



## **ISM SEMINAR**

Spring 2013

**Speaker:** Professor Mike Chiasson, Lancaster University Management School

**Title:** How is IS research relevant to the future?

**Date:** 06 March 2013

**Venue:** B2.13, WBS, Scarman Road

**Time:** 13.30

**Abstract:** In this talk, I will consider how various types of IS research could inform the future of IS. In particular, I consider three strategies used in IS research to inform the future -- prediction, explanation and transformation. I consider combinations of one or more of these strategies a fulcrum to the future. I illustrate various fulcra through an analysis of 3 broad epistemological approaches to IS knowledge for illustrative purposes only: positivism (capture the past in order to predict the future); interpretivism (understand the past to appreciate the infinite variety of the future but through similar social processes); and critical theory (critique the present in order to have a future). I will attempt to illustrate these ideas through my own work, and consider other rarely used possibilities for IS researchers to shape the future of IS. This work is being jointly authored with Elizabeth Davidson at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

**Biography:** Mike W. Chiasson is currently a Professor of Information Systems, and an Advanced Institute for Management Research (AIM) Innovation Fellow, at Lancaster University's Management School, in the Department of Management Science. Before joining Lancaster University, he was an Associate Professor in the Haskayne School of Business, University of Calgary (1999 to 2006), and he was a postdoctoral fellow at the Institute for Health Promotion Research at the University of British Columbia (1996 to 1999). His research examines how social context affects and is affected by information systems (IS) development and implementation, focusing on particular topics (privacy, user involvement, diffusion, outsourcing, cyber-crime, and system development conflict), in certain settings (medical, legal, engineering, entrepreneurial, and government). Most of his empirical work has employed some combination observation, action research, field experiments, and organisational-social critique. Mike Chiasson can be reached at [m.chiasson@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:m.chiasson@lancaster.ac.uk).

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This seminar has been organised by the iSM Group.