



ISM SEMINAR

Spring Term 2014-15

Speaker: Professor Kalle Lyytinen, Case Western Reserve University
Title: Making and breaking rules in information technology (IT) rich environments: The role of meaning and time in organizational regulation
Date: Friday 20 March 2015
Venue: B1.19, WBS Scarman Road
Time: 14.00

Abstract: The materialization of rules in Information Technology (IT) and their impact on practice have been rarely explored. A review of literature not only shows that IT is poorly conceptualized in studies of organizational regulation; especially, the social meaning of materialized rules and the time period of their impact has been ignored. The current pervasive use IT to regulate organizational behaviours warrants an exploratory study to theorize about the ternary relationships between rules, IT, and practices. To this end we trace IT uses that embed regulatory episodes (where behaviours are regulated by rules) during the implementation and assimilation of an e-learning system at a French university. The study helps us disentangle how rules become materialized in IT rich environments and how their interpretation unfolds in practice. Through regulatory episodes, we identify five meaningful modalities of organizational regulation in IT rich environments. Our analysis helps also formulate four conjectures about the dynamics of IT based organizational regulation. The implications of our findings are relevant for the theories of organizational regulation and the management of compliance.

Keywords: Information technology; rule; practice; regulation; temporal coupling.

Biography: Kalle Lyytinen (PhD, Computer Science, University of Jyväskylä; Dr. h.c. from Umeå University) is Iris S. Wolstein professor at Case Western Reserve University, a CIIR professor at University of Umeå, Sweden and a visiting professor at London School of Economics, U.K. He is currently Associate Dean of Research and the Academic Director of the Doctor of Management Programs at Weatherhead School of Management. Between 1992 and 2012 he was the 3rd most productive scholar in the IS field when measured by the AIS basket of 8 journals; he is currently among the 5 most cited scholars in the IS field based on his adjusted h-index (68). He is LEO Award recipient (2013), AIS fellow (2004), and the former chairperson of IFIP WG 8.2. He has published around 300 refereed articles and edited or written nearly 20 books or special issues on the nature of IS discipline, system design, method engineering, computer supported cooperative work, standardization, ubiquitous computing, social networks. He recently edited a special issue to Organization Science on digital innovation and has recently finished a special issue to MISQ on social communications and symbolic aspects of information systems and a special issue to ISR on the Information Technology and Future of Work. He is currently editing a special to MISQ on digitally enabled innovation. He is involved in research that explores IT induced radical innovation in software development, digitalization of complex design processes, requirements discovery and modeling for large scale systems, and digital infrastructures especially for mobile services.

Contact: To reserve a place contact Alison Solman, ISM Group Alison.solman@wbs.ac.uk 024 7652 4101. This seminar has been organised by the ISM Group