ISM

ISM SEMINAR
Spring 2013

Speaker:	**Professor Robert Galliers, Bentley University, Boston, USA**
Title:	**The Teaching of Qualitative Research Methods in PhD programmes: An explorative study utilizing learning theory – evidence from the field of information systems**
Date:	**06 February 2013**
Venue:	**B3.09, WBS, Scarman Road**
Time:	**09.30 – 11.00 (followed by Mari-Klara Stein's seminar)**

Abstract: This seminar is based on the European Journal of Information Systems* article by Bob Galliers and Jimmy Huang, published in 2012. Using findings from the study, discussion points will be raised concerning the teaching of qualitative research methods on Doctoral programmes in business and management studies.

Empirical evidence suggests that the Information Systems field continues to be dominated by the positivist paradigm and the use of quantitative methods. This is so despite the diversity of research methods available, the emergence of an interpretivist tradition, and some isolated examples of methodological pluralism. While there have been significant contributions in guiding qualitative research methods teaching, little research has been undertaken that considers the training actually provided, and the possible impacts this may have on the quality and quantity of qualitative research articles in our journals. This explorative study aims to provide some insight into what training is provided, the issues confronted, and possible impediments to publishing qualitative research. Data were collected from interviews with a panel of international colleagues who have a range of experience in teaching and applying qualitative methods. Grounded Theory is used to identify emergent and interconnected themes. Experiential and social learning lenses are used to reflect on the results, providing some initial understanding of the complexities of teaching and undertaking qualitative research. Theoretical as well as practical contributions are made regarding the means by which qualitative research may be introduced, developed and extended within the IS academy, and further theorisation of social and experiential learning.

*European Journal of Information Systems (2012) 21: 119–134.

Biography: Bob Galliers joined Bentley in July 2002 as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. He became the inaugural University Distinguished Professor in July 2009, having headed up Bentley's progress to university status and EQUIS and EDAMBA accreditation. AACSB and NEASC accreditations were reconfirmed during this period in addition. In line with his university-wide role, he holds a joint appointment as Professor in the Information & Process Management and Sociology departments. Previously, he was Professor of Information Systems and Research Director in the Department of Information Systems at the London School of Economics (LSE).

Before joining LSE, Galliers served as Lucas Professor of Business Management Systems and Dean of Warwick Business School in the United Kingdom, and earlier as Foundation Professor and Head of the School of Information Systems at Curtin University in Australia. He holds or has held Visiting Professorships at the LSE; King's College, London; Brunel University; the Australian School of Business, University of New South Wales; Hong Kong City and Polytechnic Universities; University of St Gallen; University of the Witwatersrand; National University of Singapore, and INSEAD.
He serves on the international advisory boards of a number of business schools, including those at

the University of Tilburg in The Netherlands, Hull University in the UK, and the National University of Ireland, Galway. He was appointed to the EQUIS Awarding Body in 2009 and the Association of Business Schools Scientific Advisory Board of the International Guide to Academic Journal Quality in 2012. He holds an AB (honors) degree in Economics from Harvard University; a Master's degree with distinction in Management Systems from Lancaster University; a PhD in Information Systems from the London School of Economics, and an Honorary Doctor of Science degree from Turku School of Economics & Business Administration, Finland. He is the editor-in-chief of the Journal of Strategic Information Systems; one of eight IS journals recognized for its quality by the Senior Scholars of the Association for Information Systems. He is a Fellow of the British Computer Society (FBCS), the Royal Society of Arts (FRSA), and the Association for Information Systems (FAIS), of which he was President in 1999. He received the AIS LEO Award for exceptional lifetime achievement in Information Systems in 2012. He has published approximately 80 articles in many leading international journals on information systems and management, and has authored or co-authored eleven books, including The Oxford Handbook of Management Information Systems (Oxford University Press, 2011); Strategic Information Management 4th edition (Routledge, 2009); Exploring Information Systems Research Approaches: Readings and Reflections (Routledge, 2007); Rethinking Management Information Systems (Oxford University Press, 1999), and IT and Organizational Transformation (Wiley, 1998).

His research is transdisciplinary in nature, focusing primarily on organizational innovation/transformation and the associated management of change issues; the process of information systems strategizing; knowledge management, and the intra- and extra-organizational impacts of information & communication technologies. He has been keynote speaker at more than 40 major international conferences including the European Conference on IS; the Australasian Conference on IS; the Scandinavian Conference on IS, and the Mediterranean Conference on IS. He has supervised over 20 PhD students to completion and his work has been cited over 4,000 times.

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This seminar has been organised by the iSM Group.