



ISM SEMINAR

Spring Term 2015-16

Speaker: Professor Jonny Holmström, Umeå University, Sweden

Title: Representation and Mediation in Digitalized Work: A Sociomaterial Analysis of Networked Maintenance of Mining Machinery

Date: Wednesday 03 February 2016

Venue: M2, WBS Teaching Centre

Time: 14:00

Abstract: Sociomaterial theorizing has promising potential to draw IT materiality back into IS research and deliver new insights regarding IT artefacts and their entanglement with human agency in work and other practices. However, few empirical studies and conceptual developments have addressed this potential, and much of it remains untapped. We therefore explore how sociomaterial entanglement can be conceptualized to include the particular characteristics of IT artifacts in the fusion of IT and work. To accommodate such theorizing, we adopt a critical realist view of sociomateriality to conceptualize digital representation (e.g. the use of IT to monitor and produce a work space) and digital mediation (e.g. the use of IT to share and enact a work arrangement) as two key figurations in digitalized work. We apply these concepts to provide a detailed account networked maintenance in a Swedish iron ore mine based on remote analysts, onsite workers and a diverse portfolio of technologies. Based on the acquired insights, we advance a new theoretical perspective on the fusion of IT and work that gives particular attention to the specific characteristics of IT artefacts.

Biography: Jonny Holmström is a professor of Informatics at the Swedish Center for Digital Innovation and the department of Informatics at Umeå University, Sweden. He is the director and co-founder of Swedish Center for Digital Innovation, and co-founder of Remus Technologies. His research interests include digital innovation, IT value, and open innovation methods for university-industry collaboration. His work on these topics has been published in journals such as Communications of the AIS, Design Issues, European Journal of Information Systems, Information and Organization, Information Systems Journal, Information Technology and People, Journal of the AIS, Journal of Strategic Information Systems, and Research Policy.

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