



ISM Seminar Series

Spring 2011

Speaker: Dr Saonee Sarker, Washington State University, USA

Title: Work-Life Balance in Globally Distributed ISD: A Multi-Method Program of Study

Date: Friday 1st April, 2011

Venue: B3.19, Warwick Business School, Scarman Road

Time: 14.00pm

Abstract: In recent years, the use of geographically (and often globally) distributed teams to accomplish organizational tasks has become ubiquitous. One arena where the use of such teams is popular is in Information Systems Development (ISD). Interestingly, while the motivation for globally distributed ISD is often to harness appropriate human capital, scant attention has been paid toward addressing the human resource issues faced by the IT professionals involved in this context. One particularly challenging human resource issue is that of Work-Life Balance (WLB) of the IT professionals involved in globally distributed ISD, who routinely experience overlaps and conflicts between their work and personal life domains. In spite of these recognized challenges, we know of no empirical examinations and very few theoretical perspectives informing us about WLB issues in this context. Our research program attempts to fill this gap. Drawing primarily upon Border Theory, this research initiative seeks to develop a theoretical model for WLB in globally distributed ISD settings, and provides a more complete and theoretically-informed picture of the WLB phenomenon as it relates to this context. We utilize a multi-stage multi-method empirical approach involving exploratory interviews and pilot survey, followed by a full-scale survey, and finally in-depth interviews of globally distributed ISD workers within a cross-cultural context.

Biography: Saonee Sarker is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Entrepreneurship and Information Systems at Washington State University. She also serves as the Information Systems Ph.D. Program Coordinator. Her research focuses on globally distributed software development teams and other types of computer-mediated groups, technology adoption by groups, technology-mediated learning, and information technology capability of global organizations, and her publications have appeared in outlets such as MIS Quarterly, Information Systems Research, Journal of the Association of Information Systems, Journal of Management Information Systems, Decision Sciences Journal, European Journal of Information Systems, Decision Support Systems, Information Systems Journal, IEEE Transactions, Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication, Communications of the AIS, and ICIS Proceedings. She is also the Principal Investigator of a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant awarded to study work-life balance in globally-distributed software development teams.

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