

## EDITORIAL – From the Faculty Editor

This year's ISChannel arrives with, as usual, a huge range of interesting and relevant topics.

I very much hope that these will spur others to write for the journal in the future: whether you are MSc students, PhD students or Alumni. We do not impose copyright on articles written so if you wish to develop your article further for other publications that is welcomed rather than discouraged (though a small acknowledgement would be appreciated).

I will now provide a brief taster of the articles included in this edition:

Adeela Afzal is critical of techno-rational approaches to e-government, highlighting the need to consider more socially and politically embedded perspectives alongside these assumptions. In concluding the paper Adeela writes "the technical rational perspective generalises and attempts to predict future development, which can compromise its legitimacy, while concepts within the socially embedded reasoning describe abstract notions that often require contextual interpretation." – something I hope policy makers will heed.

Bjoern Christian Wolf raises a contemporary and hugely important debate around decentralised mechanisms of cryptographic technologies termed "darknet markets" (e.g. the "Silk Road"). The article highlights many important issues and discusses the various types of technology such as Tor in detail. Crucially he highlights how these technologies have led to alternative institutions separated from traditional legal and government power.

Adam Balwant provides a critical literature review concerning managing IT process innovation. This review will prove useful to many of our students as they wrestle with the complexities of IT process innovation via CSF, situated change and strategic management via the RBV. And if the last sentence is confusing you – well you had just better read the article!

Florian Allwein looks at much more fundamental issues of our field of Information Systems – the very nature of information itself. Whereas the word "information" is everywhere few consider the varied conceptualisations of this term and how these have consequences – particularly in a world of copious digitally mediated data.

In change to the usual ISChannel format we have included two articles with a more journalistic style. The first by Antti Lyyra introduces "Watson" – IBM's famous Artificial Intelligence product. Given the increasing significance of AI in contemporary IT debates this article is a welcome introduction to Watson's opportunities and limitations.

The second is an article, first published on an LSE blog, and written by PhD student Ayesha Khannah (co-authored by myself) introduces a research project into Digital Infrastructures for Mobility as a service. This article nicely showcases the kinds of research being carried out by PhD students within the department of management.

To end my editorial I wanted to thank our editor-in-chief Marta Stelmaszak who has worked tirelessly to put this issue together. Her dedication is valued. I would also like to thank the authors, reviewers and associate editor Priyanka Pandey who all worked hard to put this issue together.

Dr. Will Venters

*Faculty Editor*