package is published. We are working on further digital formats which subsequently will allow the community to extend the debate through the AIS or CAIS web sites beyond the original publications in a timely manner.

The kick-off for the section is made by Nik R. Hassan who formulated his concerns in an essay entitled 'Value of IS Research: Is There a Crisis?' It is based on observations Hassan has made in the community, published in journal articles, stated on conference panels and workshops as well as in AIS listserv postings, all representing the frequently recurring anxiety discourse in the community. Our call for rejoinders was then taken up by seven colleagues who discussed some of the issues raised by Hassan. We received the following responses: 'Constructing the Value Information Systems Research' by Michel Avital, 'Let's Start Fooling Ourselves: Strategies for Maneuvering Within the Micro-Political Influences Surrounding Our Research Practices' by Mike W. Chiasson, 'Higher Value of Research by Promoting Value for Researchers' by Ulrich Frank, 'Putting the Score ahead of the game' by Robert B. Johnston and Kai Riemer, 'Responding to Three Issues in Hassan [2013]' by Fred Niederman and 'Value of IS Research: Let's Not Talk Crisis – but We Can Do Better' by Varun Grover. Finally Hassan took the opportunity to put forward his reply to these positions in 'Value of IS Research – A Rejoinder to the Rejoinders' by Nik R. Hassan.

This is the first debate section of CAIS; the section editor takes the initiative to bring about debates, but we are dependent upon suggestions and material provided by the community. We are also open to receive material in various formats, so please take contact and send your proposals and manuscripts through either the CAIS editorial team or directly to the section editor.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Karlheinz Kautz holds the chair of IT Management and Innovation at the Faculty of Business of the University of Wollongong, NSW, Australia. His research focuses on information systems development, the adoption and diffusion of information technology and digital innovations, and on the organizational and societal impact of IT. He is a founding member and a former chairman of the IFIP TC8 WG 8.6 on Diffusion, Transfer, and Implementation of Information Technology. He has served on the boards of several top tier IS journals and is currently senior editor of the *Journal of Information Technology* and the *Communications of the AIS*.

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