

Information Systems and Management (ISM) Forum

Autumn Term 2008

Speaker: Dr Chris Sauer, Saïd Business School, University of Oxford

Title: Information Systems Project Performance: A Continuing Journey

Date: Wednesday 08 October 2008

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

Time: 14.30 – 16.00

Abstract: The performance of information systems projects has been an acknowledged problem for forty years. Today, more than ever, organisational innovation and improvement is dependent upon the successful delivery of such projects. Evidence from the field of practice indicates that while project managers have successfully improved their performance on certain measures such as budget and schedule, the goalposts have been moved to make business value the critical measure of outcome. This opens up new challenges and new opportunities for research.

The seminar will review what we know about project performance and how we have conceptualised and measured it in the past. It will examine assumptions implicit in these measures. It will discuss the challenges of researching IS project performance in terms of business value. It will propose a knowledge-based model as a starting point.

The style of the seminar will be both academic and personal, drawing upon more than 30 years experience as a practitioner and researcher in the field of IS projects. It will be provocative about the past and present, and speculative about the future.

Biography: Dr Chris Sauer is Fellow in Information Management at Templeton College and the Saïd Business School, University of Oxford.

In his early career Chris designed, built and managed IT systems projects. As an academic, he has worked in Australia and the UK researching on the challenges of IT projects. In addition to four books, his work has been published in Sloan Management Review, the Journal of Management Information Systems, the Information Systems Journal, the Project Management Journal, IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering, and the European Management Journal among others.

He is currently Joint-Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Information Technology and serves on many international editorial boards and programme committees.

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