ISM SEMINAR
Summer Term 2014-15

Speaker:	**Professor Lars Mathiassen, Georgia State University**
Title:	**Organizational Path Constitution in Technological Innovation: evidence from rural telehealth**
Date:	**Wednesday 24 June 2015**
Venue:	**M1, WBS Teaching Centre**
Time:	**14:00**

Abstract: Path constitution theory has emerged as a promising combination of two contrasting perspectives on technological innovation: path dependence, which focuses on historically embedded, contingent processes that are more or less beyond the control of actors, and path creation, which emphasizes mindful contributions from powerful actors. However, the current path constitution literature focuses on macro- and multi-level inquiry without addressing the specific processes, opportunities, and challenges related to organizational (micro-level) technological innovation. Against this backdrop, we draw on the innovation and path literature as well as a case study of telehealth innovation in a public health organization to theorize how technological innovation paths constitute in organizational contexts. The proposed theory distinguishes between innovation path status and innovation path trajectory to help researchers understand and explain how organizations transform and reinforce path constitution patterns, how innovation paths may merge with or separate from other paths, and how organizations may arrive at a lock-in that challenges them to break out from dominant and seemingly irreversible action patterns.

Biography: Lars Mathiassen received his master's degree in computer science from Aarhus University, Denmark, in 1975, his PhD in informatics from Oslo University, Norway, in 1981, and his Dr. Techn. degree in software engineering from Aalborg University, 1998. He is currently GRA Eminent Scholar and professor in Department of Computer Information Systems and co-founder of Center for Process Innovation at Georgia State University. His research interests are within information systems, health informatics and software engineering with a particular emphasis on process innovation. He is a member of IEEE, ACM and AIS and coauthor of several books, including Computers in Context (Blackwell 1993), Object Oriented Analysis & Design (Marko Publishing, 2000), and Improving Software Organizations (Addison-Wesley, 2002). He has served as senior editor for MIS Quarterly and is currently senior editor for Information & Organization and Journal of Information Technology. His research is published in journals like Information Systems Research, MIS Quarterly, IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering, Health Services Research, Communications of the ACM, IEEE Transactions on Engineering Management, Information, Technology & People, Journal of Strategic Information Systems, Information Systems Journal, Scandinavian Journal of Information Systems, Journal of Information Technology, and IEEE Software. Lars may be contacted at lmathiassen@ceprin.org and full CV and publication record is available at www.larsmathiassen.org.

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