

Information Systems and Management (ISM) Forum

Spring Term 2008

Speaker: Professor Geoff Walsham, Judge Business School, University of Cambridge

Title: Balancing Local Knowledge within Global Organisations through Computer-based Systems: An activity theory approach

Date: Tuesday 29 January 2008

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

Time: 14.30 – 16.00

Abstract: This seminar will focus on how global organisations design computer-based systems for knowledge sharing which aim to balance centralised and standardised approaches against diverse local needs. A case study of GP, a leading pharmaceutical company, will be analysed through the theoretical lens of third-generation activity theory. Some theoretical and practical implications will be discussed. The seminar will draw material from the following published paper:

Joshi, S., Barrett, M., Walsham, G. and Cappleman, S. (2007) 'Balancing local knowledge within global organisations through computer-based systems: an activity theory approach', *Journal of Global Information Management*, 15(3), 1-19.

Biography: Professor Walsham is a Senior Editor of *MIS Quarterly* and an Associate Editor of *Information and Organization*. He is a member of the editorial boards of the *Electronic Journal of Information Systems in Developing Countries*, *Ethics and Information Technology*, *Information Technology for Development*, and the *Scandinavian Journal of Information Systems*. He has been an operational research analyst at BP Chemicals.

His research interests are the development, use and management of information and communication technologies and systems; and implications for work, organisations and societies.

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