

Call for Papers

Track 06. The Contribution of Practice Theories to ICT for Development

Track chairs

Stan Karanasios (s.karanasios@leeds.ac.uk, University of Leeds, United Kingdom and RMIT University, Australia)

Pär-Ola Zander (poz@hum.aau.dk, Aalborg University, Denmark)

Natalie Pang (nlspong@ntu.edu.sg, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore)

Overview of the research area

Despite the growing body of research on ICT and development (ICTD) it has been argued that the theoretical contribution of research in the ICTD field is weak (Avgerou, 2010; Karanasios, 2014). It has also been argued that there is a difficulty in identifying relevant theoretically grounded approaches to frame ICTD research, which are of maximum benefit to theory and practice (Walsham & Sahay, 1999).

This track focuses on the use and development of practice theories in ICTD. Practice theories, such as actor-network theory (ANT), structuration theory and activity theory can be described as focusing on understanding change and development of human practice (Miettinen et al., 2012) and deepening understandings about the recursive interactions between social structures, human agents and technologies (Orlikowski, 1992). The stream of academic work related to practice theories is diverse. However, they are constituted by some unifying criteria: (i) the process and performative view on social life; (ii) the critical role of materiality; (iii) the different role of agency and actors; (iv) seeing knowledge in a capability to act; and (v) putting interest and motivation as central in the theorizing (Nicolini, 2013).

Within ICTD, the use of practice theories remains under-developed. ANT (e.g. Andrade & Urquhart, 2010), structuration theory (e.g. Walsham & Han, 1993) and activity theory (e.g. Karanasios & Allen, 2013) are perhaps the most dominant theoretical approaches (Steyn, 2015). From these theories there have been other derivative theories that can be applied to various developmental contexts.

Fields adjacent to ICTD have a greater tradition of use with practice theories. For instance, HCI and IS (Kuutti & Bannon, 2014), Computer Supported Mediated Work (CSMW) (Schmidt, 2014) and organization studies (Nicolini, 2013) have all explored a wide spectrum practice theories, and indeed acted as fertile fields for their development, and there is opportunity to learn from developments in these fields. Alongside the proliferation of contributions, also comes the diversity of a multitude of types of practice theories, and several fruitful debates, which are important for ICTD; for instance on agency.

This track aims to develop understanding on how practice theories may generate insights in development contexts. In addition to being a forum on high quality research the track aims to act as a platform to (i) engage ICTD scholars with the basic conceptual premises of practices theories, focusing on their use, development and contribution; (ii) provide a forum to extend the development of practice theories; and, (iii) provide a networking opportunity for scholars already utilizing practice theories.

Exemplar topics and types of contributions looked for

The objective of this track is to highlight the contribution of practice theories to ICTD research by drawing on outstanding research. We seek relevant and rigorous submissions which address several of the following criteria:

- Apply and develop practice theories by demonstrating the empirical and theoretical contributions they offer
- Offer new contributions to practice theories, for instance extending the approaches or signalling how the field of ICTD can offer a fertile landscape for their application
- Offer in depth comparison between practices theories and their contribution to ICTD
- Critical studies on practice theory, and papers that illuminate on the difficulties of applying them
- Contribute to understand of use of technologies in developing countries using practice theories



The 14th International Conference on
Social Implications of Computers in
Developing Countries

ICTs for Promoting
Social Harmony:
Towards a Sustainable
Information Society

Yogyakarta, Indonesia, May 22-24, 2017

2017.ifipwg94.net

Jointly hosted by:

Universitas Islam Indonesia
Sanata Dharma University
Yogyakarta, Indonesia

- Explore how practice theories may guide interventions in expansive learning processes and understand the practice of policy-making and enactment of these processes

Ideally, submissions will provide new understandings of ICTD and practice theory. Submissions will be evaluated using rigorous criteria associated with high quality academic research.

Associate editors

David Allen, University of Leeds, United Kingdom
Mira Slavova, GIBS Business School, South Africa
Aljona Zorina, University of Leeds, United Kingdom
Stephen Burgess, Victoria University, Australia
Larry Stillman, Monash University, Australia
Jyoti Mishra, University of Bradford, United Kingdom
Gary Cifuentes Alvarez, University of Los Andes, Colombia
Jacki O'Neill, Microsoft Research India
Saifuddin Khalid, Aalborg University, Denmark
Sikder Monoare Murshed, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh
Markus Rohde, University of Siegen, Germany
Mega Subramaniam, University of Maryland, USA
Gary Burnett, Florida State University, USA

For more information please contact **Stan Karanasios** (s.karanasios@leeds.ac.uk)

Important dates

Paper submission: November 15, 2016
 Acceptance notification: January 31, 2017
 Resubmission: February 28, 2017
 Conference: May 22-24, 2017

Conference co-chairs

Fathul Wahid (Universitas Islam Indonesia, Yogyakarta, Indonesia)
Julian Bass (University of Salford, United Kingdom)
Johanes Eka Priyatma (Sanata Dharma University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia)

Programme co-chairs

Jyoti Choudrie (University of Hertfordshire, United Kingdom)
M. Sirajul Islam (Örebro University, Sweden)

Information on other tracks: **2017.ifipwg94.net**

References

- Andrade, A. D., & Urquhart, C. (2010). The affordances of actor network theory in ICT for development research. *Information Technology & People*, 23(4), 352-374.
- Avgerou, C. (2010). Discourses on ICT and Development. *Information Technologies & International Development*, 6(3), 1-18.
- Karanasios, S. (2014). Framing ICT4D research using activity theory: A match between the ICT4D field and theory? *Information Technologies & International Development*, 10(2), 1-17.
- Karanasios, S., & Allen, D. (2013). ICT for development in the context of the closure of Chernobyl nuclear power plant: an activity theory perspective. *Information Systems Journal*, 23(4), 287-306.
- Kuutti, K., & Bannon, L. J. (2014). The turn to practice in HCI: towards a research agenda. *ACM Press*, 3543-3552.
- Miettinen, R., Paavola, S., & Pohjola, P. (2012). From Habituality to Change: Contribution of Activity Theory and Pragmatism to Practice Theories. *Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour*, 42(3), 345-360.
- Nicolini, D. (2013). *Practice theory, work, and organization: An introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Orlikowski, W. J. (1992). The Duality of Technology: Rethinking the Concept of Technology in Organizations. *Organization Science*, 3(3), 398-427.
- Schmidt, K. (2014, 27-30 May). *The Concept of "Practice": What's the Point?* Paper presented at the 11th International Conference on the Design of Cooperative Systems, Nice (France).
- Steyn, J. (2015). *Idols on the ICTD theatre - The Stage*. Paper presented at the 13th International Conference on Social Implications of Computers in Developing Countries, Negombo, Sri Lanka.
- Walsham, G., & Han, C.-K. (1993). Information systems strategy formation and implementation: the case of a central government agency. *Accounting, Management and Information Technologies*, 3(3), 191-209.
- Walsham, G., & Sahay, S. (1999). GIS for district-level administration in India: problems and opportunities. *MIS Quarterly*, 23(1), 39-65.