

Information Systems and Management (ISM) Forum

Autumn Term 2007

Speaker: Dr Matthew Jones, Judge Business School, University of Cambridge

Title: The Body in Practice

Date: Tuesday 27th November 2007

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

Time: 14.30 – 16.00

Abstract: The current emphasis in healthcare on evidence-based practice is seen to be supported by investments in computer-based clinical information systems. Common to both developments is the textualisation of medical care: on the one hand providing standardised protocols for patient treatment that clinicians are expected to follow, on the other, rendering the patient as a shareable electronic record on the basis of which treatment decisions can be made. Intensive care patients, who are typically attached to a large array of technical devices monitoring vital signs, administering drugs and supporting body functions and who are also often unconscious or sedated would seem to constitute highly-informed bodies, well suited to such textualised care.

In this presentation I will discuss evidence from an ongoing study of the implementation of a clinical information system (CIS) in a cardiac intensive care unit. Adopting a praxiological perspective it will be argued that the prevalent informing perspective neglects important features of clinical settings. In particular it does not adequately address the embodied character of both the clinicians' work and the patient's condition, nor how these are configured by the materiality of the work environment. Some issues in the use of the CIS will be related to this neglect.

Biography: Matthew Jones is a lecturer in Information Management at the Judge Business School and the Department of Engineering at the University of Cambridge. He previously held postdoctoral positions at the Universities of Reading and Cambridge where he was involved in the development of computer-based models for public policy decision-making. His current research interests are concerned with the social and organizational aspects of the design and use of information systems and the relationship between technology and organisational and social change. He is on the Editorial Board of Health Informatics Journal, Information and Organization and Information Technology and People.

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